



# Renville-Sibley

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

December 2018 Vol. 19 No. 8

# Cooperative Connections



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Committed to  
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in Our  
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# Restorative Justice Comes to Renville County

By Ashley Alsum, Staff Writer, *Renville County Register*

With approval from the Renville County board earlier this year, the Restorative Justice program is coming to the county. As part of the justice system, the practice aims to have offenders take responsibility for their actions and give them an opportunity to redeem themselves.

Wrongdoing harms relationships between people in the community. Restorative Justice seeks to hold people accountable in rebuilding these relationships. Community members, victims and the party at fault all come together to discuss the issue and form a web of support and understanding to get people on the right path.

To get the program on its feet in Renville County, Andrew Peltz is on board as the Restorative Justice Coordinator. Peltz graduated from Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall with a bachelor of arts degree in sociology and a bachelor of science degree in justice administration, with a minor in psychology.

During college he attended a three-day weekend introduction to Restorative Justice and the Circle process. Immediately after the weekend class, he knew this was an avenue he wanted to pursue. Peltz sought out an internship with Southwest Health and Human Services in their Restorative Justice Circle Program in Marshall.

During his time there, Peltz worked to implement restorative practices and focused on schools. In the first year, he ran circles at two schools. By the fourth year, the program had expanded to six.

Peltz held circles with students ranging from fifth grade to seniors. Issues such as truancy, conflict resolution and alternatives to suspension were discussed. The circles helped to create a more positive school climate for both students and staff.

"I strongly believe in being proactive and preventative rather than continuing to be reactive," said Peltz. "The connections you make with students are life changing. But it

does take time. There is no quick fix."

In addition to circles at schools, Peltz also facilitated family and community circles, sentencing and Circle of Hope while with Southwest Health and Human Services.

Family circles are more about support. They give a family or children a foundation of community support. The circle can work to address behavioral issues in the home, safety, family unification and even transition of a youth to and from transitional housing.

**If interested in  
volunteering time  
to support families  
in the community,  
call 320-522-1573  
or email [andrewp@renvillecountymn.com](mailto:andrewp@renvillecountymn.com).**

Sentencing circles are focused on juvenile crime. Here the circle supports the youth in repairing the harm done by their crime. The circle holds the youth accountable for their actions and demonstrates positive examples in the community.

Circle of Hope is specific for those recovering from chemical dependency. The circle is a place of support and accountability to help an individual attain and maintain sobriety.

Here in Renville County, a variety of groups have a part in Restorative Justice. Human Services, the County Attorney's office, District Court, the county board and probations are all involved with Peltz as part of the Restorative Justice Advisory Committee. The behavioral issues of youth and adults plays across all these departments, often snowballing into other problem areas. It makes sense then, to work together to find a solution.

The fledgling program in Renville County is

influenced by those in Yellow Medicine and Redwood counties and others where Peltz has experience. They have been functioning and growing for years with great results seen, especially in youth participants.

For this reason, the committee has decided to start with family circles as the first focus area. Out-of-home placements are a rising concern for the county. They are expensive for the county and strenuous for the staff, family and child. If the use of family circles can reduce the need for out-of-home placements, it would be a great success for the program. The use of a circle is voluntary for the family or individual. Part of the success depends on the willingness to change and seek help.

"With getting a program off the ground, we will be focusing on doing one thing very well before expanding into the next," said Peltz.

In the future, the program in Renville County could expand to hold other types of circles such as the ones Peltz has facilitated in the past. However, community volunteers are needed to lift the program to true success. A circle is built on the foundation of positive community role models willing to make their community safer and more community-focused by devoting time to work with children and families. Training for volunteers will be provided by the Restorative Justice Department.

"Without community volunteers, there is no program," said Peltz. "It gives the community a shared power with the systems in place in order to help someone in their community in ways the systems cannot. It's the community relationships and ongoing support where connections are made. It's from those community connections where traumatic family cycles are broken, creating new opportunities."

If you or anyone you know is interested in volunteering their time to support families in the community, contact Peltz by email, [andrewp@renvillecountymn.com](mailto:andrewp@renvillecountymn.com), or by phone, 320-522-1573.

# Renville-Sibley

## Cooperative Connections

(USPS 019-074)

### Board of Directors

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Web site: [www.renville-sibley.coop](http://www.renville-sibley.coop)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## Scholar of the Month

Congratulations to Alyssa Ashburn from Renville County West for being selected as the October Scholar of the Month.

She was nominated because she contributes to a high-quality learning experience for her classmates by showing leadership with her excellent communication skills. Her dedication in numerous school extracurricular activities is noticed and appreciated.

More information on the Scholar of the Month program can be found on our website [www.renville-sibley.coop](http://www.renville-sibley.coop) under the Customer Service tab. 493900



**Alyssa Ashburn**  
Renville County West

## Reporting Power Outages

The weather can be challenging at times for our members as well as Renville-Sibley. While the cooperative hopes it will never happen, Mother Nature can cause damage to our power lines, resulting in a power outage. If you experience a power outage, please contact the office at 320-826-2593 or 800-826-2593. During business hours, your cooperative will do our best to answer as many calls as our phone system allows. If the number of calls coming into the office is overwhelming, the calls will be transferred to Cooperative Response Center (CRC) in Austin, Minn. After hours, all calls are transferred to CRC. Depending on the extent of the storm and the volume of calls coming into CRC, you may reach a live operator or you may go into their automated system. It is helpful to your cooperative and CRC to have your phone number correct in Renville-Sibley's database when reporting an outage. Members are asked to review the phone numbers printed on the billing statement for accuracy and notify the cooperative if a change should be made to this contact information.

You also have the option to send a text message to report an outage. To sign-up for this feature, please visit our website [www.renville-sibley.coop](http://www.renville-sibley.coop) and click on Outage Reporting at the top of the page.

Remember, during times of large power outages, tune in to the following radio stations for updates on the status of the power outage: KLGR, KOLV, Q102, KWLM and KDJS.

## Mark Your Calendar!

Renville-Sibley will be hosting our annual Christmas Open House on Thursday, Dec. 6, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Coffee and hot cider will be available along with homemade Christmas treats. Those who attend will be eligible for a chance to win a \$50 energy credit. Danube Upholstery will have their open house that day as well so be sure to stop there while you are in town.

*As a reminder, we will not hand out capital credit checks at our open house. Active members will have their capital credit retirement applied to their account.*

**Renville-Sibley will be hosting our annual Christmas Open House on Thursday, Dec. 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

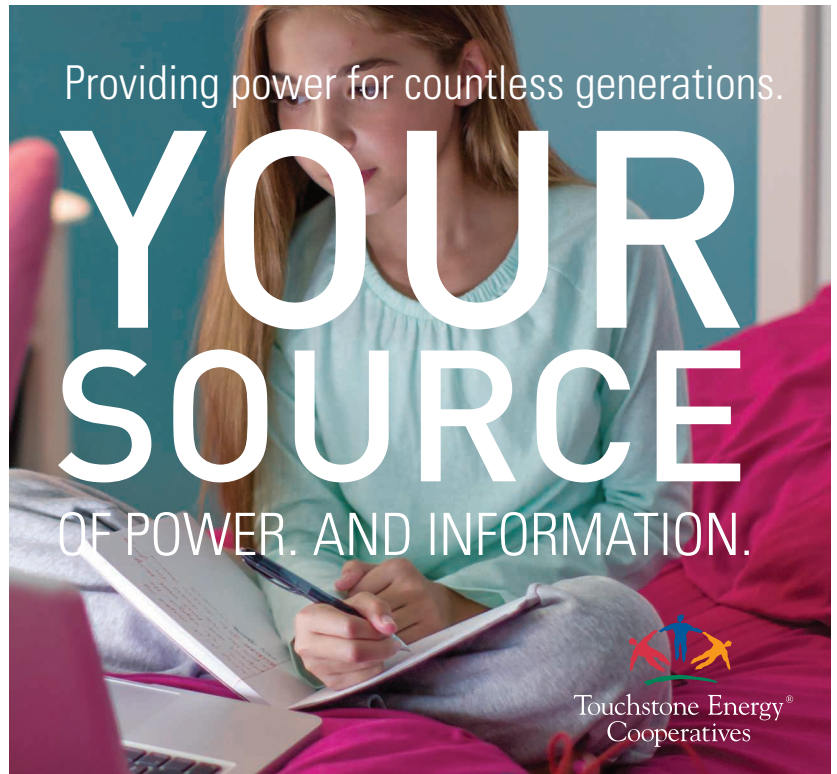


# Holiday Decorating Safety Tips

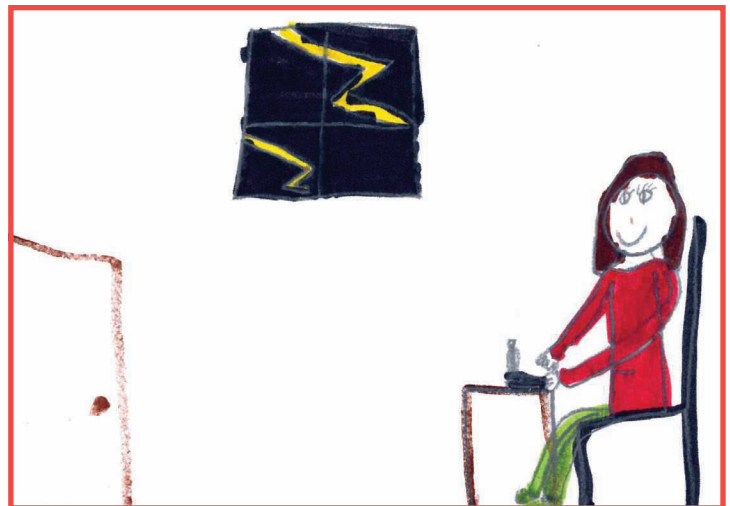
While decorative lights and other electrical decorations add to the splendor of the season, they can increase the risks of fire and electrical injuries if not used safely.

- **Inspect electrical decorations for damage before use.** Cracked or damaged sockets, loose or bare wires and loose connections may cause a serious shock or start a fire.
- **Do not overload electrical outlets.** Overloaded electrical outlets and faulty wires are a common cause of holiday fires. Avoid overloading outlets and plug only one high-wattage into each outlet at a time.
- **Never connect more than three strings of incandescent lights.** More than three strands may not only blow a fuse, but can also cause a fire.
- **Keep trees fresh by watering daily.** Dry trees are a serious fire hazard.
- **Use battery-operated candles.** Candles start almost half of home decoration fires (National Fire Protection Association).
- **Keep combustibles at least three feet from heat sources.** A heat source that was too close to the decoration was a factor in half of home fires that began with decorations (NFPA).
- **Protect cords from damage.** To avoid shock or fire hazards, cords should never be pinched by furniture, forced into small spaces such as doors and windows, placed under rugs, located near heat sources, or attached by nails or staples.
- **Check decorations for certification label.** Decorations not bearing a label from an independent testing laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Canadian Standards Association (CSA) or Intertek (ETL) have not been tested for safety and could be hazardous.
- **Stay in the kitchen when something is cooking.** Unattended cooking equipment is the leading cause of home cooking fires (NFPA).
- **Turn off, unplug and extinguish all decorations when going to sleep or leaving the house.** Unattended candles are the cause of one in five home candle fires. Half of home fire deaths occur between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. (NFPA).

Source: esfi.org



## KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



**"Do not use electronics when there are thunderstorms."**

**Hope Wagner, 8 years old**

Hope is the daughter of Bryan and Lynita Wagner, Wetonka, S.D. They are members of FEM Electric Association, Ipswich, S.D.

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





# Holiday Favorites

## Holiday Streusel-topped Squash

1 butternut squash (2 to 2.5 lbs.) peeled, seeded and cut in 1/2-inch chunks, about 4-1/2 cups	1/4 cup brown sugar
	1/4 cup chopped pecans
1/4 cup water	2 T. softened butter
1/2 tsp. salt	1/2 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
1/3 cup flour	1 cup sweetened dried cranberries

In an 11x7-inch microwavable dish, spread squash cubes. Add water and sprinkle with salt. Cover with plastic wrap, folding back one edge or corner 1/4-inch to vent steam. Microwave on high 5 minutes or until crisp tender. Meanwhile mix flour, brown sugar, pecans, butter and pumpkin pie spice together using a fork. Top squash with sweetened cranberries. Sprinkle streusel evenly over cranberries and squash. Bake at 350°F. uncovered 40 to 45 minutes or until streusel is brown. Serves 8.

Michelle Ommen, Mitchell, SD

## Coconut Macaroons

2/3 cup sweetened condensed milk	2-1/2 cups flaked coconut
2 T. flour	1/2 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
1 tsp. vanilla	

Combine sweetened condensed milk, flour and vanilla. Stir in coconut and chocolate chips. Drop by spoonfuls onto well-greased cookie sheets. Bake at 350°F. 10 to 12 minutes until golden brown. Remove to wire racks to cool.

Maxine Smith, Owanka, SD

## Honey Chew Candy

1/2 cup butter	1/2 cup chopped dates
1 cup honey	1 cup chopped walnuts

Cook butter and honey for 20 minutes, stirring constantly. Add dates and nuts; mix well. Put into an 8-inch buttered pan. Cool. Cut candy into bite-sized pieces; wrap each piece in waxed paper. Makes about 48 pieces.

Helen Gregory, Lemmon, SD

## Gingerbread Whoopie Pies with Lemon Crème

3 cups flour	1 tsp. vanilla extract
2 tsp. ground ginger	1/4 cup granulated sugar
1 tsp. ground cinnamon	1 cup crushed peppermint candies
1 tsp. baking soda	<b>Lemon Creme:</b>
1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg	1 (7 oz.) jar marshmallow creme
1/4 tsp. salt	1/2 stick butter, softened
1-1/2 sticks butter, softened	4 oz. (1/2 pkg.) cream cheese, softened
3/4 cup packed brown sugar	1 tsp. lemon extract
1/2 cup molasses	
1 egg	

For the Gingerbread Whoopie Pies, mix flour, ginger, cinnamon, baking soda, nutmeg and salt in large bowl. Set aside. Beat butter and brown sugar in large bowl with electric mixer on medium speed until light and fluffy. Add molasses, egg and vanilla; beat well. Gradually beat in flour mixture on low speed until well mixed. Press dough into a thick flat disk. Wrap in plastic wrap. Refrigerate 4 hours or overnight. Shape dough into 1-inch balls. Roll in granulated sugar to coat. Place 2 inches apart on ungreased baking sheets. Bake at 350°F. 8 to 10 minutes or until edges of cookies just begin to brown. Remove to wire racks; cool completely. Meanwhile, for the Lemon Creme, mix marshmallow creme, butter, cream cheese and lemon extract in medium bowl until well blended. To assemble whoopie pies, place about 1 T. filling on the flat side of 1 cookie. Top with a second cookie, pressing gently to spread the filling. Repeat with remaining cookies. Roll edge of cookies in crushed candy. Store whoopie pies between layers of wax paper in airtight container in refrigerator up to 5 days. Makes 30 servings.

*Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 203, Total Fat 7g, Protein 2g, Cholesterol 28mg, Sodium 135mg, Protein 22g, Carbohydrates 33g*

**Pictured, Cooperative Connections**

Please send your favorite soup, brunch or seafood 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 2019. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

## Use Caution if Burning Ditches

It is common practice in Renville-Sibley's service area for some members to control weeds and clean debris by burning ditches in the spring and fall seasons. Left unattended, these fires can damage or even destroy everything in their paths, including your cooperative's utility poles, fiberglass enclosures and underground attachments to poles.




Electrical poles are treated with a protective coating that keeps moisture from entering the core of the pole and causing it to rot. Even if a pole appears to be slightly scorched or blackened, this protective coating has been damaged. The "life" of the pole has been shortened or the pole may even

have become weakened and now a safety hazard or future power outage cause.

The person who starts the fire or owns the property is liable for such damage. Renville-Sibley would like to remind you to do some planning before you begin burning. It is much less expensive to prevent a pole from being damaged than to pay for a new pole.

If you are planning on burning ditches or fields, clear the weeds or vegetation at least four feet around the base of all poles and wet the base of the pole with water before beginning to burn. If the fire gets out of hand and a pole becomes engulfed in flames, call the fire department immediately and notify Renville-Sibley. Do not spray water close to the electrical conductors as this could cause serious injury or electrocution.

Report any fire-damaged poles or underground enclosures to Renville-Sibley. Not reporting the damage may cause a serious accident in the future.



### Choose Renewable Energy for Your Home or Business

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

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

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

### FAQ's

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

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

#### How much does it cost?

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

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


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

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

#### Where do the RECs come from?

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

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



**1.800.826.2593**  
[renville-sibley@renville-sibley.coop](mailto:renville-sibley@renville-sibley.coop)

Renville-Sibley Co-op Power is an equal opportunity provider & employer.



## Notice

**Renville-Sibley's office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 22 and 23, in observance of Thanksgiving Day.**

**Our office will also be closed on Monday, Dec. 24 and Tuesday, Dec. 25, for Christmas and Monday, Dec. 31, and Tuesday, Jan. 1, for New Year's Day.**





If using a space heater, make sure it is in an open area, at least three feet from anything that can burn.

# KEEP WATCH OVER YOUR SPACE HEATER

## Safe Electricity

SafeElectricity.org

As colder temperatures approach and you reach for your space heater to help you get cozy and warm, make sure you consider the potential dangers of using one. If misused, it can cause electric shock or fire.

Never plug your space heater into an extension cord. Although handy and convenient, an extension cord cannot handle the energy spikes caused by a space heater and may become overloaded, possibly causing a fire. Also make sure the appliance is plugged in properly so there is not a loose connection, and carefully consider where you'll place the heater in your home.

Safe Electricity offers these additional tips to keep you and your family safe while using portable space heaters:

- Place heaters in open areas and keep them at least three feet away from anything that can burn, such as paper or rugs; also do not place them near combustibles in your home such as paint, varnish, harsh cleaners, aerosol sprays or nail polish remover.
- Monitor space heaters when they are in use.
- Do not use them in potentially wet areas, such as kitchens or bathrooms.
- Do not use space heaters around small children.

- Keep space heaters away from pathways or doors in your home and make sure the cord is not a tripping hazard.
- Do not use open-coil space heaters.
- Do not use a heater in disrepair or with a frayed cord or damaged plug.
- Do not plug any other electrical devices into the same outlet as the space heater.
- Before using your heater, read all manufacturer's instructions and warning labels.
- Place them on flat, level surfaces and never place on furniture, counters or carpet, which can overheat.
- Select a space heater that is endorsed by a recognized testing laboratory.
- Space heaters are for supplemental heat only; they should never be used for another purpose (thawing pipes or drying clothes, for example).
- When not in use, unplug the heater and put it away.

A space heater can help keep you warm, but be sure to use it with care so that you'll stay safe in the colder months. For additional safety tips, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

## Where's the Number?

Congratulations to Leslie Riederer for finding his member number in the newsletter. He will receive an \$80 credit on his next statement. The credit will now start over at \$10 and another number has been hidden in this newsletter. If you find your number and call the office by the Dec. 4, you will receive this credit on your electric statement. Good luck in your search!



## Outage Report

affecting 10+ members

**Date:** 10-30-18  
**Time off:** 10:19 a.m.  
**Time on:** 11:18 a.m.  
**Substation:** Crooks  
**Cause:** Farm Equipment

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

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Heading out of town for the holidays? Remember to unplug electronics that draw a phantom energy load. Some gadgets, like TVs, gaming consoles, chargers and DVD players, use energy when plugged into an outlet – even when they're not in use.



**Source:** Energy.gov



WREA employees gathered for a Day of Service in the town of New Underwood, S.D. The cover photo features one of the projects the group undertook: painting the community's fire hydrants.

# COMMITTED TO COMMUNITY

## Electric Co-ops Active Locally

**Brenda Kleinjan**

editor@sdrea.coop

Across South Dakota and western Minnesota, the region's electric cooperatives – and their employees and members – can be found not only providing reliable, affordable energy to thousands, but also rolling up their sleeves and helping to improve their local communities.

This fall, West River Electric Association in Wall undertook a Day of Caring project that saw dozens of co-op employees on the streets of New Underwood, a western South Dakota town with a population of about 660.

Working with local community leaders, the co-op identified a variety of projects they could assist with. Crews helped remove trees, paint fire hydrants, fences, a walking bridge and prepare a wall for a future mural. As they worked, community members joined in the effort.

At Colman, S.D., on a Saturday in September, co-op employees and members gathered in the

Sioux Valley Energy Customer Electrical Technician Dana Foster sands a board as part of the co-op's Sleep in Heavenly Peace bed build project.





## Investing in Youth: Scholarships

Each year, electric cooperatives in South Dakota and western Minnesota, offer more than \$100,000 in scholarships to students – usually children and dependents of co-op members – to further their educations.

For nearly 30 years, Basin Electric Power Cooperative has partnered with its member cooperatives to offer more than 180 scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 for each school year. This program is for dependent children of member cooperative employees, member cooperative consumers and children of Basin Electric employees. Thirty-one of those scholarships go to students in South Dakota and western Minnesota.

Basin Electric offers scholarships for dependent children of employees of Basin Electric and its subsidiaries who are in college or will be entering college in the fall. Five scholarships are designated for qualified applicants who plan to attend a certified vocational or technical school, and five are designated for qualified applicants who plan to achieve an engineering degree. Up to two awards are designated for students majoring in information services and telecommunications. Basin Electric also offers 20 \$1,000 scholarships to children of member cooperative employees. A handful of these scholarships are awarded to South Dakota and western Minnesota students each year.

Many local cooperatives also offer additional scholarships.

- One co-op uses monies from their Operation Round Up® program to fund more than \$10,000 in scholarships. Other co-ops offer scholarships in conjunction with other programs such as the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives Scholar of the Week program.
- And, some co-ops offer scholarships to students seeking a specific career path, such as becoming a line worker.
- For more than 20 years, the South Dakota Rural Electric Line Superintendents Association, which is made up of those in charge of cooperative operations managers, have awarded scholarships to students pursuing a career as a line worker, particularly those attending Mitchell Technical Institute in Mitchell, S.D.
- Students selected to represent their co-op on the annual Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., are eligible to apply for a \$10,000 scholarship and four \$1,000 scholarships once they are a sophomore in college through the Glen English Foundation. English was the former CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



Cam Wal Electric's Scott Artz conducts a safety demonstration for Selby, S.D.-area youth.

Sioux Valley Energy parking lot east of town along S.D. Highway 34 to construct beds for the Sleep in Heavenly Peace organization. Sleep in Heavenly Peace is a volunteer organization that builds, assembles and delivers bunk beds to children and families in need.

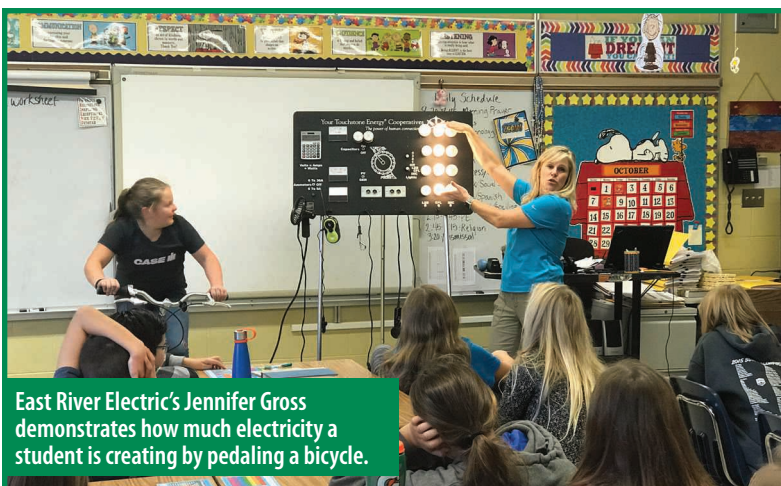
During the Sioux Valley Energy build, 20 beds were constructed, which is 10 percent of the Brookings chapter's goal of 200 beds built in 2018. The Brookings Chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace is one of 69 in the country.

Co-op employees have also assisted with clean-up projects in Sioux Falls and also at an abandoned rural cemetery near Dell Rapids, S.D.

These examples are in addition to the on-going local community commitment cooperatives throughout the state have.

Throughout the year, electric cooperatives can be found working to educate area youth on the importance of energy efficiency and safety around power lines.

And, heading into the holiday season, co-op crews can be seen in various towns hanging municipal holiday decorations in towns like Bison in northwestern South Dakota and other communities in the state.



East River Electric's Jennifer Gross demonstrates how much electricity a student is creating by pedaling a bicycle.

# October Board Meeting Highlights

The October board meeting was held on Monday, Oct. 29, at 8 a.m. All board members were present except Gary Peterson. Others present were attorneys Jeff Whitmore and Jon Farnsworth, CEO DeeAnne Newville, Gene Alex and Lenae Wordes.

## The board reviewed and approved the following items:

- Minutes of the September board meeting
- Operating and disbursement reports for the month of September
- Safety report for October
- Capital credit retirement
- 990 Report
- RS Fiber letters

## 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 – YTD – September 2018 (unaudited)
- Organization activities
- East River update
- NRECA update
- MREA update
- Line crew work in progress and pending work
- Accounts receivable
- Co-ops in the Classroom visit
- Member Education Committee
- Christmas Open House
- Operation Round-up\*

■ Upcoming meetings were discussed.

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

## 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

## Mission Statement:

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



**Notice: The November board meeting will be held on Monday, Nov. 26, 2018, at 8 a.m. The December board meeting will be held Thursday, Dec. 20, at 9 a.m.**

## For Sale:

**Winco generator 540 PTO, 25 KVA** initial, continuous 15 KVA, 62.5 amps, Model 25-15PP  
William Hale, Franklin, MN  
507-430-8134

**Hoveround chair**, holds 350 lbs, used three months, works perfect, asking \$500  
Verna Steinborn, Fairfax, MN  
507-426-7868

**12' artificial Christmas tree** (not prelit) – \$25; **Palms Ballroom booth** (#43) – \$25  
JoLene Groen, Renville, MN  
320-329-8249

**1970 Ford cab over 2-ton truck, V8**, for parts – \$500 or BO  
Lowell Kiecker, Fairfax, MN  
507-430-1117

**Black walnut boards** – Many multiple size, length and width.  
Claudia Kokesch, Franklin, MN  
507-430-2852

## Wanted:

**15 series or 1530 Case skid steer drive train parts.** I don't need motor or loader.  
Kevin Larsen, Renville, MN,  
320-329-8168 or 320-295-3691  
(leave message)



Renville-Sibley Co-op's rebates and incentives can save you money.

## Renville-Sibley Co-op Power

# Rebates and Incentives

### Incentives:

- 5 percent interest loans available for equipment, service upgrade and installation of qualified heat systems (up to \$15,000 for up to five years with approval)
- Minimum qualifications must be met for all marketing programs

### Non Commercial Electric Heat Rebates:

(replacement incentive offered after 10 years)

- \$800 Geothermal Heat Pump
- \$800 Air-to-Air Heat Pump
- \$200 Mini-Split/Ductless Heat Pump (must be ENERGY STAR®-certified)
- \$400 Non ENERGY STAR® Heat Pump

To qualify for the geothermal and air-to-air heat pump, equipment must be new, at least two ton and a HSPF greater than or equal to 8.5. Contact the office for commercial, industrial or agricultural rebate information:

### Special Discount Rates:

Separately metered electric heat and controlled A/C is only 5.9 cents/kWh!

Contact the office for details. – There is a \$2 per month charge for all discount meters.

### Electric Water Heater Rebates:

(replacement incentive offered after 10 years)

- \$6/gallon – Marathon® Lifetime Warranty Units
- \$100 bonus rebate for new home or fossil fuel conversion
- \$6.50 monthly credit for controlled electric water heater

Water heaters available from Renville-Sibley in the sizes of 50-gallon, 85-gallon and 105-gallons. Please call the office for more details on this program.

### Nonresidential Efficient Lighting Replacement Program:

Renville-Sibley offers a rebate of \$.30/watt saved for the replacement of inefficient lighting systems in nonresidential installation. The maximum rebate amount is \$1,000 per member per calendar year and a maximum of up to 50 percent of the total project cost. The minimum rebate is \$50.



### Energy Star® Rebates:

- \$100 – Refrigerator (requires proof of disposal of existing unit)
- \$200 – Central Air-Conditioner
- \$50 – Dishwasher
- \$50 – Clothes Washer
- \$50 – Clothes Dryer
- \$100 – Freezer
- \$25 – Dehumidifier
- \$25 – Room Air-Conditioner
- \$5 – LED Light Bulb (bulb must be a minimum of 8 watts, maximum of 20 bulbs per location)
- \$35 – Disposal rebate for refrigerator or freezer currently in service (requires proof of disposal)

(ENERGY STAR® Rebates are capped annually; contact the office to verify status of program.)



All rebate forms can be found at [www.renville-sibley.coop](http://www.renville-sibley.coop)  
For more information, please contact us at 800-826-2593 or 320-826-2593.

# Success in Community Investment by Cooperatives

## REED Fund Powers Local Communities

### REED FUND QUICK FACTS:

- Incorporated in 1997
  - Loans issued - 323
  - Total funds loaned - \$84.3 million
  - Total employment by REED borrowers - 8,900
  - Total project investment \$666 million
  - Real estate financed - 2.1 million square feet
- 2017 REED Fund Annual Report

The Rural Electric Economic Development, Inc. (REED) Fund provides business and community project financing in partnership with commercial and other economic development lenders to leverage private investment and make a difference in the region it serves. Established in 1996 and governed by 25 electric cooperatives, REED assists projects that promote growth and contribute to job, business and wealth creation, as well as improve the infrastructure, community facilities/services and economic base of rural areas.

Nearly 83 percent of REED's lending goes to communities with populations of less than 5,000 people and the majority of the projects have local ownership.

### Community Success Stories

Community facilities and services are necessary for quality of life and sustainable development. REED Fund provides a



More than 25 fire departments, such as the Wolsey Fire Protection District in Wolsey, S.D., have been recipients of REED Fund investments.

wide range of financing for community projects. Loan applicants include, but are not limited to, civic and philanthropic organizations, educational institutions, local governments and special purpose districts. Success stories illustrate the broad spectrum of different types of projects the fund has assisted, including education, public safety, emergency services, recreation, arts, community infrastructure, facilities and equipment.

### Health Care Success Stories

Health Care Financing has been an important sector for the REED Fund. Whether it is a medical clinic, hospital, long term care facility or emergency services, REED fund recognizes the importance of access to quality care. Financing can be for buildings or equipment. These projects may be



Ag-based projects also benefitted from REED Fund investments.





The expansion of Clark, S.D.-based Dakota Butcher to two Watertown locations was financed in part by a REED Fund loan through Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative as well as South Dakota Department of Agriculture financing.

**Investing to build a stronger region, REED partners with numerous financial institutions, regional loan funds and government programs to develop financing packages that help create and expand businesses and employment opportunities, sustain and expand health care and education, as well as develop and support community facilities, services, infrastructure and rental housing.**

eligible to seek zero percent financing through a USDA program available through the local cooperative..

### **Business Success Stories**

REED Fund's business loans support business growth and development and contribute to employment and business ownership opportunities. The loans benefit retail, service, tourism, manufacturing, and technology sectors. REED also finances nonprofit development organizations for activities such as industrial parks, leasehold facilities. Financing to nonprofit development corporations receive a reduced interest rate.

### **Agri Business Success Stories**

To recognize agriculture's impact on the region's economic base, REED makes loans to support projects that add value to local agriculture production through innovation, improved services, further processing, or marketing. Loans are not made for traditional production agriculture.

### **Housing Success Stories**

Loans that support housing development are also available. To qualify the project needs evidence of broad base of community support and must be

able to show need for additional housing and/or infrastructure to support development. REED does not finance home loans to owner occupants.

For more information on the REED Fund, contact a participating cooperative or visit <http://www.reedfund.coop/reed>

## **Who REED Has Helped**

- 48** Retail and service businesses
- 37** Office facilities or industrial buildings for lease (all to non-profit owners)
- 31** Health care facilities (clinics, hospitals, nursing care centers)
- 25** Fire protection projects (trucks and buildings)
- 22** Community Infrastructure projects (water, wastewater, Main Street)
- 24** Manufacturing firms (plant and/or equipment)
- 18** Ag processing businesses (nine producer-owned) – \$156 million capital investment
- 22** Education (schools, distance learning, technology), including four childcare centers
- 19** Tourism-related businesses
- 20** Grain handling/agronomy firms (15 are cooperatives) – \$126 million capital investment
- 12** Ag retail/service businesses
- 14** Recreation and arts facilities, non-profit, including community centers
- 11** Partner regional and local loan funds
- 11** Multi-family housing projects (three site development, three elderly housing, five multi-family)

# Are You Interested in a New Adventure?

Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association is beginning to plan for the 81st annual meeting of the membership that will be held March 28, 2019, at the Island Ballroom in Bird Island, Minn. Three (3) directors will be elected during that time, each for a three-year term.

The First District, consisting 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 is represented by Alan Neyers, Whitey Hinderman and Philip Nestande. Whitey Hinderman's term will expire in 2019.

The Second District, consisting 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 is represented by Helen Ruebel, Wayland Zaske and Matt Haubrich. Wayland Zaske's term will expire in 2019.

The Third District, consisting 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 is represented by Steve Benson, Gary Peterson and Roger Manthei. Steve Benson's term will expire in 2019.

Contact the Renville-Sibley Co-op Power office for more information on running for the board of directors.

## As stated in the Renville-Sibley bylaws, the following is the Qualifications and Tenure for the position of Director:

- 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 18 years of age.
- B. Must be competent and able to execute a contract.
- C. Must not have been convicted of a felony or gross misdemeanor during the preceding 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.

Upon becoming a candidate for and/or to remain a Director, an individual must

complete an annual conflict of interest disclosure form, approved by the Board of Directors. All Directors and/or Director candidates must comply with or meet the following conflict of interest qualifications:

- A. Shall not be a close relative of an existing Director, employee, agent or representative of the Cooperative other than an existing Director who will cease being a Director upon the candidate assuming office;
- B. Within 5 years immediately prior to becoming a Director, shall not have been a Cooperative Officer, employee, agent or representative of the Cooperative or any subsidiary or affiliated company;
- C. Shall not be employed by, materially affiliated with, nor share a material financial interest with any current Director;
- D. Shall not be engaged in any business, nor employed by, nor materially affiliated with, nor have a material financial interest in any individual or entity that:
  1. Is regularly, directly, and substantially competing with the Cooperative or any other entity that the Cooperative controls or in which the Cooperative owns a majority interest (Cooperative Subsidiary).
  2. Is regularly selling goods and services to the Cooperative or the Cooperative Subsidiary.
  3. Possesses a substantial conflict of interest with the Cooperative or the Cooperative subsidiary.
- E. A former Director is ineligible for employment by the Cooperative for five years following the end of the tenure as a Director.

## As a Director, the member agrees to:

- Abide by, promote and uphold the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws, both of which can be found on our website, and Policies of Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association.
- Attend regular and special Board meetings of the Cooperative.
- Attend, when appointed, committee meeting of the Cooperative.

If anyone should decide to seek candidacy for the board of directors, there are many rewards to be enjoyed when elected. A director has the opportunity to demonstrate their leadership quality and increase



their knowledge within the cooperative business environment and the electric industry. As a director, this person could play a significant role in the future development of Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association.

A director also has a very important responsibility which is to uphold and abide the bylaws of the cooperative. Directors are to act as the trustees for the assets of the cooperative and are assigned the duties of formulating, approving and reviewing the policies that provide guidelines for the cooperative.

The board is responsible for sending representatives to the affiliated association meetings that often include voting requirements. They include East River Electric Power Cooperative, Minnesota Rural Electric Association, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, National Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, CoBank, Cooperative Network and the National Rural Electric Association.

Directors attend seminars and meetings of several organizations to learn about the industry. Directors are asked to lobby and remain informed on legislative issues that could impact this industry and/or the cooperative way of doing business. The Board meets monthly and reviews financial reports, work plans, annual audits, planning documents and evaluates the cooperative operations while approving budgets and purchases.

Most of all, a director should be available to visit with their constituents and have a genuine spirit of helping others at all times.

Board meetings are typically held on the last Monday of every month, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in December, January and February and beginning at 8:00 a.m. the rest of the year. The estimated time needed to be committed annually is approximately 30 days which includes monthly meetings and committee assignments. Directors are compensated per diem for their time as well as all personal expenses.

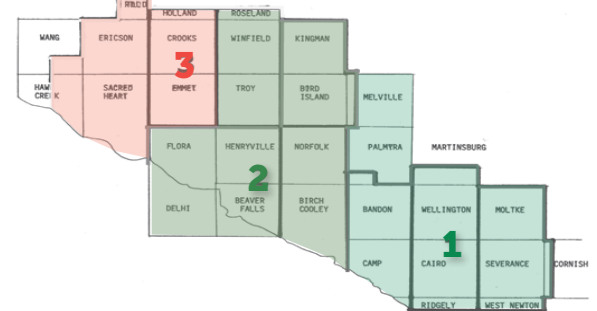
If you are interested in becoming a candidate for the Renville-Sibley Board of Directors, contact the Renville-Sibley office at 1-800-826-2593 before Dec. 20 for further information.

# Co-op Seeks Nominating Committee Members

Renville-Sibley is looking for members that would like to serve on the cooperative's nominating committees. Nominating committees (one for each director district) will be meeting in December or January and will be looking for candidates to run for the board of directors. Candidates chosen by the Nominating Committee will be put on the ballot. A member may also appear on the ballot by petition of 10 or more members residing in such district. The candidates for each district will be voted for at the annual meeting.

If you would like to be on one of the

## Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association Director Districts



nominating committees, if you would like to be considered as a candidate or if you know of someone that you would like to be considered as a candidate, please let us know by calling Lenae at 800-826-2593.

## Comparative Report

	Current (through Sept. 30)	One Year Ago (through Sept. 30)	10 Years Ago (through Sept. 30)
<b>Average Number of Consumers</b>	1,882	1,885	1,964
<b>kWhs Purchased</b>	130,848,493	116,365,288	109,424,265
<b>Cost of Purchased Power</b>	\$7,807,396.39	\$7,098,583.86	\$3,582,547.85



**Members will soon have the opportunity to support area nonprofit organizations through their electric bill. More information to come next month.**

## October 20-January 6

Pheasant Hunting Season,  
Statewide, Pierre, SD,  
605-223-7660

## November 15-December 18

Black Hills Christmas Tree  
Permit Season, Custer, SD,  
605-673-9200

## November 20-December 26

Christmas at the Capitol,  
Pierre, SD, 605-773-3178

## November 23-24, Dec. 1-2, 8-9, 15-16, 22-23

1880 Train Holiday Express,  
Hill City, SD, 605-574-2222

## November 24

Mid-Winter Fair, Memorial  
Auditorium, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.,  
Gregory, SD, 605-830-9778

## November 29-30

Festival of Trees, Lead, SD,  
605-584-2067

## December 1

Christmas Stroll and  
Holidazzle Parade, Spearfish,  
SD, 605-717-9294

## December 1

Rapid City Garden Club's 57th  
Annual Wreath Sale, Canyon  
Lake Activity Center, Canyon  
Lake Senior Center, Rapid  
City, SD, 605-343-0710

## December 1

Christmas in the Village Craft  
Fair, Community Center,  
9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Oacoma, SD

## December 1-2

Living Christmas Tree,  
Aberdeen, SD, 605-229-6349

## Dec. 1, 7-8, 13-15, 20-21

Strawbale Winery Twilight  
Flights, Renner, SD,  
605-543-5071



December 1: Christmas Parade, 5:30 p.m., Downtown, Custer, SD, 605-673-2244

Photo courtesy: Kathy Braden

## December 2

Festival of Trees and Chili  
Cook-Off, Cookie Walk and  
Luncheon, Event Center,  
De Smet, SD

## December 8

Christmas Musicale, Eureka,  
SD, 605-284-2161

## December 8

Frontier Christmas, Lake City,  
SD, 605-448-5474

## December 8-9

Black Hills Cowboy Christmas,  
Lead, SD, 605-584-2067

## December 8-9

Dakota Territory Gun Show,  
Astoria Hotel, Dickinson, ND,  
701-336-7533

## December 9

REO Speedwagon,  
Deadwood, SD, 605-559-0386

## December 9

41st Celebration of the St.  
Lucia Tradition, Dalesburg  
Lutheran Church, Rural  
Vermillion, SD, 605-253-2575

## December 14

A Green Dolphin Jazzy  
Christmas Concert, Spearfish,  
SD, 605-642-7973

## December 15-March 31

South Dakota snowmobile  
trails season, Lead, SD,  
605-584-3896

## January 18-19

Media One Funski, Sioux Falls,  
SD, 605-339-0000

## January 18-20

Winterfest: A Three Day  
Snowbash, Lead, SD,  
605-584-1100

## January 25-26

Snowmobile Rally, Deadwood,  
SD, 605-578-1876

## January 25-February 3

Annual Black Hills Stock Show  
& Rodeo, Rapid City, SD,  
605-355-3861

## January 26

Sioux Empire on Tap, Sioux  
Falls, SD, 605-367-7288

## February 8-9

Strawbale Winery Valentine  
Twilight Flights, Renner, SD,  
605-543-5071

## February 8-10

Black Hills Sports Show &  
Outdoor Expo, Rapid City, SD,  
605-939-1812

## February 21-23

Sno Jam Comedy Festival,  
Sioux Falls, SD, siouxfallssno  
jamcomedyfest@gmail.com

## March 9-12

Summit League Basketball  
Championship, Sioux Falls,  
SD, 605-367-7288

## March 15-16

28 Below Fatbike Race, Lead,  
SD, 605-584-3435

## March 29-30

Annual Schmeckfest,  
Freeman, SD, 605-925-4237

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.