

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Barb Gross, Adele Enright
and Jean Tehle have all
worked hard to facilitate
free and fair elections
for registered voters
in Dewey County

Poll tenders rock the vote

Election workers are
dedicated to the task
Pages 8-9

Freshman Impact
teaches sound
decision making
Pages 12-13

October is National Cooperative Month

We all want the best for the people in our lives – our family, friends, community, and others. Fall is a busy time, and October is a notably eventful month with community, school, and sports activities in full swing. It's also when all cooperatives celebrate National Co-op Month. When we say Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association celebrates Co-op Month, it really means we are celebrating you! After all, our co-op wouldn't exist without you, our members.



Amy Ervin
Member and
Board Services
Representative

It's why we make safety a top priority here at Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association and devote time and energy to making everyone aware of how to stay safe around electricity.

For instance, if you're working with tall ladders, cleaning gutters, trimming trees, or undertaking other projects outside, we remind you to look up for and stay safely away from overhead power lines, especially those connected to your home.

If a project involves digging, be sure to call 8-1-1 a few working days in advance to get underground utilities marked.

Help children understand the importance of staying away from electric utility equipment, to never climb trees near power lines, and to fly kites in wide open spaces safely away from power lines.

Know how to prepare for and stay safe after storms and other natural disasters that could leave behind hidden electrical hazards, such as downed power lines and submerged electrical devices.

These are just some of the safety measures that

we want you and everyone to know.

We don't want anyone to take a chance that could end in tragedy, and to help, we're a partner in the Safe Electricity program. We encourage you to visit SafeElectricity.org, where you'll find life-saving information presented in videos, interactive games for children, online teacher resources and much more.

If a project involves digging, be sure to call 8-1-1 a few working days in advance to get underground utilities marked.

Focused on YOU.

Electric cooperatives were created to serve their members. Because we're a co-op, we're able to adapt to our community's unique needs. That's the power of co-op membership.

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

Renville-Sibley is continuously examining ways to operate more efficiently while providing the highest level of friendly, reliable service you expect and deserve. We value your safety and well-being, and we'll continue to work to educate everyone on important safety considerations. After all, aren't you and the people you care about worth it? We think so. In fact, we know so. We're your local co-op; we were built by the members we serve.

**COOPERATIVE
CONNECTIONS**

**RENVILLE-SIBLEY
CO-OP POWER**

(USPS 019-074)

Board of Directors

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Alan Neyers – Secretary/Treasurer
Gary Eekhoff
Matt Haubrich
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Web site: www.renville-sibley.coop

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Decorate and trick-or-treat safely this Halloween

Halloween is a time for candy, costumes and in some cases, outdoor lighting, or inflatable decorations. While preparing for and enjoying the holiday, follow these safety precautions:

OUTDOOR LIGHTING

- Inspect each electrical decoration. Check cords for cracking, fraying or bare wires, as they may cause a serious shock or start a fire. Also, inspect for damaged plugs.

- Replace any damaged decorations.

- Make sure any lights, animated displays or other electrical outdoor products are safety tested by a reputable laboratory such as UL (Underwriters Laboratory) and approved for outdoor use.

- Do not overload extension cords or allow them to run through water on the ground.

- Plug outdoor electric lights and decorations into ground fault circuit interrupter-protected outlets.

- When decorating outside, always make sure to look up and check that you and any equipment, such as ladders, are at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines. Always carry a ladder or other long object or tool in a horizontal position. 379800

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the Consumer Product Safety Division and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offer these tips:

COSTUME SAFETY

- Wear costumes that are labeled flame resistant.
- Wear bright, reflective costumes or add strips of reflective tape.

- Do not wear decorative (colored) contact lenses unless you have seen an eye care professional for a proper fitting and instructions on how to use them.

- Wear makeup and hats rather than costume masks that can obscure or obstruct your vision.

- Test the makeup you plan to use in advance for a possible allergy by putting a small amount on your arm.



FOOD SAFETY

- Do not let your little ones (or anyone) eat candy or other treats until they have been inspected at home.

- Check all labels for potential food allergens.

- If you have very young trick-or-treaters, remove any choking hazards such as gum, peanuts, hard candies, or small toys from the goodie pile.

- Inspect commercially wrapped treats for signs of tampering, such as tiny pinholes, tears in wrappers or anything unusual.

- Limit your risk of questionable candy by only ringing doorbells attached to homes you know.

Enjoy treats and decorate safely. Get more electrical safety tips at SafeElectricity.org.

A heaping helping of holiday home safety

Nearly every household uses extra electricity during the holidays for cooking, decorating and heating.

Take extra care to use electricity safely and to ask family members and house-guests to do the same. Here are some helpful tips:

- Stay in the kitchen when broiling or doing any stovetop cooking.
- Keep children well away from cooking appliances while in use.
- Keep towels, potholders and curtains away from hot surfaces.
- One of the riskiest holiday behaviors is overloading your electrical outlets. You will overload your wall outlets if you string strand after strand of holiday lights together and plug them into an extension cord that you plug into an outlet. Plugging multiple strands of cords into a power strip does not add any juice to the electrical circuit that powers the outlet you plug the strip into.
- Check decorative lights for damaged cords, plugs and sockets. Replace anything that's frayed, cracked or broken. Buy cords that are certified by UL; look for the UL symbol on the package.
- Don't run extension cords under rugs, carpets or baseboards, or anywhere they can be a tripping hazard.
- Only use decorations and cords outdoors that are properly rated for outdoor use.
- When you put up outdoor decorations, do not string lights in trees near power lines. Fasten outdoor lights carefully and securely with clips, never nails or tacks.
- Keep electric lights away from decorative metal trees.
- Keep all light strings and other decorations away from pets so they don't get tangled in them or chew the wires.
- Keep all decorations - and everything else - at least 3 feet away from heat sources such as fireplaces and space heaters.
- Always turn off your decorations when you leave home and when you're sleeping.
- Make sure smoke detectors are present and working properly.
- Use space heaters properly and safely. Keep them out of high-traffic areas and at least 3 feet from anything that can burn.
- Do not leave a space heater running unattended. Turn off space heaters and unplug them when you leave the room or go to sleep.
- Never leave an open flame, including your fireplace or a candle, unattended.

LINEMEN PARTICIPATE IN RUBBER GLOVING SCHOOL



Roughly 50 electric cooperative linemen from across the state recently participated in a Rubber Gloving School at the Mitchell Technical College training facility. The program included simulating maintenance and repair work on energized power lines, awareness of proper safety procedures, grounding and insulation of vehicles, operation of aerial lift devices and more.

To see a video of this event and learn more about how electric cooperatives serve our members, visit Cooperative Connections Plus by scanning the QR code at right.



Don't play on transformer boxes

Traci Tschetter

Traci, 11, warns readers to stay away from transformer boxes, which contain high-voltage underground electrical equipment inside. Traci is the child of Ryan and Elaine Tschetter and they are members of Whetstone Valley Electric.

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

CROCKPOT CREATIONS

SLOW COOKER CHILI

Ingredients:

- 2 lbs. lean ground beef
- 1 pkg. McCormick Slow Cookers Chili Seasoning
- 2 cans (14.4 ozs. each) diced tomatoes, undrained
- 2 cans (16 ozs. each) kidney beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 can (15.5 ozs.) tomato sauce

METHOD

Brown ground beef or turkey in large skillet on medium-high heat. Drain fat. Place cooked beef, Slow Cookers Chili Seasoning Mix, tomatoes, beans and tomato sauce in slow cooker. Stir until well mixed. Cover. Cook 8 hours on low or 4 hours on high. Stir before serving. For best results, do not remove cover during cooking.

McCormick.com

SLOW COOKER TURKEY BREAST

Ingredients:

- 2 tsps. McCormick Garlic Powder
- 2 tsps. McCormick Paprika
- 2 tsps. McCormick Rubbed Sage
- 2 tsps. Sicilian Sea Salt
- 1 tsp. McCormick Pure Ground Black Pepper
- 1 tsp. McCormick Whole Thyme Leaves
- 1 turkey breast, (about 6 lbs.) fresh or frozen, thawed
- 3 tsps. butter, melted

METHOD

Mix seasonings in small bowl; set aside. Rinse turkey and pat dry. Brush turkey with melted butter. Sprinkle seasoning mixture over entire surface and under skin of turkey. Place turkey breast in slow cooker. Cover. Cook 1 hour on high. Reduce heat to low; cook 7 hours longer or until turkey is cooked through (internal temperature reaches 165 degrees). Transfer to platter or carving board and slice.

McCormick.com

SLOW COOKER MASHED POTATOES

Ingredients:

- 5 lbs. Yukon gold potatoes, peeled and cut into cubes
- 1 c. chicken stock
- 2 McCormick Bay Leaves
- 1/2 c. (1 stick) butter, cut into chunks
- 1 tsp. salt
- 3/4 tsp. McCormick Pure Ground Black Pepper
- 1/2 tsp. McCormick Garlic Powder
- 1/2 -1 c. milk
- 1 tsp. McCormick Parsley Flakes

METHOD

Spray inside of 6-quart slow cooker with no-stick cooking spray. Add potatoes, stock and bay leaves. Cover. Cook 4 hours on high or until potatoes are tender, stirring after each hour. Remove bay leaves. Stir in butter, salt, pepper and garlic powder. Cover. Let stand 5 minutes. Beat potatoes with electric mixer on medium-high speed or mash with potato masher, gradually adding milk, until smooth. Stir in parsley. Top with additional butter, if desired. Serve with McCormick Brown Gravy or Perfect Brown Gravy.

McCormick.com

Please send your favorite recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2022. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

Are you interested in a new adventure?

Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association is beginning to plan for the 85th Annual meeting of the membership that will be held on March 30, 2023 at the Redwood Area Community Center in Redwood Falls, Minnesota. Three (3) directors will be elected during that time, each for a 3-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 Kylie Rieke. Kylie Rieke's term will expire in 2023.

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. Matt Haubrich's term will expire in 2023.

The Third District, consisting of the townships of Roseland and Holland in Kandiyohi County; Rheiderland in Chippewa County the townships of Troy, Winfield, Emmet, Crooks, Sacred Heart, Hawk Creek, Ericson and Wang in Renville County is represented by Gary Eekhoff, Gary Peterson and Roger Manthei. Roger Manthei's term will expire in 2023.

As stated in the Renville-Sibley by-laws, 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 5 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 meetings 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 by 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 fourth Tuesday 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. Board meetings will be held in person or via Zoom. 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 800-826-2593 before January 3rd for further information.

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I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

Christmas Open House

Mark your calendar for Renville-Sibley's Christmas Open House to be held on Thursday, December 8th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Those who attend can register to win a \$50 energy credit. While you are in town, stop over and visit Danube Upholstery and Flora Mutual Insurance who will be having their open house that day as well.



Heat rate begins: Remember to turn on your heat breakers

Members who have electric heat (metered with a separate sub-meter) pay only \$0.060/kWh for energy used to heat your home/shop during the months of October through April. This lower rate will be reflected starting with the November statement. If you have a separate breaker for your heat meter, please remember to turn it on or you will be billed at the regular energy rate. If the majority of your home is heated with electric heat and you are not on our metered electric rate, please contact the office for more information.





Jamalia Franzen, auditor deputy in Dewey County, encourages all eligible citizens to register to vote. *Photos by Billy Gibson*

Poll workers urge voters to stay active in the election process

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

About 10 years ago, Michele Moore was newly retired and looking for something interesting to occupy her time. Out of the blue, she received a call from the Clay County elections auditor.

“She wanted to know if I was interested in working the elections and I told her I’d do it. It’s been very rewarding and it feels like I’m doing something important and worthwhile,” Moore said.

When she’s not facilitating the election process, Moore takes care of the bookkeeping for the family’s welding and manufacturing business operated by her husband, David.

While election work isn’t a full-time gig, poll tenders put in long hours on voting day. They typically report to the local precinct at 6 a.m. before the polls open an hour later. The shift goes straight through to 7 p.m. when the polls close, although any voters still

standing in line at that time are allowed to cast their ballots. Workers have to stay on duty the entire time and often pack their own lunch and dinner.

After the last voter is done, all the sealed ballots and accompanying paperwork are brought to the auditor’s office for verification and certification to ensure the election is “free and fair.”

Moore said all the workers at her precinct located at the National Guard Armory in Vermillion are diligent, dependable, thorough and conscientious. She said they take their jobs very seriously and are careful not to be “political” in any way, a guideline contained in the orientation and training process that workers go through before each election regardless of one’s years of service.

The training material requires that workers be professional, punctual, respectful to voters, team-oriented and “leave partisan leanings at the door.” Anyone concerned about the validity of the election process can appear at

Number of South Dakota citizens
62,429
registered to vote but considered inactive

the precinct as a “poll watcher” or “poll observer,” however, those individuals must adhere to a separate set of guidelines as set forth by the Secretary of State’s Office.

“We’re not here to change anyone’s mind or influence how anyone votes,” Moore said. “We’re just here to do anything we can to help them vote as quickly and smoothly as possible and make sure the process goes well. We try to make it easy for them.”

That doesn’t mean everything always goes according to plan. As the political passions and divisions have grown more intense over recent years, Moore said she’s encountered some fairly tense situations. But she said she generally



Poll workers are on the job from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. local time. If the polls close while you are in line, you will still be permitted to vote.

Here is a breakdown of party identification as of Sept. 1, 2022:

- Republican - 291,956
- Democrat - 150,760
- No party/Ind. - 142,538
- Libertarian - 2,733
- Other - 1,376

Total - 589,363

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Election poll workers see themselves as doing something helpful to support and facilitate the democratic process.

feels safe while doing her work inside the armory.

Some voters can get upset when they try to make requests that violate the voting rules, such as attempting to change their party affiliation on voting day or not providing the proper identification. She said tensions can run high during contentious presidential or mid-term elections.



“Sometimes people get angry and you just try to calm them down. They don’t know how things work and what’s required because they’re not paying attention,” she said. “Social media and TV stirs up their passion and they don’t always know how to control that.”

She recalled one particular fellow who insisted on voting without presenting the proper identification. When he was

told he would have to use a provisional ballot, he became agitated and stormed out of the precinct. Moore was “a little nervous” about the man returning and what he might do, but she took comfort in the fact that the National Guard soldiers were right there in the building.

Cris Sichmeller, a resident of Webster, signed on to join her local precinct in Roslyn six years ago and enjoys the social aspects of the assignment. A self-described “farm wife,” Sichmeller said she doesn’t often have an opportunity to sit down and visit with friends, but being at the polling place means visiting with folks and catching up on current events.



Michele Moore

“People used to spend time just visiting with one another, going to houses and having coffee and playing cards, but that doesn’t happen a lot these days,” she said. “There’s a lot of camaraderie that comes with being around people you know in the community that you have something in common with.”

She said at her precinct things normally proceed “without a lot of drama,” but she remembers that the Covid pandemic did cause a few wrinkles. Several workers contracted the virus, along with the precinct deputy.

The workers had to wear face shields, and Plexiglas was set up in the voting area and at the registration tables.

“I remember a man who had just retired from the military and he came in and saw the face shields and just laughed,” Sichmeller recalled. “He said that wasn’t going to keep us from getting the virus or passing it on to others. He said we needed a hazmat suit for that. I guess he was right.”

Barb Gross recently retired after tending the polls in Dewey County since the 1980s. She describes herself as a stickler for adhering to the rules and buttoning everything down.

“We always made sure everything tallied up because we knew we were going to be audited and we invited that because it was a challenge to see if we could pull it off without a hitch and without anything slipping through the cracks,” she said.

Secretary of State Steve Barnett emphasized the fact that poll workers serve a very valuable role in society.

“They’re on the front lines of the election process. You couldn’t run an election without them,” he said.

Barnett stressed importance of voters meeting their obligation to stay actively involved and make sure they are familiar with the rules and regulations. To find out more about voting rights and responsibilities, visit www.sdsos.gov.

Nominating Committee

Renville-Sibley is looking for members who 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 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 YTD through August 30, 2022	One Year Ago YTD through August 30, 2021	10 Years Ago YTD through August 30, 2012
average # of Consumers	1,888	1,882	1,923
kWhs purchased	110,638,444	113,428,540	84,864,588
Cost of purchased power	\$6,266,613.10	\$7,352,675.00	\$4,140,672.97

FREE Want Ad Service

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

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

Type of ad: Giveaway For Sale For Rent Wanted

WHERE'S THE NUMBER?

We apologize as last month the member number did not get included in the newsletter. The value of the energy credit will be increased from \$15 to \$30. The member number that should have been in October's issue is placed in this month's newsletter. If you find your number and call the office by the 1st of November, you will receive this credit on your electric statement. Good luck in your search!

ORU THANK YOU

Thank you so much for your generous donation to our prom! You helped provide a safe, fun environment for our students and their guests! Your donation helped provide amazing decorations, a fun DJ, and the exciting evening entertainment of laser tag! Thank you again.

CMCS Class of 2023

FOR SALE

Bobcat snowblower S185, 200x72, 2012 used - very good condition. \$5,000.

Shirley Buesing
Renville, MN 56284
320-979-0875

September board meeting highlights

The September board meeting was held on Tuesday, September 27 at 8 am. All board members were present. Others present were CEO DeeAnne Norris, Gene Alex, and Lenae Wordes.

The board reviewed and approved the following items:

- Minutes of the August 30 board meeting
 - Operating and disbursement reports for the month of August
 - Capital Credits to estates
 - 990/990T Tax Return
 - City of Sacred Heart REED request
 - Safety report for September
 - Mid-West Electric Consumers Association Voting Delegates
- The board reviewed:
- Capital credits transferred
 - Total new members
 - Reports from staff members as to the

activities in their department. Items in the reports include:

- High-level Statement of Operations review – YTD through August (unaudited)
- Organization activities
- East River update
- Basin Electric update
- NRECA update
- MREA update
- Linecrew work in progress, equipment update, and outage update
- Accounts receivable
- New facility update
- Electric Vehicle demonstration
- New Facility Site Tour

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

NOTICE:

The October board meeting will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 25 at 8 a.m. The November board meeting will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 22 at 8 a.m.



MISSION STATEMENT

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

OUTAGE REPORT

Affecting 10 or more members:
Date: 8/2/22 – 8/3/22

Time off: 10:54 p.m.
Time on: 2:48 a.m.
Substation: Troy
Cause: Dead tree fell into the line

Date: 8/2/22 – 8/3/22
Time off: 10:54 p.m.
Time on: 12:53 a.m.
Substation: Troy, Emmet
Cause: Dead tree fell into the line

Date: 8/2/22 – 8/3/22
Time off: 11:01 p.m.
Time on: 12:51 a.m.
Substation: Kingman
Cause: Dead tree fell into the line

Date: 8/6/22
Time off: 8:00 a.m.
Time on: 10:03 a.m.
Substation: Birch Cooley
Cause: Farm equipment

Date: 8/6/22
Time off: 9:15 a.m.
Time on: 10:50 a.m.
Substation: Crooks
Cause: Lightning

Date: 8/6/22
Time off: 11:01 a.m.
Time on: 12:00 p.m.
Substation: Crooks
Cause: Lightning

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

SOUND DECISIONS

Central Electric lineman Cody Riggs uses a hot stick to simulate de-energizing a power line during a Freshman Impact emergency exercise at Hanson High School in Alexandria. *Photo by Billy Gibson*

Freshman Impact program promotes sound safety practices for students

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

The students at Hanson High School were stunned and aghast at the horrific scene unfolding right before their eyes.

There were two wrecked sedans, a downed utility pole and tangled wires strewn across the road. Emergency responders were swarming everywhere as a fire truck barreled onto the scene with its sirens blaring. And the most unsettling sight of all: four of their fellow students lying in the crumpled cars with massive wounds and barely clinging to life.

Fortunately, it turns out the accident scene was just a drill staged by a group known as Freshman Impact: Caught in the Moment, and coordinated as part of Cornbelt Program Day at the school located in Alexandria.

Nearly 200 students came from surrounding schools for a full slate of

learning opportunities centered around vehicle safety, first aid, emergency response, drug abuse awareness and much more. Participating schools were Hanson High School, Armour, Bridgewater-Emery, Ethan, Marion, McCook Central, Plankinton and Wessington Springs.

Local organizers Yolanda Price and Don Huber worked with Freshman Impact Executive Director Rick McPherson, local school officials and emergency response agencies to plan the event.

The morning session included seven separate stations scattered throughout the school's parking lot and in the gymnasium. The learning stations focused on the following subjects: teen mental health; healthy relationships; jaws of life and ambulance demonstration; seatbelt awareness; drug dog; social media dangers; and a distracted driving course where the



West River Electric is one of several electric cooperatives that support the Freshman Impact program.

students wore goggles simulating drug and alcohol impaired vision and attempted to navigate a short course behind the wheel of an ATV.

Taking part in the program was Central Electric Cooperative, which provided the downed power pole and wires. Once the emergency exercise was set into motion, two co-op linemen promptly arrived on the scene to de-energize the lines and worked with other responders to secure the area and form a safe perimeter.

Central Electric's Manager of Communications Tara Miller helped



A Hanson High School student takes on the role of an accident victim during a recent mock emergency scenario. *Photo by Billy Gibson*

facilitate the partnership while working alongside local organizers.

“This is an incredible opportunity for area students to learn about good decision-making, safety and the real dangers that are out there,” Miller said. “Concern for community is one of our guiding principles as a cooperative. This experience serves to educate first responders and students. It aligns with our values, and we are pleased to support it.”

The day’s program covered just about all the bases. The schedule included a poignant perspective of loss and grief from LeAnn Moe, who lost her teenage daughter to an automobile accident. During the mock accident response, one of the crash victims was carried away in a hearse furnished by a local funeral

home. And after all the activity settled down outside, the students returned to the gymnasium to observe a mock legal trial and sentencing hearing over the car accident they had witnessed.

The day ended with the distribution of educational materials by CORE (Community Organized Resources for Educating), the parent organization of Freshman Impact.

McPherson said he has found that the teaching method employed by Freshman Impact is successful in driving the message home to students, and they also develop a rapport with local

agencies and emergency responders.

“The students see up close and learn through hands-on activities the possible consequences of wrong choices and the lasting effects physically and emotionally on their bodies, their families and friends and their community,” he said, noting that West River Electric based in Wall is also an event sponsor. “It’s all about making safe choices and preventing destructive behaviors, and it’s important our teens learn the life-long skills and values to help them make the best possible decisions.”

Visit www.freshmanimpact.com.

Central Electric Cooperative of Mitchell presented CORE with a \$2,500 Operation Round Up grant to help fund the local program. Pictured left to right are Freshman Impact founder Rick McPherson, CORE Coordinator Yolanda Price, CORE Coordinator Don Huber, Operation Round-Up Trustee LeAnn Moe, Central Electric Director Merl Bechen and Hanson County Chief Deputy Mike Brown. *Photo by Tara Miller*



WELLS CONCRETE TOUR



Co-op leaders take tour of new facility contractor operation

On Wednesday, Sept. 21, Renville-Sibley board chair Roger Manthei along with employees Mike Benson, Nick Bruns and myself toured Wells Concrete in Wells, MN. Also joining us were the new facility general contractor Ryan Breitbach and our member Barbara



Lenae Wordes
Communications
Manager

Marks, who is the Senior Designer/Project Manager for our new facility. Wells Concrete received the bid for the precast panels for our new building. The tour was scheduled at a time when some of Renville-Sibley's panels were being

poured. This was a great opportunity for us to see and understand how the walls of our new building are created.

Our tour guide was Rick Girard. Most of us had already met Rick last spring when he delivered a sample of what our walls would look like. He explained that Wells Concrete is a family-owned business founded in 1951 right there in Wells. There are now six manufacturing facilities, three in Minnesota, and one each in Colorado, Illinois, and Wisconsin. The facility in Wells employs approximately 200 people with a total of

roughly 800 employees across all plants.

After this introduction, the group moved outside to see samples of design options. There were traditional patterns along with some unique options such as the sample with an image of the Three Stooges in the concrete. Rick explained how the designs are made, the difference between water-washed and sandblasted, and the installation of doors and windows in the precast panels. About 95 percent of their concrete business is the building of precast panels.

The group then stepped inside the 500' architectural building where the precast panels are made. The widest panel that can be poured in this facility is 14'. The wood forms vary in length from 140' to 160' and are broken up into individual pieces. Each form will hold 3-5 pieces based on length and is poured and removed within 24 hours. Before the concrete arrives, each mold is prepped with rebar and framed out for any doors or windows that would be in that specific panel. The foam insulation placed on top of the first pour is cut to size and laid off to the side, ready to be placed on top of the wet cement. The maximum size for Renville-Sibley's panels is 12' wide by 34' tall and weigh approximately 50,000 pounds.

When the concrete truck arrived to pour one of our panels, a sample was

placed in a wheelbarrow and wheeled off to the quality control lab where it is placed in cylinders and tested for strength the next day and on day 28. The concrete for our new building is made from Morton granite. The committee intentionally picked granite from Morton for our new facility as we wanted to use local products to support our connection to this area. A half dozen or so workers swarm the mold like worker bees when the concrete began flowing. They screed and vibrate the top of the concrete to make it level, then place the pre-cut foam insulation in the appropriate place. The foam insulation is then prepped for the next layer of concrete. An iPad with the specifications for that panel is placed nearby for reference. It was determined that this panel would be located on the north side of the shop to the east of the overhead door. It will be great to look at the building as I drive by and be able to say I saw that panel being built.

The next stop is the 900' structural building where the roof tees are made. At the time of our visit, they were not pouring tees. Rick showed us the forms, which were made from metal, and explained how the pre-stress tension is performed for these pieces. In this massive building, there are forms for beams, columns and various D.T. forms. primarily used in floor and roof decks.

Each plant has a carpenter shop and a metal shop. All raw material is brought in. For example, the rebar for this plant comes from Dodge Center and there are several sources of aggregate for

Wells Concrete Tour, *continued*

the concrete. The structural concrete provided for this facility comes from the local Redi-mix plant, while all the architectural concrete is provided from their own bath plant.

We then drove over to where our finished panels were lined up and ready to be delivered to their forever home (see picture on page 14). Each panel was labeled to identify its location when the building is erected. The panels were laid on their side and gave the appearance that they were not tall enough for our building. Rick assured us they were the right size. We checked out the metal plates on the panels that would be welded to the metal plates on the footings back in Danube. Off in a distance, we could see the massive double tees that would support our roof. These double tees weigh approximately 52,000 pounds and are 108' long.

The last stop on our tour was the finishing building. The panels are either sandblasted or water-washed here. There were two Renville-Sibley panels in this



Workers at Wells Concrete manufacture support panels using wood forms.

building waiting for their treatment.

Our group returned to the main building for more conversation over lunch. This tour was a great opportunity for us to learn more about how the precast panels for our new building are created.

Renville-Sibley's precast panels started arriving on site the week of Oct. 10. In about a three-week period, our new

building will be erected. To watch the process, visit our website at www.renville-sibley.coop. There is a time-lapse video under the Recent News section on the home page that will show the progress of the new facility since the camera was installed. This video will be updated at least once a week so be sure to check back to see the latest progress.

VETERANS DAY

PROUD TO HONOR ALL WHO HAVE SERVED

Renville-Sibley's office will be closed on Friday, November 11, in observance of Veteran's Day.

SCHOLAR OF THE MONTH

Brianna DeGonda

Renville-Sibley Co-op Power, your local Touchstone Energy Cooperative, congratulates Brianna DeGonda from Redwood Valley High School on being selected as the September Scholar of the Month. Brianna was nominated because she consistently works hard and gives her all with her academics and community involvement. She is involved with FFA, student council and works in the community. Already this year she has volunteered at the school blood drive. Renville-Sibley Co-op Power salutes Brianna DeGonda as the September Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Month.

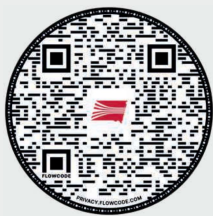


Brianna DeGonda



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.

To view the publication's master event calendar, scan the QR code below:



Or visit <https://sdrea.coop/cooperative-connections-event-calendar> to view more upcoming events.

OCT. 28-30

ZooBoo
Great Plains Zoo
Sioux Falls, SD
605-367-7003

OCT. 31
Halloween Parade
Belle Fourche, SD

NOV. 3-5
Yankton's Harvest Halloween
Downtown, Yankton, SD

NOV. 3-5
Huron Ringneck Festival & Bird Dog Challenge
100 4th Street SW, Huron, SD
605-352-0000

NOV. 4-6
Girlfriends' Weekend
Hill City, SD

NOV. 5-20
Rustic Designs & More Christmas Show
9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily
Ethan, SD
605-770-2411

NOV. 5
Fairburn Community Center Bazaar
Fairburn, SD

NOV. 11-13
Christmas at the Barn
Front Porch 605
Groton, SD
605-216-4202

NOV. 12
Black Hills Meat Festival
Black Hills Harley Davidson
2820 Harley Dr.
Rapid City, SD
605-390-7917

NOV. 12
Holiday Extravaganza
Sisseton, SD
605-698-7425

NOV. 13
Lutefisk, Lefse, Meatball Supper
Chamberlain, SD
605-234-6698

NOV. 18-20
Deadwood's Big Whiskey Festival
Deadwood, SD
605-578-1876

NOV. 19
Fall Craft Show
Minneluzahan Senior Center
Rapid City, SD
605-394-1887

NOV. 19
Lille Norge Fest
Canyon Lake Activity Center
Rapid City, SD
605-342-4226

NOV. 25
Olde Tyme Christmas Kick-off and Parade
Hill City, SD

NOV. 25
Trap Shoot
Izaak Walton League
Sioux Falls, SD
605-332-9527

NOV. 25
"Light up the Night" Parade and Fireworks
Belle Fourche, SD

NOV. 25-26
Kris Kringle Kraft Fair
Hill City, SD

DEC. 2-3
Gregory Mid-Winter Fair
Gregory Auditorium
Gregory, SD
605-830-9778

DEC. 2-3
Christmas in the Hills
Mueller Center
Hot Springs, SD
605-745-4140

DEC. 3
Santa's Thrift Village
Minneluzahan Senior Center
Rapid City, SD
605-394-1887

DEC. 3
60th Annual Wreath and Centerpiece Sale
Central States Fair Grounds,
Rapid City, SD
605-343-0710

DEC. 17
Custer Christmas for Kids
Custer High School
Custer, SD
custerchristmas4kids@gmail.com

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