



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

**RENVILLE-SIBLEY**

**FEBRUARY 2022 VOL. 22 NO. 10**

# COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



## Crazy about Curling

**Win or lose, there's  
no bad curling**  
Pages 8-9

**Saddle making  
for the pros**  
Pages 12-13

Many curling enthusiasts  
contend the world would  
be a more peaceful place if  
everyone "threw the stone."

# Five reasons we love serving our members

February may be the shortest month, but it's packed with special observances like Presidents' Day, Black History Month and Valentine's Day, in addition to a host of unofficial "national" days you've probably never heard of like "National Tater Tot Day." But they all have something in common. They were created to draw attention to a particular issue or theme.

Valentine's Day may seem like an observance originally created by a greeting card company, but over time, it's become a widely celebrated day generating millions of dollars spent on flowers, candy and of course, greeting cards professing our love. But Valentine's Day isn't just for the lovebirds. It's also the perfect time to let our friends, family, co-workers and other special people in our lives know we care about them—with or without a store-bought greeting card.

So, in that vein, we've created our list of top five reasons why we love serving you, the members of Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association.

1. We love serving our members because without you, the co-op wouldn't exist. Our purpose is to provide you with reliable, responsible and safe electricity. Simply put, Renville-Sibley exists to serve you. That's why we were formed in 1938—to bring power to our local area when for-profit utilities would not.
2. You enable us to complete our mission by supporting our efforts to give back. A major part of our mission is to serve our community and look after the greater good. With your assistance, we're able to help members of our community with economic development loans, heat assistance donations and through other programs like Operation Round-Up.
3. Members of our co-op also serve on the board of directors. They provide guidance for setting co-op priorities and helping make strategic decisions. Because our board members live in the area, they're able to serve as the pulse of the larger community and identify immediate and long-term needs. The broader co-op membership provides helpful input through their vote on director elections and by weighing in on co-op and community issues.

4. You help us get it right. Renville-Sibley members are great about keeping us in the know. We do our best to avoid power outages, but Mother Nature can occasionally throw us a curveball. Our members are quick to report any power disruptions and are patient as our crews work to safely restore power. We know outages are frustrating, and your support as we work through storms means so much to our employees.

We also appreciate your feedback at member informational meetings and when you stop in or call our office. Your opinions are critical for the co-op's success, and we thank you for that.

5. You and other Renville-Sibley members make up the community we serve - and for us, it's all about community. Our employees live and work here too and care about our community the same way you do. We're invested and work to help it thrive. That's why Renville-Sibley donates to local charities, schools, and has a scholarship fund. It's also why we invest in economic development, and why you'll see our employees volunteering at local schools and other charitable and community endeavors.

As a co-op, our mission is to enhance the quality of life in our community and look after its long-term interests. We love serving our members and our local community, and just like you, want to see it continue to thrive.

I am looking forward to seeing you at our member informational meetings in February and our annual meeting in March. At this time, we expect to host all meetings in person with our members.

The member informational meetings are very informal, and we allow plenty of time for questions on any topic. The scheduled meetings are as follows:

- Thursday, February 17 @ 1:30 p.m.  
Sacred Heart Community Center
- Saturday, February 19 @ 9:00 a.m.  
Danube Community Center
- Tuesday, February 22 @ 9:00 a.m.  
Fairfax Lion's Den

If you've never attended our annual meeting, or if it's been a while, please join us. Our co-op family looks forward to visiting with you! We'll have food, fun and door prizes. Mark your calendar for the annual meeting on Thursday, March 31st at the Redwood Area Community Center. Take note that this is a different location than prior years. More information can be found in upcoming issues of this newsletter.



**DeeAnne Newville**  
CEO  
320-826-2593 or  
800-826-2593



## COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

### RENVILLE-SIBLEY CO-OP POWER

(USPS 019-074)

#### Board of Directors

Roger Manthei – Chair  
Wayland Zaske – Vice Chair  
Alan Neyers – Secretary/Treasurer  
Gary Eekhoff  
Matt Haubrich  
Whitey Hinderman  
Gary Peterson  
Kylie Rieke  
Helen Ruebel

#### Renville-Sibley Employees

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Brian Athmann – Journeyman Lineman  
Shawn Beckler – Crew Chief  
Mike Benson – Journeyman Lineman  
Brad Braulick – Crew Chief  
Nick Bruns – Systems Coordinator  
Anthony Carruth – Journeyman Lineman  
Amy Ervin – Consumer Accounts Representative  
Brayden Fischer – Journeyman Lineman  
Cindy Mertens – Administrative Services Manager  
DeeAnne Newville – CEO  
Clint Olson – Journeyman Lineman  
Kathy Ridl – Office Assistant  
Shane Suess – PT Janitor  
Lena Wordes – Communications Manager

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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## Ella Fuhr is selected Scholar of the Month



Congratulations to Ella Fuhr from Redwood Valley High School for being selected as the December Scholar of the Month. Ella was nominated because she is an outstanding student who is involved in her school and community. Some of her activities include FFA, NHS, student council, and Rotary. She

also volunteers with her youth group and at Ruby's Pantry. Renville-Sibley Co-op Power salutes Ella Fuhr as the December Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Month.

More information about 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.

## Energy audits available

Renville-Sibley offers energy audits to all members. The audit includes a walk-through of your home, taking pictures with an infrared camera of any areas where cold air might be entering your home, along with a review of the energy consumption in your home. The cost of this audit is \$150. If the member makes improvements recommended in the follow-up report and submits invoices showing that \$150 or more was spent on these improvements, the charge will be refunded. Please contact the office at 800-826-2593 for more information or if you are interested in having an energy audit of your home. 356402

## Comparative Report

	Current YTD through November 30, 2021	One Year Ago YTD through November 30, 2020	10 Years Ago YTD through November 30, 2011
average # of Consumers	1,882	1,882	1,927
kWhs purchased	167,139,763	161,823,257	148,934,794
Cost of purchased power	\$10,830,753.37	\$10,218,525.80	\$6,779,689.88

# Make a plan before heading out in wintry road conditions

Though they may make for a pretty seasonal backdrop, snow and ice can complicate even modest travel plans. It's unsafe to drive when visibility is vastly reduced or when you can't fully control your car. According to AAA, wintry weather and its byproduct - hazardous road conditions - are a factor in nearly a half-million crashes and more than 2,000 road deaths each year. With those figures in mind, here are some tips to minimize the risk to yourself and other motorists during winter weather.

**Don't drive unless you must.** It really isn't worth the risk to your safety and that of others to venture out onto potentially unsafe roads for any circumstance that isn't urgent. Pay attention to weather reports so you can run any time-sensitive errands and stock up on supplies before adverse conditions arrive. If you must drive to work, that's one thing. But don't tempt fate if you can help it.

**If you have to drive, eliminate distractions.** Keep your phone out of reach or set it to airplane mode - a good practice year-round but especially important when roads are dicey.

**Keep a bundle of cold-weather gear** in your car, including water, nonperishable food, warm clothing, a flashlight, glass scraper, blankets and medications.

**Before you set out**, alert others to your route, destination and estimated time of arrival.

**Make sure your tires** are properly inflated and have plenty of tread.

**Keep your gas tank** at least half full to prevent a frozen fuel line, which could leave you stranded.

**Don't use cruise control** when driving on any slippery surface.

**Drive slowly.** Lower your speed to counteract the reduced traction that accompanies snow and ice. Accelerate and decelerate slowly. Applying the gas slowly can help avoid skids. Since it takes longer to slow down on icy roads, take your time to slow down for a stop sign or light.

**A final note for winter driving:** Never warm up a vehicle in an enclosed area such as a garage. Exercise caution and good judgment to stay safe as you negotiate whatever conditions winter brings this year.

## POWERLINE SAFETY QUIZ

### TRUE OR FALSE?

*Power lines are insulated for contact.*

**False.** While power lines may have a covering to protect against weather, they are not insulated for contact. Birds can sit on power lines unhurt because they don't create a path to the ground. You and your ladder do.

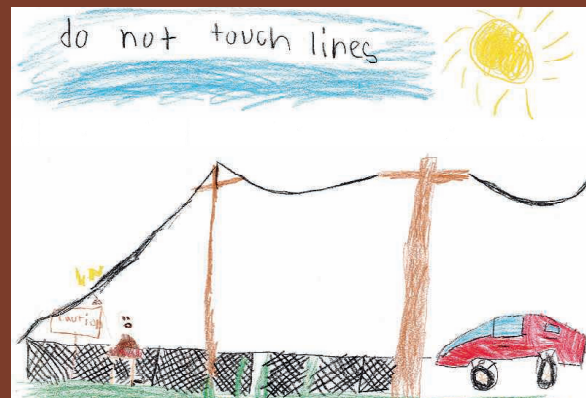


*I should keep myself and any equipment I'm using at least 10 feet away from any power lines.*

**True.** You don't need to contact a power line to be in danger; electricity can jump, or arc, from a power line to a person who gets too close. The best insulator is space. Keep yourself and your equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines.

*I can be electrocuted by a power line even if I am wearing gloves and rubber boots.*

**True.** Work gloves and rubber boots offer no protection against contact with a power line. Once again, space - and lots of it - is the best insulator.



## Don't touch power lines

### Luke Walden

Luke Walden reminds co-op members that it's important to never touch power lines under any conditions. Luke is from Brandon, where he and his parents Blake and Jennifer are all members of Sioux Valley Energy.

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.



# BRUNCH TIME!

**COLD OATMEAL MUESLI**

Ingredients:

- 1 cup quick oats
- 1 cup old fashioned oats
- 1/2 cup raisins
- 1/3 cup brown sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 2 cup milk

**METHOD**

Mix all ingredients together and let sit overnight in the refrigerator. Serve cold. May add walnuts and apples or other fresh berries when serving, if desired.

**Elaine Rieck, Harrisburg**

**BRUNCH EGG BAKE**

Ingredients:

- 12 slices, bread, crusts removed
- 2 cups diced ham or bacon, crisp and chopped
- 1 - 4 oz. can mushrooms, drained
- 1 green pepper, chopped
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 cup cheddar cheese, shredded
- 5 eggs
- 2-1/2 cups milk
- salt and pepper
- paprika

**METHOD**

Butter six slices of bread and put face down in 9 x 13 inch pan, lightly sprayed with cooking spray. Cover the bread with the ham, mushrooms, green pepper, onion and cheese. Dice the remaining bread and spread over the top. Beat eggs, milk, salt and pepper and pour over the top. Sprinkle with paprika. Cover the pan with foil and refrigerate overnight. In the morning, bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour. Serves 12.

**Mary Jessen, Holabird**

**CHEESY SAUSAGE AND POTATO SKILLET CASSEROLE**

Ingredients:

- 8 ounces bulk breakfast sausage, crumbled
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 medium green bell pepper, chopped
- 6 eggs
- 1 cup milk
- 1 tablespoon McCormick® Oregano Leaves
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon McCormick® Coarse Ground Black Pepper
- 1 1/2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1 cup crumbled feta cheese
- 2 plum tomatoes, seeded and chopped
- 1 tablespoon oil
- 1 package (20 oz) refrigerated shredded hash browns
- 3 tbsp fresh dill, parsley or green onion finely chopped

**METHOD**

Cook and stir sausage in large skillet on medium heat 5 minutes or until lightly browned. Add onion and bell pepper; cook and stir 5 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Set aside. Beat eggs in large bowl with wire whisk. Add milk, oregano, salt and pepper; mix well. Add sausage mixture, cheeses and tomatoes; mix well. Set aside. Pour oil into same skillet, swirling to coat the pan. Spread hash browns in bottom and up sides of pan. Pour egg mixture over potatoes. Cover. Cook on medium heat 10 to 15 minutes or until eggs are set.

**mccormick.com**

**Please send your favorite 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 December 2022. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.**





## Renville-Sibley Co-op Power

# 2022 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
- \$300 Ductless Air Source Heat Pump

Electric heating systems must meet the DOE manufacturing standard for HSPF efficiency. DOE standard in 2022 is 8.2. Ductless system must be new, under 2 tons, electrical ductless equipment and meet the DOE manufacturing standard for HSPF efficiency. Contact the office for commercial, industrial or agricultural rebate information.

### Special Discount Rates:

Separately metered electric heat and controlled A/C is only 6 cents/kWh!

Contact the office for details. – There is a \$2.50 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



Renville-Sibley has 100-gallon grid enabled water heaters available. 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.

# Are you interested in a new adventure?

Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association is beginning to plan for the 84th Annual meeting of the membership that will be held March 31, 2022 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. Whitey Hinderman's term will expire in 2022.

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 2022.

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. Gary Eekhoff's term will expire in 2022.

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 last Monday of every month, beginning at 9 a.m. in December, January and February at 8 a.m. the rest of the year. 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 and all personal expenses.

If you are interested in becoming a candidate, contact the Renville-Sibley office at 1-800-826-2593 before Feb. 3 for further information.





# STICKS AND STONES

Members of the Aberdeen Curling Club hold a public instructional session to teach both the young and old the finer points of their sport.

## Curling clubs seek to educate the public and spread the word about the joy of throwing stones

**Billy Gibson**

[billy.gibson@sdrea.coop](mailto:billy.gibson@sdrea.coop)

Looking for a sure-fire way to achieve permanent world peace and lasting harmony?

Make curling mandatory.

At least Bryan Rau thinks that's just the ticket to putting an end to international animosity. Rau serves on the board of the Aberdeen Curling Club and describes being hooked the moment he threw his first stone in competition eight years ago.

"When I touched that first stone it was like 10,000 volts going through me. I kicked out the hack and threw that stone down the ice and it was just incredible," he said. "I think if everybody curled, the whole world would be different. Everybody would get along. There's no bad curling. No matter where you play, whether you win or lose, it's all good curling. It's a game that's played with honor and pride. You don't have to be a jock or a talented athlete. It's a sport that's

made for everyone. I've seen people play from 8 to 85."

Bryan and his fellow board member, Steve Gascoigne, spent a recent afternoon in Gascoigne's garage taking in a documentary called "Sticks and Stones: Battle for the Soul of Curling." When they're not playing the game, they enjoy talking about it.

As for his role as the club's ice master, Gascoigne can wax eloquently about how to prepare the perfect sheet of competition ice. He describes the tedious and exacting process that involves various measures of zammung, scraping, mopping, pebbling (twice), watering and nipping.

And if you can't control your stone after Gascoigne and his crew have spent 45 minutes working their magic, more practice may be in order.

The job of a stone hitting its target largely falls on the shoulders of the skip. A typical four-member team includes the lead, second, vice skip and skip. Each player throws two 44-pound stones and the vice skip



Aberdeen Curling Club members Danny Wolfgram, John Hilton, Alex Wolfgram and John Peterson recently completed an "eight ender," which is often compared to a perfect game in baseball.



## Curling club contacts

### Sioux Falls Curling Club

605-271-7539

[www.scheelsiceplex.com](http://www.scheelsiceplex.com)

### Aberdeen Curling Club

605-228-1717

[www.curlaberdeen.com](http://www.curlaberdeen.com)

### Rushmore Curling Club

605-484-4477

[www.rushmorecurling.org](http://www.rushmorecurling.org)

### Yankton Curling Club

(605) 665-0229

[www.yanktonice.org](http://www.yanktonice.org)

### MN Curling Association

[www.mncurling.org](http://www.mncurling.org)



Many curling clubs have two common goals: dedicated ice and a desire to teach others the rules and techniques of their sport.

stands in when it's the skip's turn to throw. The direction of the stone's path can be altered by sweepers who brush the surface in a way that can make the stone lose speed, gain speed or curl left or right.

The last stone is called the hammer and can be used to earn points with a favorable position near "the button" or knock the opponent's stone out of the target area.

But beyond the technical aspects of the sport or tallying wins or losses, each of the four most active clubs across the state share the same goal of educating the public about the sport and getting younger folks hooked on curling.

Rau, for instance, is a long-time Scout master and is working with his local troop to get the kids involved. He and Gascoigne and other members of the club visit the Boys and Girls club, school groups and others to

teach youngsters how to play the sport, share their positive experiences and answer their questions.

The same spirit of advocacy is also found at the Yankton Curling Club, which was started last winter by Mike and Julianna Ford along with a small group of other enthusiasts.

Julianna serves as president of the group and fell in love with the sport when she was a high school student in her native Alberta. She describes failing to make the roster of the volleyball and basketball teams but eventually finding a home with the curling squad.

"Our gym class went to the local ice rink and I loved it," she recalled. "It was a lot more strategic than physical and it was something I could compete in."

She later moved to Sioux Falls, married Mike, and the two helped create the existing club in that city.

Several years later they moved to Yankton for Mike's work and soon started another club. The Yankton group lists about 45 members and is also heavily involved in growing the sport in their community.

"We're reaching out to schools, clubs and nursing homes," Julianna said. "There are handicapped leagues and elderly people can play by using a stick to throw the stone. It's a sport that's literally for everyone."

The Fords don't often find themselves on different sides of the ice, but when they do they try to keep the competitive fires closer to an ember than a raging flame.

So, bottom line...who's better?

"No comment," Julianna said, before commenting with a chuckle, "but I'm the one who went to Arena Nationals."

# Scholarships available

Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association offers a total of \$5,000 in scholarship money to students in the service area.

Renville-Sibley is allocated a \$1,000 scholarship from Basin Electric to be awarded at the discretion of the cooperative. Another \$1,000 scholarship is from Renville-Sibley.

A committee of Renville-Sibley Board members, as well as an employee of the cooperative, will select the recipients of the \$1,000 Basin Scholarship and the \$1,000 Renville-Sibley Scholarship. These scholarships will be awarded based on a combination of SAT/ACT scores (if completed) and overall grade point average, work experiences, participation in school and community activities, the personal statement of career goals and the written recommendation by a third party. Additional consideration will be given to applicants interested in a position related to the electric industry for the Renville-Sibley scholarship.

The remaining three \$1,000 scholarships will be distributed from uncashed capital credit checks. These scholarships will be awarded by a random drawing at the annual meeting from the remaining completed applications.

All scholarship applicants must be U.S. citizens and a dependent of a member of Renville-Sibley Cooperative. They must be a high school senior who plans to enroll as a full-time student in an undergraduate course of study at an accredited two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school. Applications will be accepted until Feb. 18, 2022. Winners will be announced to the public at the Cooperative's Annual Meeting on March 31, 2022.

Renville-Sibley participates with other Minnesota electric cooperatives in sponsoring the Jay York Scholarship. Scholarships from this program are selected by random drawing. The amount of this scholarship is determined based on the number of cooperatives that participate.

Only one completed application is required for an applicant to be considered a candidate for any of the available scholarships. Incomplete applications will be excluded.

For more information and a scholarship application form, contact Renville-Sibley at 1-800-826-2593 or 826-2593. Applications can also be found on our website [www.renville-sibley.coop](http://www.renville-sibley.coop) under the Customer Service tab.

## WHERE'S THE NUMBER?

Last month Ron Homan found his member number in the newsletter. Congratulations, Ron! The credit will start over with a value of \$15. Another number has been hidden in this newsletter. If you find your number and call the office by the 3rd of February, you will receive this credit on your electric statement. Good luck in your search!

## FOR SALE

**For Sale:** Metal Clipper fanning mill with 8 sifting screens, 14' Jon boat, \$100 each.

Steve Herschman  
Gibbon, MN  
**507-276-0628**

**For Sale:** Straw, 5x6 net wrapped, 1000# plus, \$40/bale, 2021 crop

Dean Schroeder  
Renville, MN  
**320-522-1394**

## 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, P.O. 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



## December board meeting highlights

The December board meeting was held on Monday, Dec. 20 at 9 a.m. All board members were present. Others present were CEO DeeAnne Newville, Cindy Mertens, Gene Alex, and Lenae Wordes.

The board reviewed and approved the following items:

- Minutes of the November 29 board meeting
- Operating and disbursement reports for the month of November
- Capital credits to an estate
- Safety report for November
- Nominating Committee Appointment
- Write off of accounts receivable
- Revised Schedule A – Standard Pricing Guide
- NRECA Annual Meeting Voting Delegates
- NRTC Annual Meeting 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 November (unaudited)
  - Organization activities
  - Facilities update
  - East River update
  - Basin Electric update
  - NRECA update
  - MREA update
  - Linecrew work in progress, equipment update, and outage update
  - Accounts receivable

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

## NOTICE:

The January board meeting will be held on Monday, Jan. 31 at 9 a.m.  
The February board meeting will be held on Monday, Feb. 28 at 9 a.m.

## Member information meetings scheduled

Renville-Sibley will be hosting our annual member informational meetings throughout the service area in February. All members are invited to attend and learn more about our electric cooperative and what is happening in the electric industry.

The meeting schedule is as follows:

- February 17, 1:30 pm – Sacred Heart Community Center

- February 19, 9:00 am – Danube Community Center
- February 22, 9:00 am – Fairfax Lion's Den

A light snack will be served at each of the meetings. We look forward to seeing you at the member informational meetings in February.

## Operation Round Up thank you

Thank you for your donation to Santa's Closet, an important CIRCLE program. We are unable to provide for those in need in Renville County without the support of individuals like you. We appreciate your support and ask you to pray for the success of our ministry. Thank you again for your donation.

**Santa's Closet Committee**

## MISSION STATEMENT

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

## OUTAGE REPORT

Outages affecting 10 members or more:

**Date: 11-30-21**

Time off: 9:55 a.m.

Time on: 10:10 a.m.

Substation: Troy

Cause: Scheduled

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

## SAVE THE DATE

Renville-Sibley's annual meeting will be held March 31, 2022 at the **Redwood Area Community Center in Redwood Falls**. More annual meeting information will be in upcoming newsletters.



# STILL IN THE SADDLE

At age 77, Dave Dahl of Fort Pierre is nearing the completion of his 2,000th saddle and has no plans to slow down anytime soon. *Photos by Billy Gibson*

## Saddle-maker Dave Dahl of Fort Pierre delights in helping bronc riders bring home championship buckles and purses

**Billy Gibson**

[billy.gibson@sdrea.coop](mailto:billy.gibson@sdrea.coop)

Dave Dahl will probably never win a hand model contest. Dahl's digits are gnarled, bent and puffy after nearly a half-century of hard labor producing bronc saddles for dozens of rodeo champions.

Dahl is quick to point out, however, that looks can be very deceiving: his mitts are as strong and dependable and productive as they've ever been, seasoned with decades of experience. At the age of 77, Dahl is still going strong creating saddles out of his shop in downtown Fort Pierre. Incredibly, he's still keeping his customary pace of hand-crafting nearly 60 high-

performance saddles a year.

"Somebody once said if your hands aren't moving, you ain't making money," Dahl chuckled.

During the last week of December, Dahl was busy dashing out his 56th saddle of 2021. That saddle, commissioned by a Canadian bronc riding champion, was No. 1,924 of Dahl's career. Yes, Dahl does keep count, stamping every saddle that leaves the shop. He's already anticipating reaching the 2,000 mark.

He's considering loaning that milestone saddle to Fort Pierre's Casey Tibbs Museum so that visitors can see the brand that's catapulted dozens of rodeo competitors to the top.

"There's actually two that are marked 1,000," Dahl said. Turns out that Glen

O'Neill ended up with the first one, but then Dahl's daughter Darcy Harper also received a commemorative version for roping events. Incidentally, No. 1,800 is displayed in the North Dakota Rodeo Hall of Fame where Dahl was inducted in 2017 for both his riding and his other contributions to the sport.

The list of riders who have won titles from the swells of a Dahl saddle is endless and includes champions from Alberta to Aberdeen to Australia: CoBurn Bradshaw, Cody DeMoss, Clay Elliott, Chuck Schmidt, Jake Watson, Tom Reeves, Jeff Willert, Taos Muncy, Zeke Thurston, Cort Scheer, Wade Sundell, Kyle Whitaker and so many more that Dahl can hardly keep up. Eight Dahl saddles were at the 2021 PRCA Nationals in Las Vegas.

Pro riders enjoy collecting purses and Dahl delights in helping them reach their goals. He knows how hard it is not only to stay on a spirited bucking bronc



for a few seconds but also how difficult it is to make a dollar at it.

Dahl recalls his own limited days as a card-carrying professional when he won several buckles on the PRCA circuit before taking his saddle-making business full-time in the summer of 1974.

Bronc riding set a fire in Dahl's soul at an early age, growing up on the family farm in Keene, N.D., as one of 11 children. He competed for New Town High School and later went on to claim a national collegiate title as team captain for Black Hills State in 1967. A year after graduating with a bachelor's degree, Dahl also won the South Dakota Rodeo Association's saddle bronc title.

While he taught school for three years, Dahl eventually decided to make saddle-crafting his life's work. Dahl's friend and fellow rider Dick Jones got him interested in the craft and the two set up shop in an old abandoned drug store building next to the bank in Fort Pierre. In 1986, the bank decided to open a drive-through lane so the business moved across the street to its present location where Dahl runs Diamond D Saddle Shop and also manages a western clothing store adjacent to the shop.

Dahl plans on keeping his hands hard at work with no end in sight. He stays



## DAHL SADDLES

Dahl's phone number is on the speed-dial list of collegiate rodeo coaches in several states across the country. At left, Dahl applies his trademark stamp to one of his saddles.

as busy as ever while participation in rodeo continues on an upward growth trajectory. College rodeo coaches in Missouri, Texas, Oklahoma, California and other states have Dahl on their speed-dial lists. He said he recently received a call from someone wanting him to fit a saddle for her 11-year-old child.

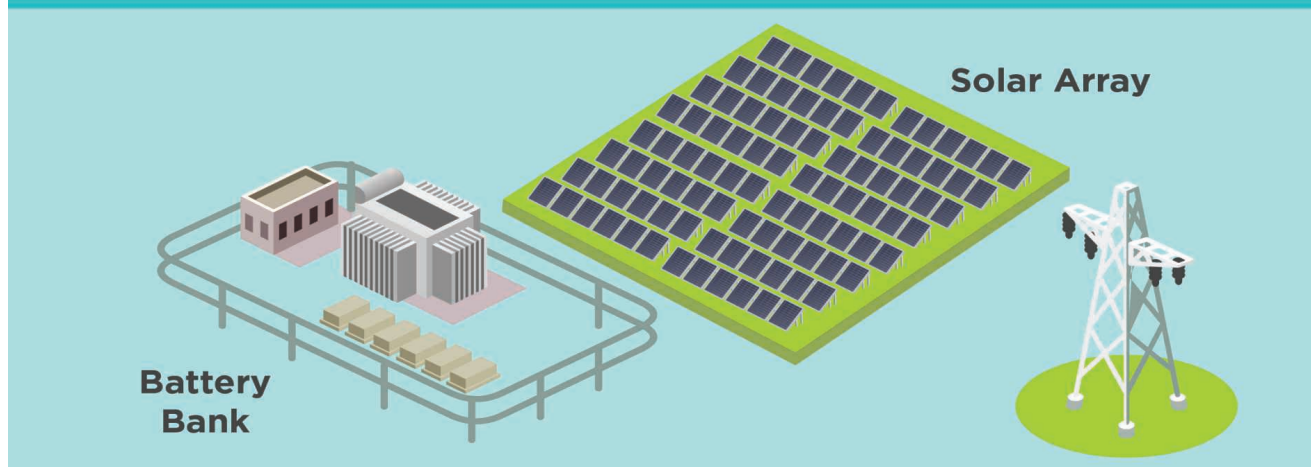
"It's just really a booming sport," he

said. "The training is better, there are better horses, there's better TV coverage of the sport and there's more money out there to be made. There are still a lot of ranch kids who grew up on horses and know how to ride. And they like to compete to see who's the best. There's so much work and I still enjoy it, so I don't plan on jumping out of the saddle anytime soon."



### THE FUTURE OF ENERGY STORAGE

A new form of battery storage technology, known as the iron-air battery, could potentially provide long-duration energy storage for hundred of hours. Long-duration energy storage will be crucial for adding more solar and wind energy to the electric grid since renewable energy is dependent on the weather and may not always be available when needed.



## New Tech Alert: Iron-Air batteries hold the promise of providing long-term energy storage capability

Maria Kanevsky

As the electric grid continues to evolve, new technologies are being developed to help advance the grid of the future. One of these technologies is a new form of battery storage technology called the iron-air battery, which could potentially provide long-duration energy storage for hundreds of hours.

Current battery technologies can only offer storage for tens of hours, meaning the innovative iron-air battery could provide energy for roughly 10 times longer than existing grid-scale batteries. This new technology could help ensure grid reliability even with extreme weather, such as hurricanes or powerful thunderstorms. Long-duration energy storage will also be crucial for adding more solar and wind energy to the grid since renewable energy is dependent on the weather and may not always be

available when we need it. New iron-air batteries could provide the missing link by storing excess energy to be used when the sun isn't shining or the wind isn't blowing.

The battery technology itself is made up of thousands of small iron pellets that develop rust when exposed to oxygen. This process discharges the battery. When the oxygen is removed, the pellets revert back to iron, which then charges the battery. According to Form Energy, the startup company developing this new technology, this process is known as the principle of "reversible rusting." Since the battery technology mainly uses the abundant and cheap resources of water, air and iron, the technology is relatively low-cost. These resources also make the technology relatively safe since there are no heavy metals, and also make the batteries simpler to recycle.

A key feature of these batteries is their

low cost, with Form Energy promising a price of less than \$20 per kWh. That price is about one-tenth the cost of lithium-ion battery technology, which is currently the cheapest battery technology on the market.

Individual iron-air batteries are about the size of a washing machine, making it easy to group many batteries together into a larger, scalable system. The size of the battery module group can vary, depending on the storage needed at a specific site. This means the batteries can be placed in a variety of areas, from rural to urban, to meet energy needs.

While this technology may be a solution for long-duration energy storage, the battery is not yet ready at the commercial level - although it is close. Form Energy estimates the battery should be ready by 2025.

Given the importance of long-duration energy storage for future of the grid, other start-ups are also looking to develop long-duration battery storage technology.

In the meantime, electric utilities can start to understand where this technology may potentially fit within their own systems to make the grid more resilient.



# Electric co-ops hold discussions with lawmakers and community leaders

**Billy Gibson**

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

In preparing for the 2022 Legislative Session, electric cooperative leaders from across the state held several local forums to engage in wide-ranging discussions with elected officials.

Representatives from Basin Electric, East River, Rushmore Electric, the South Dakota Rural Electric Association (SDREA) and many distribution cooperatives invited lawmakers and community leaders to engage in a dialogue focusing on the latest developments in the electric utility industry.

Electric cooperatives will continue to participate in meetings and forums throughout the Legislative Session, which is scheduled to conclude on March 10.

Ken Schlimgen, general manager of Central Electric in Mitchell, served as host of the last of the pre-session forums. Schlimgen welcomed the local lawmakers in attendance and went over some of the programs the co-op is pursuing to provide better service to its members.

Schlimgen showed a slide of the cooperative's small solar array constructed outside the headquarters office. He said the array allows the cooperative to offer members a first-hand look at how solar energy works. Members are also shown statistical data on how much electricity the array is producing at any given time.

This kind of real-time information



Ken Schlimgen, general manager of Central Electric based in Mitchell, describes how the cooperative is investing in an electric all-terrain vehicle to educate members about how EVs work and their potential for curbing greenhouse gas emissions. *Photos by Billy Gibson*

is important for members to understand how renewable resources such as solar and wind produce clean power, Schlimgen said. It's also important for members to understand the limitations of these sources.

"We discovered the first year we had this array that it performed at about 20 percent below the projections that were given by the manufacturer," he said.

Schlimgen also shared photos of the cooperative's Polaris Electric Ranger XP Kinetic UTV. He said the vehicle is rated at 110 horsepower and has a towing capacity of 2,500 lbs.: "This is something we can use on a practical level and also show members when they request more information about electric-powered vehicles."

House Majority Leader Kent Peterson was in attendance and noted lawmakers have considered presenting a bill regarding the licensing of electric UTVs.

"Given the rapid growth of the EV industry, this is something we'll have to consider at some point. It's great to have an opportunity like this to talk with the co-ops directly and get the useful information we need to make the right decisions," Peterson said.

Trevor Jones, general manager of SDREA, previewed some of the legislative issues that could be addressed during the 2022 session, including

issues surrounding the expansion of a network of electric vehicle charging stations and tax exemptions for data centers that consume large amounts of electrical power.

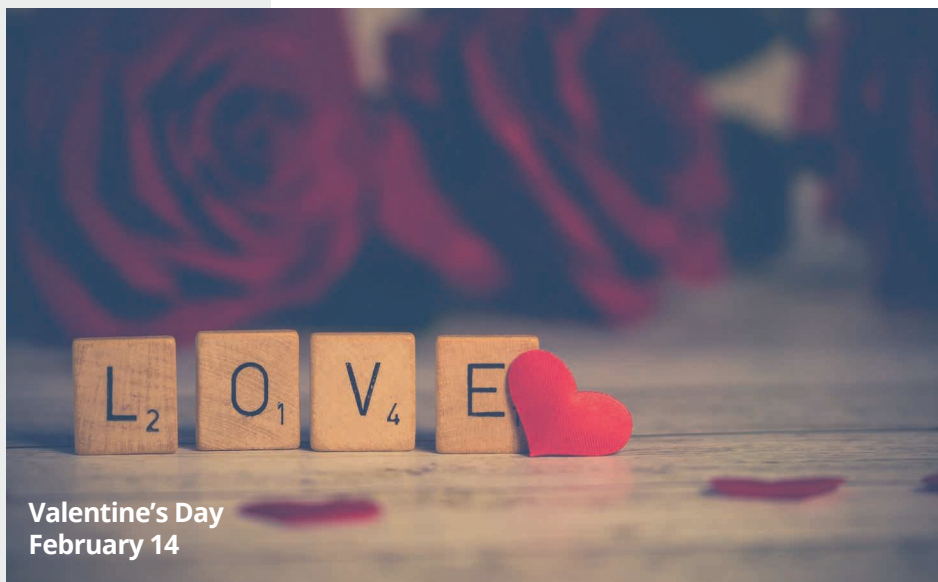
Chris Studer of East River Electric provided an overview of the cooperative's Renewable Energy Credit program. Participating consumers can sign up to receive credits or Green Tags for using renewable energy that comes from several wind farms that supply energy to the cooperative. Studer said the cost of participating in the program can vary among distribution co-ops.

Sen. Josh Klumb of Dist. 20 expressed his thanks to the co-op for organizing and hosting the forum.

"The application of these new technologies is something that will have a direct impact on our citizens for generations to come. In terms of doing our jobs as legislators, there's simply no substitute for this kind of interaction."



Chris Studer of East River Electric details the cooperative's REC Program.



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.

**JANUARY 22**  
**Reba McEntire**  
Denny Sanford Premier Center,  
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7288

**JANUARY 28-29**  
**Deadwood Pro Snocross Races**  
Days of '76 Rodeo Grounds,  
Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

**JANUARY 28-29**  
**27th Annual Dinner Theater**  
Reliance Legion Hall, Reliance,  
SD, call 605-730-0553 for  
more info and tickets

**JANUARY 28-31**  
**Lead Winterfest**  
Various Locations, Lead, SD,  
call 605-584-1100

**JANUARY 28-  
FEBRUARY 6**  
**Black Hills Stock Show &  
Rodeo**  
Central States Fairgrounds &  
Rushmore Plaza Civic Center,  
Rapid City, SD, 605-355-3861

**JANUARY 29-30**  
**DTGCA Gun Show**  
National Field Archery Building,  
Yankton, SD, 605-731-9154

**FEBRUARY 4-6**  
**Fiddler on the Roof**  
Washington Pavilion, Sioux  
Falls, SD, 605-367-6000

**FEBRUARY 5**  
**Lake Hendricks  
Improvement Association  
Ice Fishing Derby**  
Hendricks, MN, contact Tim at  
507-828-2113 for registration  
and more information

**FEBRUARY 9-12**  
**Watertown Winter Farm  
Show**  
Codington County Extension  
Complex, Watertown, SD,  
605-886-5814

**FEBRUARY 11**  
**Calamity's Shindig**  
Homestake Adams Research  
& Cultural Center, Deadwood,  
SD, 605-722-4800

**FEBRUARY 11-12**  
**Bulls & Broncs**  
Expo Center at the W.H. Lyon  
Fairgrounds, Sioux Falls, SD,  
605-367-7178

**FEBRUARY 11-13**  
**Black Hills Sports Show &  
Outdoor Expo**  
Monument Arena, Rapid City,  
SD, visit [bhsportsshow.com](http://bhsportsshow.com)  
for more information

**FEBRUARY 12**  
**Lakota Games on Ice**  
3200 Indian Village Road,  
Mitchell, SD, 605-996-5473

**FEBRUARY 12-13**  
**DTGCA Sioux Falls Trophy  
Show (The Big One)**  
Sioux Falls Convention Center,  
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-280-2438

**FEBRUARY 18-28**  
**Black Hills Film Festival**  
Various Locations in Rapid  
City, Hot Springs, Hill City and  
Spearfish, SD, visit [www.blackhillsfilmfestival.org](http://www.blackhillsfilmfestival.org) for more  
information

**FEBRUARY 19**  
**Sioux Empire on Tap**  
Denny Sanford Premier  
Center, Sioux Falls, SD, visit  
[siouxempireontap.com](http://siouxempireontap.com) for  
more info and tickets

**FEBRUARY 25-26**  
**Mardi Gras Weekend**  
Main Street, Deadwood, SD,  
605-578-1876

**FEBRUARY 25-27,  
MARCH 3-5**  
**Making God Laugh**  
Grand Opera House, Pierre,  
SD, 605-224-7826

**FEBRUARY 26**  
**The Music of John Williams**  
Washington Pavilion, Sioux  
Falls, SD, 605-367-6000

**MARCH 3-5**  
**The 39 Steps**  
Orpheum Theater Center,  
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-6000

**MARCH 10-13**  
**Annual Sioux Empire  
Sportsmen's Show**  
Sioux Falls Arena &  
Convention Center, Sioux  
Falls, SD, visit [www.siouxfallssportsshow.com](http://www.siouxfallssportsshow.com) for more  
info and tickets

**MARCH 12**  
**28 Below Fatbike Race,  
Ride and Tour**  
Spearfish Canyon Lodge, Lead,  
SD, visit [www.28below.com](http://www.28below.com)  
for more info and to register

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