

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

Hot Air Balloons

**Festival Gains
Popularity**
Pages 8-9

Go-Kart Racing
Pages 12-13

*Photo provided by
Petra Wilson, owner
of Western Horizons
Hot Air Balloons.*



A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of FEM Electric was held in Ipswich, South Dakota at 8:30 p.m. on June 20, 2023, pursuant to due call and notice. It being determined that a quorum was present, President Gary Bachman called the meeting to order. Secretary Eric Odenbach kept the minutes of the meeting. The following directors were declared present by roll call: Gary Bachman, Paula Petersen, Kelly Melius, Eric Odenbach, Tom Thorpe. General Manager/CEO Scott Moore, Director of Finance and Benefits Rhonda Tuscherer, Ryan Holien and Jesse Brown were present.

Gary Bachman welcomed guest employee Perry Ptacek.

Changes to the agenda: Add 3. B SD Wind Policy Meeting, invitation to Sioux Valley Energy Community Solar Farm Open house.

Changes/Additions to Minutes from May 15, 2023, meeting: none

Next Meeting Date: After a review of calendars, directors agreed that the next regular meeting of the board would be on Monday, July 24, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. to be held at FEM Electric Board Room in Ipswich, South Dakota.

Motion by Tom Thorpe, seconded by

Eric Odenbach and carried to approve administrative business.

Motion by Kelly Melius seconded by Tom Thorpe and carried to acknowledge management and staff reports.

Motion by Paula Petersen seconded by Eric Odenbach and carried to approve the following Work Order Inspections:

WOI #594	\$167,235.16
WOI #595	289,910.70
WOI #596	9,135.52
WOI #597	10,637.01
WOI #598	72,960.60
<u>WOI #599</u>	<u>9,372.25</u>
	\$559,251.24

Tom Jones with RUS joined the meeting at 9:30 to review, discuss, and answer questions on FEM's new USDA/RUS loan application labeled AA45.

FEM employees joined the meeting during the loan application process Justin Larson, Sean Christiansen, Chad Dutenhoffer, Sonje Oban, Angie Sieh, and Crystal Thorson.

Kelly Melius motioned, and Eric Odenbach seconded, and motion carried to approve the Board Resolution Requesting a \$8,720,000 Treasury Rate, 35-year maturity, Loan from the Rural Utilities Service.

Eric Odenbach motioned, and Paula Petersen seconded, and motion carried to direct Board President and Secretary to execute the balance of the loan documents to complete the loan application.

Motion by Eric Odenbach seconded by Kelly Melius and carried to enter executive session at 11:04 a.m.

Motion by Paula Petersen seconded by Eric Odenbach and carried to leave Executive session at 11:36 a.m.

The board acknowledged receiving the May Cyber Security report.

Resolutions, Contracts, and Nominations:

Motion by Eric Odenbach seconded by Paula Petersen and carried to nominate Tom Thorpe as East River voting delegate and Scott Moore as alternate.

Motion by Eric Odenbach seconded by Paula Petersen to approve 2023 Construction Contract with K & H Electric, Linton, ND.

Motion by Tom Thorpe seconded by Paula Petersen and carried to nominate Eric Odenbach as RESCO voting delegate and Tom Thorpe as alternate.

Policy 318 Courtesy Service was presented with no action, it will be brought back to the board in July.

Membership Business:

Board acknowledged membership business.

Value Added Economic Development Loan no report, waiting to hear from outside firms.

Continued on pg 6

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

FEM ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

(USPS 189-720)

Board of Directors

Gary Bachman, President
Tom Thorpe, Vice President
Eric Odenbach, Secretary
Paula Petersen, Treasurer
Kelly Melius, Asst. Sec./
Treasurer
Vaughn Beck, Attorney

CEO/General Manager

Scott Moore
info@femelectric.coop

Management Staff

Rob Vetch
Line Superintendent
Rhonda Tuscherer
Director of Finance and
Benefits

Editor's e-mail:

oban@femelectric.coop

FEM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is the monthly publication for the members of FEM Electric Association, Inc., 800 5th Ave., Ipswich, SD 57451. FEM Electric Cooperative Connections' purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to members on electric cooperative matters and better living.

Subscription information: As part of their membership, FEM members devote \$1.00 from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Nonmember subscriptions are available for \$15 annually. (USPS 189-720) Periodical Postage Paid at Ipswich, SD 57451 and at additional offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to FEM Electric Cooperative Connections, Box 468, Ipswich, SD 57451-0468.

How to contact us:

FEM Electric
PO Box 468
Ipswich, SD 57451
Phone: 1-800-587-5880 or
605-426-6891
E-mail: info@femelectric.coop
Website:
www.femelectric.coop
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employer.**



Scott Moore
General Manager/CEO

I hope everyone enjoyed a safe and happy July 4th while spending time with family and friends. It continues to look like a good year as we receive timely rains, and this would be a good time to check your electrical equipment at your grain bin site and grain dryers. You do not need added stress during harvest with electrical problems that could have been avoided. FEM Electric has electricians that can come and assist.

FEM Electric annual meeting was on June 27, and we had a great crowd, along with a short and informative meeting. FEM Electric board and employees believe the annual meeting is an important part of the cooperative business model and member participation is a must for FEM Electric to be successful. As I mentioned at the annual meeting, locally owned and locally controlled are essential to our success. The electrical business is complicated and full of challenges but no more complicated than seventy-five years ago when neighbors traveled farm to farm selling an idea and collecting five

dollars for memberships.

On your June electric bill, you will see a credit for capital credits. FEM Electric board approved returning just short of \$490,000.00 to our membership. In the last Cooperative Connection was the annual report, please take time to look it over, as I said earlier FEM Electric is your electric cooperative.

On your July electric bill for those who attended the annual meeting you will be receiving a \$75.00 credit. Once again, I would like to thank everyone who attended.

In the annual report you will see a team of FEM Electric employees with years of experience and knowledge. Our board of directors are committed to promoting employee education and developing leaders within the cooperative. At FEM Electric there is no position that is job specific, we cross train, and operations and office departments assist each other if needed. Our goals are to have great customer service while providing safe, reliable, affordable power to you, our members.

FEM Electric needs to meet these goals to ensure that we can assist in keeping our members successful now and in the future.

It is never too early to call if you are planning to add any new electrical load. Please call Ryan Holien or Rob Vetch if you have questions at 605-426-6891 or 1-800-587-5880.

Statement Mailing Dates

July 25, 2023 for July's energy

Aug 30, 2023 for Aug's energy

Regardless of the statement mail out date, payments are due in the office by the 9th of the following month.

Working Out in the Heat

Exercising outdoors is a great way to enjoy the sunshine and warmer weather of summer. But you'll need to take some extra precautions to stay safe. Here are some do's and don'ts for working out when temperatures climb.

DO: Stay hydrated

Drink plenty of water before, during and after your workout to prevent dehydration and help regulate body temperature. Nicole Thompson of the American Council on Exercise recommends slowly drinking water or sports drinks about four hours before exercising. Aim for 1 ounce for every 11 pounds of body weight – so 10 ounces for a 110-pound person or 20 ounces for a 220-pound person.

Weigh yourself before and after working out to determine how much fluid you need to replace. The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics recommends drinking 2-3 cups of water for every pound lost.

DON'T: Drink products containing alcohol

Alcohol is a diuretic, so it contributes to dehydration.

DO: Wear lightweight and breathable clothing

Choose light-colored and loose-fitting clothes made of moisture-wicking materials. This'll help keep you cool and dry.

DON'T: Wear dark colors or heavy fabrics

Dark-colored clothing can absorb heat and trap it against your body.

DO: Wear sunscreen

The key number to look for on your sunscreen is the sun protection factor. An SPF of 15 filters out about 93% of UVB rays, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, while an SPF of 30 will filter out around 97%. Look for "broad spectrum" on the label to protect against UVA and UVB rays.

Apply sunscreen 15 or 20 minutes before going out (check the instructions on the label). Reapply every two hours – or more frequently if you're sweating a lot. Don't forget about your ears, lips and any bald spots on your scalp – they need protection, too.

DON'T: Work out during the hottest times of the day

The sun is at its strongest between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., so try to schedule workouts for earlier in the morning or later in the afternoon. Remember, you can always work out inside and in an air-conditioned area if needed.

DO: Know the signs of heat-related illness

Symptoms of heat exhaustion include:

- Nausea and dizziness
- Headaches
- Feeling weak

A weak or rapid pulse

Cold, clammy skin

If you experience any sign of heat exhaustion, move to a cool place, loosen your clothing, put cool and wet cloths on your body or take a cool bath, and sip water, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says. Get medical help if your symptoms don't go away after an hour, if your symptoms worsen or if you're throwing up.

Symptoms of heatstroke include:

A body temperature of 103° F or higher

Hot, dry, bright red or damp skin

Labored breathing

A fast, strong pulse

Headache, dizziness, nausea or confusion

Loss of consciousness

Heatstroke is an emergency. If you suspect it, call 911 immediately.

DON'T: Overdo it

Adjust your workout intensity to account for the heat and listen to your body's cues. Shorter workouts are good when temperatures rise. Allow your body to get used to the heat. Then you can gradually increase your time outdoors and exercise intensity.



Don't pull the cord!

Gabrielle Clement, Age 10

Gabrielle Clement advises people it's not safe to pull the cord when disconnecting appliances from an outlet. Gabrielle is the daughter of Dustin and Michelle Clement from Box Elder, S.D., members of West River Electric Association.

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.

Savory Summer SALADS

GRAPE SALAD

Ingredients:

2 lbs. red seedless grapes
2 lbs. green seedless grapes
1-8 oz. cream cheese (softened)
1 cup sour cream
1 cup sugar
1 tsp. vanilla
1 cup brown sugar
1 cup chopped pecans

METHOD

Wash and dry grapes. Mix cream cheese and sour cream. Add sugar and vanilla. Mix well. Fold in grapes. Place in 9x13 pan. Sprinkle with brown sugar and pecans.

Angie Ruiter
Sioux Falls, S.D.

CHICKEN SALAD

Ingredients:

1/2 cup plain lowfat yogurt
2 tbsp. mayonnaise
1 tsp. parsley flakes
1/2 tsp. seasoned salt
1/4 tsp. pure ground black pepper
1/2 rotisserie chicken, cut into bite-size chunks (about 2 cups)
1/2 cup thinly sliced celery
1/4 cup chopped red onion

METHOD

Mix yogurt, mayonnaise, parsley, seasoned salt and pepper in large bowl. Add chicken, celery and onion; toss to coat well. Cover. Refrigerate at least 30 minutes or until ready to serve. Serve in sandwiches or on salad greens.
mccormick.com

CORN CUCUMBER SALAD

Ingredients:

2 cans whole kernel corn (drained)
1 cup diced, unpeeled and seeded cucumbers
1/4 cup chopped red onion
1/3 cup mayonnaise
2 tbsp. chopped fresh cilantro
2 tbsp. grated Parmesan cheese
2 tbsp. lime juice
1 tsp. paprika
1/2 tsp. garlic salt
1/4 tsp. ground cumin

METHOD

Mix corn, cucumber and onion in large bowl. Set aside. Mix remaining ingredients in small bowl until well blended. Add to corn mixture; toss lightly to coat. Cover. Refrigerate 2 hours or until ready to serve.

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 2023. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

Continued from pg 2

New Memberships, Member Cancellations and Contracts:

Disconnects: Paul & Florence Malsam, Eureka, SD, Active Farm; John & Cynthia Neifer, Hosmer, SD, 2 Active Farms; Travis Mehlhaff, Eureka, SD, Vacant Farm; Louise Brown, Faulkton, SD, Active Farm; Les & Candi Walker, Boise, ID, Active Farm; Steve Schilder, Faulkton, SD, Active Farm; Taylor Schilder, Faulkton, SD, Shop; Derrick Schilder, Faulkton, SD, Active Farm

Reconnects: 10 Malsam Farm, LLC, Hosmer, SD, Active Farm; Travis & Maria Neifer, Hosmer, SD, 2 Active Farms; William Baker, Grand Rapids, MN, Vacant Farm; Mason Brown, Faulkton, SD, Active Farm; James E. Odenbach Revocable Trust, Eureka, SD, Active Farm; Quarter Circle S Ranch, LLC, Faulkton, SD, 2 Active Farms & Shop

Contracts: Snow Lake Cabin Trust, Mina, SD, Lake Cabin; Kay Retzer, Long Lake, SD, New House/Active Farm; Benjamin Mulder, Ipswich, SD, New House/Active Farm; Mitchell Waltman, Leola, SD, New House/Active Farm

Capital Credits:

Estates: June 2023 – One = \$351.93

73 & Older: 2023 – None

Motion by Tom Thorpe seconded by Kelly Melius and carried to send a letter with a price to possibly transfer ownership of onsite electrical infrastructure to Aberdeen Energy.

Financial Business: The board acknowledged reviewing the following financial information: The check register for the month of May 2023 contained information on checks #33413 through #33482 and all automatic payments/withdrawals for May 2023 totaling \$402,919.88.

May Financials were reviewed.

Director of Finance Rhonda Tuscherer reviewed Quarterly Loan Summaries from RUS and CFC.

Motion by Kelly Melius, seconded by Eric Odenbach and carried to approve director and attorney fees.

Legal Update: None

Meeting Report:

East River board update was given by Gary Bachman.

There were no Safety Minutes or Employee Minutes.

Adjourn: President Gary Bachman declared the meeting adjourned.

FEM Electric Welcomes Logan Gruenstein



FEM staff welcomed Logan Gruenstein to the crew on May 15th as a 1000-hour lineworker after he graduated from the Powerline Construction and Maintenance Program at Mitchell Technical College. Logan comes from Aberdeen. He began full time at FEM July 1st, 2023.

In his free time, he enjoys being outdoors, and working on classic cars and trucks. Welcome to the team, Logan!

Jesse Brown Leaving FEM



Jesse Brown, a journeyman line worker and Member Services Representative, has accepted a position at Sioux Valley Energy.

Jesse began working at FEM Electric after the 2010 ice storm. Over the years, he has taken on more responsibility at the co-op and worked with metering, the outage management system, work orders and more.

Everyone at FEM Electric wishes Jesse all the best in his position at Sioux Valley.

BASIN ELECTRIC TOUR

On June 12th a group of FEM Members departed for a 2-day tour of Basin Electric's various facilities.

Basin Electric welcomed FEM members with a lunch, and a tour of a few locations within Basin's headquarters. From there, the group was bussed to one of the local wind farms where some of the power Basin Electric provides is produced. After some down

time, the group took a lovely cruise on the Lewis and Clark Riverboat where they enjoyed a meal provided by Laughing Suns.

The second day consisted of touring Dakota Gasification, a coal fire plant, and a coal mine site. Each location educated our members on how coal is mined, processed, scrubbed, and used to create energy and a number of by-products that are sold.



Thank you to all of the members who took time out of their schedule, and we hope that you enjoyed the tour!



Member Survey Coming

Near the end of July, a random portion of the FEM membership will receive a survey in the form of a postcard or through email. This survey will be sent from East River Electric on behalf of FEM Electric, and you may or may not receive one.

Every other year, East river conducts a survey designed to gauge member satisfaction with their cooperative. Other cooperatives that are members of East River will also have their membership surveyed.

If you receive a survey, please know that FEM Electric appreciates you taking the time to complete it.



TAKING TO THE SKY

Balloons light up the night during the night glow event of the festival.

Fall River Hot Air Balloon Festival Gains Popularity

Jocelyn Johnson

jocelyn.johnson@sdrea.coop

It's a picturesque and dramatic spectacle that's awed most people for several hundred years. Yet, spectators and pilots alike have not tired of the image. Hot air balloons have that quality of enchantment. And what better way to be enchanted than to see dozens of these balloons floating up into the sunrise of a South Dakota sky?

The annual Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce Fall River Hot Air Balloon Festival is attracting nearly 30 balloons and thousands of spectators on Aug. 25-27, 2023. The event is taking place at the airport outside of Hot Springs, S.D., where it will celebrate its 8th year of growing popularity. Festival sightseers can pack all-day-fun into their festivities by visiting the vendors, obstacle courses,

bouncy houses, and performances in Hot Springs by Magician Jared Furnau and the Wild Blue Band.

Petra Wilson, a local commercial pilot, founded the festival in 2016 before opening her own flying business – Western Horizons Hot Air Balloons.

"The way I got introduced to ballooning is a tale of serendipity," said Wilson. "Almost 20 years ago, my husband and I attended a hot air balloon festival in Peoria, Ill., where we are asked to become crew members for a weekend. On the last flight of the weekend, he asked us if we wanted to go for a ride. The ride was absolutely stunning and from that point on we were hooked."

Wilson became a private pilot in 2014 and a commercial pilot in 2017. In 2015, Wilson and her husband moved to Hot Springs, where she discovered she was the

only hot air balloon pilot flying in the area.

I introduced many different people to ballooning by inviting them out to watch and even crew," Wilson said. "Some of those people became my students and eventually became hot air balloon pilots in the Hot Springs area."

When asked how she started the festival, Wilson replied, "I decided this area was such a beautiful place to fly that I wanted to share it with all my ballooning friends and their friends, as well as locals who might appreciate the beauty of the balloons in the sky, so what better way to do this than having a balloon festival."

The festival started with the partnership between Wilson and Olivia Mears, Executive Director for the Chamber of Commerce in Hot Springs.

Mears said, "Folks from South Dakota, California, Nebraska, Colorado, and more attend this festival. We attract private pilots who fly for their own enjoyment and commercial pilots who are licensed to carry passengers."

Tamie Shrum, current balloon-meister for Fall River Hot Air Balloon Festival, is a commercial pilot overseeing the safety and regulation of the participating balloons. She travels the world to fly, including six countries and 37 states. Shrum owns three of her own balloons and earns her living flying passengers and training students how to fly.

"I like to do long jump flying, which is long distance flying," said Shrum. "My longest distance is 137 miles in a three-hour flight with a top speed of 78 mph."

Shrum explained that a considerable amount of studying goes into the preparation for a long jump flight. Everything matters – the time of year, time of day, location, and weather patterns.

"We work off of a microscopic level," Shrum said. "A regular person might say, 'It's not that windy today,' but a balloon pilot might say, 'It's too windy to fly today.'"

Describing how balloons fly, Shrum said, "In layman's terms, hot air rises and cold air sinks. You put heat in the

envelope, making it hotter than ambient temperatures which allows it to lift the massive weight it's carrying."

We use a burner with regular propane," Shrum continued. "The amount of propane needed changes based upon ambient temperature, altitude of flight, and how much passenger weight is being carried."

Balloons are simplistic in design but can be challenging to fly.

"You don't steer a balloon...while airplanes fly against the wind, balloons fly with the wind, which can be unpredictable," Shrum explained. "Sometimes you land in a park and sometimes you land in main street."

"I've flown over Pikes Peak in Colorado



Commercial Pilot Tamie Shrum looks below on other balloons while flying.

and in Japan along with many other places," Shrum said. "I've been fortunate to sightsee all over the world from 1,000 feet in the air while others are sightseeing from the surface...but South Dakota is one of the most gorgeous places to fly in."



Commercial Pilot Petra Wilson inspects her balloon.



Electric co-ops team up with Agtegra for Co-op Day at the Brown County Fair

As adults, we've learned over the years that safety is an important part of life. That's why FEM has partnered with Northern Electric, Lake Region Electric and Agtegra to host a Farm Safety Party for children of all ages. The event aims to educate children on farm safety in various forms, and will be held at the Brown County Fair in the Kid's Zone.

Each cooperative will bring their own safety demonstrations to the event, but Northern, Lake Region and FEM will focus on electrical safety on the farm, and what it's like to be a line worker. Lake Region will provide their 'power town' demonstration again, which depicts a typical rural farm including a barn, farm house, tractors and overhead power lines. Demonstrators can show attendees the dangers of coming in contact with energized lines with a tractor or a tree on



Kids can try on line workers gloves, and attempt to screw on wing nuts, bolts and insulators, just like FEM line workers.

a smaller scale that still emphasizes the danger.

The Farm Safety Party will include other demonstrations such as fire extinguisher training, grain bin safety, simulators and there will be giveaways. This is a free event for all ages. To find the Farm Safety Party, head to the Kid's Zone, located southwest of the Odde Ice Arena. Activities will be available from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm on Thursday, August 17th, 2023.



Each of the electric co-ops brought all kinds of give away items in 2022 for kids and families to take home.



Bring your kiddos and they can dress up like a line worker, too! It makes for a great photo opportunity!

FARM SAFETY PARTY



Thursday, August 17 from
10am - 2pm at the
Brown County Fair

Presented by:





RACING FAMILY FUN

Go-kart racers in Aberdeen are placed in divisions by age and skill to keep the races competitive. The track usually hosts races twice a month during the summer months. *Photo by Scott Waltman*

Go-kart Racing at Aberdeen Track is a Family Affair

Scott Waltman

Kevin Horn didn't set out to drive to Aberdeen several times a summer so he could race.

Instead, after seeing races on TV, the Waubay mechanic bought a go-kart for his then-9-year-old daughter. But while she was driving, the kart skidded on some wet grass and she hit the kart trailer. After that, she turned the keys over to Dad.

That was about 11 years ago. Horn took his daughter's number 9 and flipped it to make a 6, and he's been racing ever since.

Like others who race at the Aberdeen Karting Club track at the Brown County Fairgrounds, his story has a tie to family, even if it didn't work out exactly as he thought it would.

Karting, racers and organizers say, is a family affair.

Brody Griffin of Watertown is 10 and started karting three years ago.

He makes the rounds, mostly to the closest tracks in Aberdeen, Brookings and Miller. He races just about every weekend during summer, and the allure is simple. Griffin said he just likes driving.

He was named rookie of the year his first season and finished second in his division his second season in Aberdeen.

But it's not all zipping around the track and trying to pass other drivers. Griffin said he helps work on his kart with his father.

That makes sense to Landon Schott, a 24-year-old racer from Aberdeen who is one of the track's most successful drivers. Now that he's a little older, helps with public relations and social media for the track.

When Schott started racing, he said his father made it clear to him that he would be helping work on the kart and had to keep it clean. Karting can be a big financial investment, and his dad wasn't going to spend heaps of money if his son wasn't going to pitch in and be engaged.

Schott, too, said he appreciates the friendly and family atmosphere of karting.

Sponsorships are critical to both the Aberdeen track and its racers, he said. He wouldn't have been able to travel across the country racing without



Josiah Combellick serves as the event's flagman.
Photo by Scott Waltman

having sponsors since he started driving in 2006, he said.

The Aberdeen track doesn't have any employees, and the Aberdeen Karting Club is a nonprofit group, so contributions are important, Schott said.

Rick Cartney is the vice president of the Aberdeen Karting Club and has been involved with the track since it was founded in 1996. His first race was in Aberdeen that first year, and now he gets to the track to start prep work around 9 a.m. on race days. Races usually start around 4 p.m. and last into the night.

For Cartney, the payback comes from the smiles on the faces of young racers.

"Mainly, it's for the kids," he said.

They do their best racing when they don't win, but they learn, grow and mature, Cartney said.

The Aberdeen track is between an eighth and a 10th of a mile long and is great for young racers who are just

starting out, he said.

There are races in Aberdeen a couple of times a month during summer, with the schedules of other tracks in the region taken into consideration so drivers can make it to as many races as possible. Generally, there are 30 or 40 drivers in Aberdeen, most of them young people, Cartney said.

Starting at the Aberdeen track has served Schott well. He has advanced to grand national events with both the International Karting Federation and Maxxis Kart Racing, finishing as in the top five, but never quite nabbing a championship. Last December, Schott said, he traveled to Daytona, Fla., and raced with about 70 other drivers, never finishing outside of the top 14.

"I guess maybe I'm just an adrenaline junkie," Schott said.

In 2013, as a junior driver, he won a Maxxis regional championship. The event drew drivers from across the nation and is called the Maxx Daddy, he said.

Schott said that and winning an end-of-season state championship in 2021 on his home track in Aberdeen are, at least to date, two of the highlights of his career.

He also won the state championship in 2015 in Brookings.

The state karting championships used to be in Brookings, but have been in Aberdeen in recent years. They return again this year on Aug. 12.

That event will likely draw about 200 drivers from South Dakota and surrounding states, Cartney said. A heavy bronze trophy in the shape of Mount Rushmore goes to the winner.

It will be yet another chance for the karting community to gather. Both Schott and Horn said they have made friends traveling the karting circuit. It's one of the most enjoyable parts of racing, they said, and Cartney agrees.

"These people are like a second family," he said.



Landon Schott helps prepare a go-kart before the races begin in Aberdeen on Saturday, June 17. Schott is one of the most successful racers from the Aberdeen Karting Klub. *Photo by Scott Waltman*



FEM Electric's 75th Annual Meeting was held Tuesday, June 27th, 2023, at the Ipswich School. A few rain showers blew through that evening, but it was welcomed. 204 members plus guests attended to enjoy meals provided by Gypsy Nosh, Pickled Pig, and the girls Tiger Basketball group consisting of 3rd, 4th and 8th grade players. Dessert was furnished by Anderson Baking Company, a member of FEM.

President Gary Bachman brought the meeting to order, welcoming special guests and retired FEM directors and employees. Kelly Melius presented the invocation, and everyone enjoyed the National Anthem sung by Ipswich's Junior Snow Queen Gracyn Kadlec.



FEM Board Member Kelly Melius provides the invocation.

The board of directors gave their annual reports while children who attended with their parents enjoyed crafts and activities.

Gary Bachman and Tom Thorpe were reelected as representatives of their districts.

President Gary Bachman gave the president's report where he reflected on celebrating a strong business model that has

served FEM members for 75 years. He also reminded members that FEM is still confronting issues with guaranteeing reliable and affordable power. Balance will be the key to maintaining and growing the economy. FEM and the board will continue to face those issues and provide the best service to the membership.

General Manager/CEO Scott Moore thanked everyone for attending, gave an update on potential energy shortages, and talked about the energy market. He also spoke about how the attendance at the 75th annual meeting was much higher than in the past, and commented that FEM would do something for the members who did not get a chance to eat a meal. Discussion will be held at the July board meeting.

Baylee Kulesa and Julia Steward shared their experiences from the 2023 Youth Tour where they visited numerous locations



Baylee Kulesa presents on her experiences at the 2023 Youth Tour and what she enjoyed the most.

such as Fort McHenry, Ford's Theatre, the White House, the 911 memorial, and many more.

Kelly Melius and Tom Thorpe presented on member students who won scholarships over the past year. Teagan Olson and Julia Steward were in attendance to accept their certificates. At the conclusion of the meeting, Chase Melius, son of Kelly and Dawn Melius, was randomly drawn as the winner of the "Young Adults Light the Way" \$500 scholarship. The lucky cash winners were: \$250 - Brandon Malsam - Ipswich, \$250 - Joel or Danielle Heilman - Ipswich, \$100 - Randel or Nancy Zantow - Aberdeen, \$100 - James or Marcella Mohr - Hosmer, \$50 - Allen Hieb - Roscoe.

As members exited the meeting, they were encouraged to turn in their identification ticket for the evening to receive a \$75 energy credit in celebration of the 75th Annual Meeting. That energy credit will be reflected on their July statement. Ice cream and dessert were offered for their trip home.



FEM Board Member Tom Thorpe presents Teagan Olson a certificate for a scholarship she was awarded by FEM Electric.



FEM Board Member Tom Thorpe presents Julia Steward a certificate for a scholarship she was awarded by FEM Electric.

FEM Electric would like to extend a special thank you to Gypsy Nosh, Pickled Pig, the 3rd/4th and 8th Grade Tiger Basketball Group, Anderson Baking Company, the Ipswich Snow Queens, Nate Collins - music teacher at Ipswich School, as well as the Ipswich School for all of the services each provided to make the annual meeting a success.

Thank you to everyone who took time to attend, and we hope to see you all again next year!

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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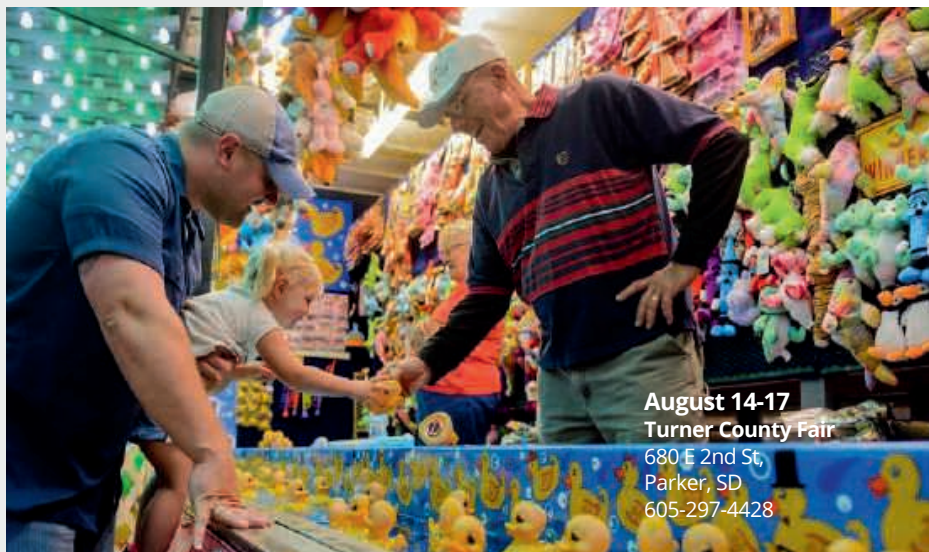
We'll post outage updates, safety tips, news and more to keep our members informed on all the latest from FEM Electric.

REGISTER TO WIN!

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

Your Phone Number: _____

Your E-mail Address: _____



August 14-17
Turner County Fair
680 E 2nd St,
Parker, SD
605-297-4428

To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to your event. Please call ahead to confirm date, time and location of event.

JULY 21-23
Winner Elks 54th Annual Rodeo
Winner, SD
605-842-5830

JULY 28-29
Farley Fest
Lake Farley Park
Milbank, SD
www.farleyfest.com

JULY 28-30
Clear Lake Days
Clear Lake, SD
clearlakedays.com

JULY 29
BBQ Pit Row and Car Show
Winner, SD
605-842-1533

JULY 30
Bergen Threshing Bee
9 a.m.
Bristol, SD
605-237-0310

AUG 5-6
Pioneer Power Threshing Show
MN Machinery Museum
Hanley Falls, MN
507-828-9666

AUG 10-13
Custer County Fair
Hermosa, SD

AUG 11
Northern Bull Riding Tour Finals Bull-a-Rama
Geddes, SD
605-680-2763

AUG 12
Picken on the Prairie - Fall Junk Market
Chelsea, SD

AUG 19
Yankton Extreme Bull Riding
7:30 a.m.
Yankton Rodeo Arena
Yankton, SD
605-760-2153

AUG 21
30th Annual Bishop's Cup Golf Tournament
Minnehaha Country Club and
The Country Club of Sioux Falls
Sioux Falls, SD
605-988-3765

SEPT 2
Hidewood Valley Barn Dance
7 p.m.
47236 183rd St
Clear Lake, SD

SEPT 4
Hidewood Valley Steam Threshing Show
Steam Whistle Blows
1 p.m.
47236 183rd St
Clear Lake, SD

SEPT 8-10
James Valley Threshing & Tractor Show
World's Largest Steam Traction Engine
Andover, SD
605-868-3242

SEPT 16
SD Coin & Stamp Convention
Scherr-Howe Area
Mobridge, SD

SEPT 22-24
Coal Springs Threshing Bee
Meadow, SD
605-788-2229

SEPT 23
Springfield Dakota Senior Meals Fall Festival
9 a.m.
Springfield Community Building
Springfield, SD

SEPT 29-30
Junkin' Market Days
Ramkota Exhibit Hall
Sioux Falls, SD
605-941-4958

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