

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

Caring for Caregivers

Exploring Family
Caregiving Services
Pages 8-9

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September Board Report

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of FEM Electric was held in Ipswich, South Dakota at 8:30 a.m. on September 16, 2025, 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, Eric Odenbach, Tom Thorpe, Kelly Melius. Operations Manager Sean Christiansen, Electrical Manager Ryan Holien, Director of Finance and Benefits Rhonda Tuscherer, and CEO Scott Moore.

Guest Employee: Crystal Thorson

Changes to the agenda: none

Changes/Additions to Minutes from August 15, 2025, meeting: None

Next Meeting Date: After a review of the calendars, directors agreed that the next regular meeting of the board would be on Tuesday, October 21, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. to be held at FEM Electric Board Room in Ipswich, South Dakota.

Motion by Kelly Melius, seconded by Paula Petersen and carried to approve administrative business.

Motion by Tom Thorpe seconded by Eric Odenbach and carried to acknowledge the manager, and staff reports along with East River Electric load management report.

August 2025 Cyber Security Report was acknowledged.

Motion by Kelly Melius seconded by Eric Odenbach and carried to enter executive session at 10:48 a.m. to review employee wage and salary recommendation, board per-diem, and CEO salary.

Motion by Paula Petersen seconded by Tom Thorpe and carried to come out of executive session at 11:24 a.m.

Motion by Eric Odenbach seconded by Kelly Melius and carried to approve employee wage and salary as presented, by CEO Moore, approve CEO compensation, set by board of directors, and leave director per-diem at same rate as 2024/2025.

Resolutions and Contracts:

The board acknowledged reviewing Policy 106 Director per-diem with no changes.

Motion by Kelly Melius seconded by Paula Petersen and carried to nominate Tom Thorpe as Voting Delegate for Federated Insurance.

The board acknowledged reviewing the nominating committee fees and made no changes.

At the August board meeting the board had a conversation about sending a resolution to Basin Board pertaining to electric rate increase and lack of communications with Class C's and Class A members. CEO Moore brought additional information for review, and it was decided to not send the resolution.

Membership Business:

Board acknowledged membership business.

New Memberships, Member Cancellations and Contracts:

Disconnects: Shirley Sime, Mina, SD, Active Farm; Bryan Haar, Roscoe, SD, Active Farm; Tricia Ulmer, Aberdeen, SD, Active Farm/Barn/Shop

Reconnects: Larry & Cindy Sime, Mina, SD, Active Farm; Duane Haar, Roscoe, SD, Active Farm; Adam & Marissa Kappes, Eureka, SD, Active Farm/Barn/Shop

Contracts: None

Retired Locations: Carol Ann Myler, Commercial Point, OH, Active Farm

Capital Credits:

Estates – September 2025: Three = \$3,404.23

73 & Older – September – 2025: Two = \$3,639.21

Board acknowledged receipt of following financial business.

Financial Business: The board acknowledged reviewing the following financial information:

The check register for the month of August 2025 contained information on checks #35569 through #35639 and all automatic payments/withdrawals for

Continued on page 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. Secretary/
Treasurer
Vaughn Beck, Attorney

CEO/General Manager

Scott Moore
info@femelectric.coop

Management Staff

Sean Christiansen
Operations Manager
Ryan Holien
Electrical Manager
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
Design assistance by SDREA

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Scott Moore
General Manager/CEO

A big topic in the electrical industry for the past twenty-four months is data loads, server farms, crypto mining and these same subjects will continue to be topics of interest as we move forward. I have had many conversations with our members on these topics, and they always lead back to the increased need for new power generation, transmission powerlines to serve existing members/ consumers and new electrical loads. I just attended a meeting where it was reported that in the SPP's (Southwest Power Pool) footprint, 45% of their energy is being consumed by the oil industry and 23% for existing data farms. In the past, FEM Electric had been in negotiation with some large power consumers, but they have all since moved on. We offered them a contract that was non-negotiable with terms that protected you, our existing members. In the cooperative world it's one member, one vote, and nobody should be subsidizing another member's rate.

As part of normal growth, our electrical

transmission lines have had to be replaced after seventy plus years of service allowing increased capacity to serve electric loads in rural America that continue to grow. Rebuilding electrical transmission lines and substations is just one step in making sure FEM Electric can provide reliable power to every existing and future member. Reliable power is a must for continued economic growth in rural South Dakota.

FEM Electric, and all Basin Electric members, are looking at four years of continued electric rate increases to maintain and build new generation and transmission facilities. As I said last month it will be November before 2026 rates are approved by FEM Board of Directors, but they will be more than 10% increase with additional increases over the next four years. It would be easy to point fingers and place blame on others, but the simple fact is supply and demand. Demand for power is high and will continue to increase while our existing electrical infrastructure is

Continued on page 7

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

@FEMEelectric on

@fem_electric on

@FEMEelectric on

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

Statement Mailing Dates

November 25, 2025 for November's energy
December 29, 2025 for December's energy

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

Stay Safe This Holiday Season:

Tips for a Merry and Accident-Free Celebration

The holidays bring families together with twinkling lights, festive meals and cozy traditions. But they also bring seasonal risks that can turn celebrations into emergencies if precautions aren't taken. Local safety officials are reminding residents to keep safety in mind when cooking, decorating, and entertaining this year.

Extension Cords

With more lights and electronics plugged in during the holidays, extension cords are often stretched to their limits. Experts urge homeowners not to overload outlets and to replace any cords that are frayed or damaged. Only outdoor-rated cords should be used outside, especially in snowy or wet conditions.

Families should avoid running cords under rugs or across doorways where they can overheat or become tripping hazards.

Turkey Fryers

Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners have grown to include deep-fried turkeys, but safety must come first. Fryers should only be used outdoors, on a flat surface and far away from buildings, garages or wooden decks. Fire officials caution that a partially frozen or wet turkey can cause oil to boil over and ignite, leading to severe burns or home fires.

A fire extinguisher rated for grease fires should always be kept nearby, and fryers should never be left unattended while in use. One distracted moment can cause a disaster.

Ladders

From hanging lights to topping off the tree, ladders are part of the holiday routine. Falls are among the most common seasonal injuries, so ladders should be set on level ground and never leaned against unstable surfaces. Having another person hold the ladder is strongly advised.

Candles and Fireplaces

Candles and fireplaces are popular during the holiday season, but they also raise the risk of home fires, especially when combined with the extra decorations and greenery that fill many homes in December. According to the National Fire Protection Association, candles cause an average of

46% of fires in December each year. Never leaving a flame unattended and incorporating a few safety rules can prevent a devastating fire.

Lights and Decorations

Before hanging holiday lights, inspect strands for cracked socket, frayed wires or loose connections, and replace any damaged sets. Outdoor lights should always be weather-rated, and lights should be turned off before bedtime or when leaving the house. Timers and smart plugs can help make this easier.

Decorations should be securely fastened to prevent them from tipping or falling, especially in homes with children or pets. Heavy ornaments should be placed higher on the tree, out of reach of small hands and wagging tails. Fire officials also recommend choosing flame-resistant or non-combustible decor whenever possible and keeping all decorations away from heaters, fireplaces or open flames.



"Don't fly kites near power lines!"

Kristen Vanden Berg, Age 11

Kristen cautions readers on the dangers of flying kites near power lines. Great picture, Kristen! Kristen's parents are Andy and Geraldine Vanden Berg from Corsica, S.D.

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

Holiday SIDE DISHES

CORN CASSEROLE

Ingredients:

2 15 oz. cans whole kernel corn, drained
15 oz. can cream corn
1/2 cup butter, melted
1 box Jiffy cornbread mix
1/2 pt. whipped cream

Method

Combine whole kernel corn, cream corn, butter, Jiffy cornbread mix and whipping cream. Mix thoroughly. Pour into greased 8.5"x11" pan and bake at 350° F for 40-45 minutes.

Sharon Houchin
Central Electric

BETTER THAN STUFFING

Ingredients:

1 box chicken/turkey stuffing mix
Chicken broth
Celery
Carrots
Onions
1 stick herbed butter (or make your own)
2 cups chicken/turkey gravy

Method

Prepare stuffing according to directions but substitute water with broth. Dice and sauté celery, carrots (total of two cups) and onions in herbed butter. Fold into stuffing. Put into baking pan and top with gravy. Poke gravy into stuffing – just a little bit. Don't completely mix. Bake at 350° F for 20 minutes and broil briefly at the end.

Valerie Marso
Oahe Electric

RAW VEGETABLE SALSA

Ingredients:

2-4 medium cucumbers, cubed
2-4 medium tomatoes, cubed
1 small onion or 1/2 of a white or yellow onion sliced
1 tsp. salt
1 tbsp. sugar
2 tbsps. apple cider vinegar
Additions: black pepper to taste, chopped basil, or chopped green bell pepper.

Method

Place cubed tomatoes and peeled cucumbers into a bowl. Add sliced onion.

Mix in remaining ingredients and stir. Marinate for several hours or overnight.

This salad keeps for 3-4 days refrigerated.

Raw Vegetable salads full of electrolytes, vitamin C and fiber.

Laurie Wernke
Southeastern Electric

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 2025. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

BOARD REPORT CONTINUED

Board Report Continued from page 2

August 2025 totaling \$357,193.66.

August 2025 financials were reviewed.

NRTC Equity Statement and Cash Patronage Payout and the 2024 CFC Key Ratio Trend Analysis (KRTA) were reviewed.

The RUS required, approval signatures for the RUS FRS#4 Loan funds transfer on August 28, 2025, in the amount of \$750,000 were obtained from the Treasurer and President.

Motion by Tom Thorpe seconded by Paula Petersen and carried to approve board expense reports and attorney fees.

Legal Update: Attorney Vaughn Beck joined the meeting at 9:30 a.m. and a discussion on some bylaw changes was held. The board decided to take no action or to suggest any changes.

Meeting Report:

East River monthly board report was given by Gary Bachman.

Tom Thorpe and Gary Bachman reported on East River Electric annual meeting.

Paula Petersen gave a report on the SDREA Board Leadership Summit she attended.

The safety meeting minutes from August 22, 2025, were acknowledged.

Employee meeting minutes from August 18, 2025, were acknowledged.

Adjourn: President Gary Bachman declared the meeting adjourned.



UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)		
1. Publication Title FEM Electric Association Cooperative Connections		2. Publication Number 0 1 8 9 7 2 0
3. Filing Date 09/26/2025		4. Issue Frequency Monthly
5. Number of Issues Published Annually 12		6. Annual Subscription Price REC. Members: \$12.00 Non-Members: \$15.00
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®) PO Box 468, 800 5th Ave. Ipswich, SD 57451		
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer) PO Box 468, 800 5th Ave. Ipswich, SD 57451		
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank) Publisher (Name and complete mailing address) FEM Electric Association, Inc. PO Box 468, 800 5th Ave. Ipswich, SD 57451 Editor (Name and complete mailing address) Sonje Oban, PO Box 468, 800 5th Ave. Ipswich, SD 57451 Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address) Scott Moore, PO Box 468, 800 5th Ave. Ipswich, SD 57451		
10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.) Full Name: FEM Electric Association, Inc. Complete Mailing Address: PO Box 468, 800 5th Ave. Ipswich, SD 57451		
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box ☒ None Full Name: U. S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service Complete Mailing Address: STOP 1560, RM 5185 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington DC 2050-1560 National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance 2201 Cooperative Way, Hemdon, VA 22071		
12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one) The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes: ☒ Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months ☐ Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement) PS Form 3526, July 2014 (Page 1 of 4) (see instructions page 4) PSN: 7530-01-000-9931 PRIVACY NOTICE: See our privacy policy at www.usps.com		
13. Publication Title FEM Electric Association Cooperative Connections		14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below 10/21/2025
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)		1309
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)		1223
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))		1223
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)		86
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))		83
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		1309
g. Copies not Distributed (See instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))		20
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)		1329
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)		93%
j. Percent Free (15e divided by 15f times 100)		93%
* If you are claiming electronic copies, go to line 19 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.		
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)		
16. Electronic Copy Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months
a. Paid Electronic Copies		0
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)		1223
c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15b) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)		1309
d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (15c divided by 15f times 100)		93%
☒ I certify that 50% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.		
17. Publication of Statement of Ownership ☒ If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the 10/21/2025 issue of this publication. ☐ Publication not required.		
18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner Sonje Oban		Date 09/26/2025
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).		

Manager's Article Continued from page 3

aging and needs to be updated or replaced. As cooperatives we used to talk about million-dollar projects then hundred-million-dollar projects and now we approve billion-dollar capital improvement projects so we can keep the rural economy moving and your lights on.

I believe if we stay focused on FEM Electric's members' needs, allowing them to grow, while FEM Electric provides safe, reliable, and yes, affordable power we will survive these trying years together.

If you are planning any electrical additions to your operation, please call Ryan Holien or Sean Christiansen 605 426 6891.

Thank you.

Safety Tip

Electrocution is the most common type of electrical injury for household pets. Pet-proof your home by pushing plugs fully into outlets. Partially plugged-in cords can expose metal prongs, which curious noses, paws or tongues might touch - leading to a dangerous shock.



Safe
Electricity.org®



FEM,

Thank you to all involved for the very interesting and informative bus trip to Basin Electric and related facilities. We had no idea what all it took to keep things powered up - and we got a great glimpse. We also enjoyed the relaxing riverboat supper, and our bus hosts did a great job.

A special thanks to ALL who work for FEM for everything you do to keep the lights on!

Thanks again,
Kelly & Gwen Hettich





CARING FOR CAREGIVERS

Exploring Structured Family Caregiving Services for South Dakota's Caregivers

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

November is recognized nationally as Family Caregivers Month, a time to honor the essential role of caregivers and highlight the resources available to them and the loved ones they support.

Yet, families face a growing challenge: how to care for aging loved ones when services are often far from home. Nursing homes or assisted living centers may be located hours away, and even when they are nearby, the cost or availability of space can present real barriers.

One answer has been the Structured Family Caregiving program, launched by the South Dakota Department of Human Services (DHS) in 2019.

According to Heather Krzmarzick, Director of the Division of Long-Term Services and Supports within DHS, the program is one of many resources at DHS that are

Several resources are available for caregivers in South Dakota through the Department of Human Services.

Photos by Homecare Services.

available to help older adults and their caregivers. It provides training, coaching, ongoing support and even a modest stipend to those offering significant care for an older adult in the home.

“Structured Family Caregiving serves caregivers who live with their family member and provide substantial care for them, including personal care, supervision, medication management and other things, such as managing finances and transportation for necessary appointments and community activities,” Krzmarzick said.

In many ways, the program echoes the electric cooperative story. Just as co-ops once brought electricity to rural areas that were otherwise overlooked, the program helps families meet a need that might otherwise go unserved. In places where nursing homes or assisted living centers are many miles away, the program gives families a practical way to continue care at home, often the place where people feel most comfortable.

“Structured Family Caregiving is important because it

supports the vital work of family caregivers, strengthens families and improves outcomes, especially in underserved or isolated regions,” she said. “The program honors South Dakota’s values of strong families, independence and community.”

In addition to expanding community-based care options to rural areas, the program allows families to potentially prevent or delay the move to a nursing home and reduce the economic burden that often comes with that transition. Krzmarzick said DHS also offers other programs for those that may need a little extra assistance to remain safely in their homes but don’t require the intensive services of a nursing facility.

“Each caregiver has unique needs and preferences,” she said. “As such, the services and supports are designed to meet the varying needs of each caregiver and help care for a person at home as long as possible.”

To be eligible for the program, the care recipient must be 65 or older or

18 or older with a qualifying disability and meet both functional and financial criteria to qualify for the program.

Since its creation, the program has grown steadily, giving more families the tools to succeed. Krzmarzick said it has allowed many older adults and adults with disabilities to remain in their homes while supporting family caregivers with knowledge, training and a small amount of financial assistance.

Agency Director Steven Novotny with Homecare Services of South Dakota, Inc., one of many in-home care providers in the state, said that few other programs reach and serve those who need care quite like the program.

“Structured Family Caregiving has the unique ability to serve consumers in every community across our state, large or small. Under this program, individuals can receive care from a trusted family member or friend, which allows them to remain independent and living in their community,” he said. “Our caring staff at Homecare Services of South Dakota have seen

firsthand the positive impact on families when we are able to provide support and training to the caregivers that are stepping into what is often a challenging role caring for a loved one.”

Krzmarzick said the Structured Family Caregiving program is just one of many support options that DHS offers individuals and their caregivers in South Dakota. Resources are available online at dhs.sd.gov or through Dakota at Home, South Dakota’s Aging and Disability Resource Center, at 1-833-663-9673.

“All caregivers, not just those utilizing the Structured Family Caregiving Program, may access free training and resources to help improve confidence in their caregiving abilities, reduce stress and prevent burnout,” Krzmarzick said. “Caregivers may also be eligible for other programs that offer respite options. Our Dakota at Home specialists are dedicated to helping you find services and supports to meet your specific needs or the needs of a family member.”



SCHOLAR OF THE WEEK



FEM Electric and Dakota News Now are pleased to announce that Kaitlyn Mueller was selected as the Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week and will receive a \$250 scholarship. Her story was featured on Dakota News Now the week of October 5th through the 11th.

In 2002, Touchstone Energy Cooperatives joined with Dakota News Now to recognize area high school seniors for their academic and community achievements. Seniors who are selected for scholarships often excel in the classroom, and are highly involved in extracurriculars inside and outside the school.

Kaitlyn is a senior at Leola High School. She's involved in FBLA, Educators Rising and Student Council. She plays basketball, volleyball and participates in band, track and choir, where she's been an All State Choir member for 3 years. Outside of school, she is a student coach during summer basketball camps for K-5 students and is involved in 4-H where she also volunteers in her community.

Kaitlyn plans to attend the University of South Dakota next fall.

Kaitlyn's parents are Jeff and Holly Mueller of Leola, South Dakota.

FEM Electric would like to extend a congratulations to Kaitlyn Mueller for winning Touchstone Energy's Scholar of the Week!



HUNTING SAFETY

- Before you begin a hunt, note the location of power lines and other electrical equipment. Dense trees can make them hard to see.
- Obey all signs that advise electrical hazards, especially when placing a tree stand.
- Never use power poles to support a tree stand.
- Never shoot at power lines or electrical equipment.
- When setting up and taking down the stand, make sure you don't make contact with any overhead electrical equipment.
- If you're using a portable generator on your trip, don't run it in a confined area.

For more information visit:



STAY TOASTY AND WARM WHILE TURNING DOWN THE THERMOSTAT



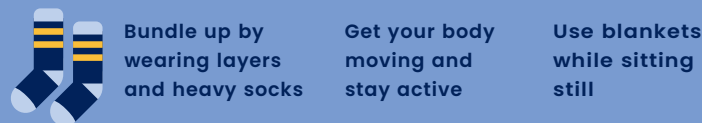
When the winter winds blow, it is tempting to adjust the thermostat up a few degrees to stay toasty and warm. However, turning to other (FREE!) ways to help keep you warm could help reduce your energy bills.



Each degree you reduce your thermostat saves 1% on your heating bill. No one home during the day? Adjust your thermostat 7 to 10 degrees from its normal setting to save up to 10% annually.

Source: Department of Energy

Here are ways to help you stay warm when it is cold outside:



Bundle up by wearing layers and heavy socks

Get your body moving and stay active

Use blankets while sitting still

Caulk windows and door frames that leak air



Replace or update old or ineffective door seals



Make sure your home's heating system is working properly

Keep your furnace clean and change the filter monthly



Let the sun shine in during the day and close window coverings at night



Reduce how long you use ventilation fans (they transfer warm air outside)



Keep a fireplace damper closed when not in use

Humidify your home to make the air feel warmer



If you use a portable space heater, use it safely and for short amounts of time. Using one for extended periods can cause your energy bill to spike since it draws a lot of power.

Learn more at:



LOIS HENRY WINS GRILL

STATE FAIR RAFFLE BENEFITS FEM MEMBER

Lois Henry was the lucky winner of the electric Blackstone grill from the South Dakota State Fair raffle held at the SDREA booth this past September! Lois is pictured below with her prize!



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

With the holiday season approaching and more time spent in the kitchen, consider ways to save energy in the heart of your home. When possible, cook meals with smaller, energy efficient appliances, such as toaster ovens, slow cookers and air fryers. When using the range, match the size of the pan to the heating element. Keep range-top burners and reflectors clean so they reflect heat more efficiently. After your holiday meals are complete, load the dishwasher fully before starting the wash cycle.

Source: energy.gov



LINEMENS' TRAINING READYED CREW FOR CHAINSAW ACCIDENT

(From left) When Brandon Schmiege cut his forearm, fellow linemen Tristan Hall, Luke Koval and Brian Davis knew exactly how to respond.
Photo submitted by Whetstone Valley Electric Cooperative.

When a Routine Day of Trimming Trees Turned Critical, Cooperative Employees Were Prepared to Help

Jacob Boyko

jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop

Perched within the manlift on a bucket truck, Brandon Schmiege methodically sawed away large tree branches near overhead power lines, dropping them to the ground more than 50 feet below.

It's nothing out of the ordinary, explained the 19-year veteran lineman from Whetstone Valley Electric Cooperative in Milbank, South Dakota. After a while, you become accustomed to the work – and its hazards.

From the bucket he was standing in, Brandon reached with

his chainsaw for one of the last few cuts he'd need to make. But as he began the cut, the chainsaw kicked up and he lost control. Steadying himself and throwing the brake on the saw, Brandon looked down at his left arm. He'd been badly cut.

"I saw quite a bit of blood right away," Brandon said. "My first thought was that I needed to get down fast."

Gathering his strength and trying his best to stay calm, Brandon maneuvered his bucket down through the tree limbs back to the ground where linemen Brian Davis, Luke Koval and Tristan Hall noticed something wasn't right.

"I think we all sensed something happened," Brian explained. "The way he was coming down like that, and he'd just fueled up the saw, so we were wondering what had happened."

Luke ran to go shut off the woodchipper, which was drowning out Brandon's yelling. As the engine died, they finally heard Brandon yell, "Call for help!"

Brian raced to the truck to radio back to the office in Milbank, calling in a “Mayday” along with the crew’s location.

With a first-aid and tourniquet kit in hand, Brian sprinted toward Brandon, where Tristan and Luke had removed Brandon’s safety harness and wrapped a towel over the wound on Brandon’s forearm and applied pressure to slow the bleeding.

As the team secured a tourniquet tightly around Brandon’s upper arm, the crew kept in touch with the office by cell phone. The office staff, having called 911 as soon as they heard ‘Mayday,’ worked together to relay the street address and details of the injury to emergency dispatchers.

Seeing the urgency of the situation, the team placed Brandon in the service pickup and Tristan began driving him to the hospital. As the linemen were driving back into town, the ambulance met them and took Brandon to the hospital in Milbank where they stabilized him and discovered he’d severed two arteries in his forearm. He was then transferred to

Sioux Falls and underwent surgery.

Luckily, Whetstone Valley Electric and the South Dakota Rural Electric Association had conducted first-aid training for linemen just several weeks before. The instruction included CPR, AEDs, tourniquets and wound care.

“Regular first-aid training and keeping first-aid supplies on hand is so important because our linemen are often out somewhere rural,” explained Joe Denison, SDREA’s loss control professional and certified paramedic for the Arlington and Lake Norden ambulances. “If we have to wait 30 minutes for an ambulance, that can be too late.”

Whetstone Valley Electric General Manager Dave Page says despite the incident, he finds it encouraging that the employees followed procedure — maintaining clear communication with each other and with 911, administering first aid on site, and knowing exactly what to do each step of the way.

“It wasn’t only the training that was provided, but it was the attention that

these guys gave to that training - where it stuck, and their response was automatic,” Dave said. “In addition, the Mayday training that we do here at Whetstone went a long way to help us all stick to the plan and see a successful outcome.”

Now back on the job, Brandon credits his safe outcome to the co-op’s focus on regular safety training and having first aid supplies in the vehicles.

“I don’t think the makeshift towel tourniquet would have stopped the bleeding,” Brandon said, looking down at the scar on his forearm.

Brian added, “I don’t want to think about the outcome if we didn’t have a plan in place.”

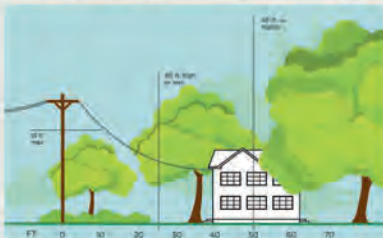
To help prevent those worst case scenarios, electric cooperatives continually scrutinize safety training and workplace incidents. Whetstone Valley Electric Cooperative is sharing this story with its members-owners and fellow cooperatives to promote preparedness for unexpected incidents like this one, and overall encourage a culture of safety awareness.

3 Ways to Help Limit Tree Trimming

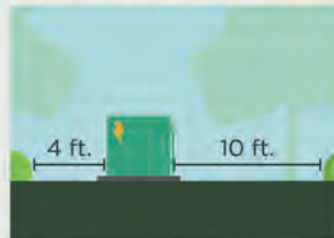
Did you know electric utilities are required to trim trees and other types of vegetation that grow too close to overhead power lines? We know you love your trees, and we will do everything we can to avoid trimming them.

Here’s how you can help:

1. Plant trees in the right place. Trees that will be <40 ft. should be planted at least 25 ft. away from power lines (>40ft. should be at least 50 ft. away).



2. Don’t block pad-mounted transformers. Plant shrubs at least 10 ft. away from transformer doors and 4 ft. from transformer sides.



3. Report dangerous branches. If you spot a tree or branch that is dangerously close to power lines, please let us know.



Trimming improves safety for all.

Let’s work together to enjoy the beauty of trees and reliable electricity.

Thank you from the Hosmer Volunteer Fire Department



thank you so much

A huge thank you for your support of our 15th Annual Lawnmower Poker Run! We couldn't have had the success without your sponsorship!

FREE
Gift
Wrapping

**December 5th
9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Everyone is welcome!**

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS

Scammers will try anything to pressure customers into providing their personal information. If you are ever asked to pay your utility bill through a third-party transaction app, such as Cash App or Venmo, it's a scam. Remember, utilities will never request a payment through a third-party app. Always use authorized payment methods when paying your utility bills.

*Source: Utilities United
Against Scams*



FEM ELECTRIC

PRESENTS THE 2026 YOUTH TOUR

JUNE 14 - 20, 2026

Here is your chance of a lifetime to experience an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C., June 14-20, 2026.

What does it cost?

Nothing!

This is why cooperatives are different! Co-ops are always giving back to the communities we serve, and helping students learn about the political process to interact with your government is one way cooperatives give back. We hope students who attend walk away from this week as a better leader, and with a sense that they can make a difference.

When is it held?

June 14-20, 2026

Students will meet in Sioux Falls on Sunday, June 14th for an orientation before flying to D.C. on Monday, June 15th. Everyone will return to South Dakota on Saturday, June 20th.

There will be featured speakers on National Youth Day that will provide insight on the important roles electric cooperatives play in their community. Students will learn about American history, and their role as a citizen by meeting with their representative and senators at the nation's capital.



This trip is for any high school junior or senior in FEM Electric's territory!

For more information contact:
Crystal Thorson
thorson@femelectric.coop
FEM Electric Association, Inc.
PO Box 468
800 5th Ave.
Ipswich, SD 57451
www.femelectric.coop
Application Deadline:
December 22nd, 2025



How do I enter?

Students who are interested should complete the Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington D.C. application. Applications can be found at www.femelectric.coop, through your school counselor, or you can pick up an application at FEM Electric.

How do I win?

FEM Electric's selection committee will review and evaluate all applications received. Students may be asked to participate in an interview. The committee will select THREE students to represent FEM Electric at this year's event.



NOV 22, 26, 28-29

Christmas Tree Sales

Nov. 22: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Nov. 26: 5-8 p.m.

Nov. 28-29: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

6B Seed And Supplies

Alpena, SD

www.6Bseedandsupplies.com

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

OCT. 25

8th Annual Ladies Day

11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Variety of Vendors

The Crossing Bar

Mina, SD

605-390-2939

OCT. 31

Downtown Trick-or-Treat

4-6 p.m.

Groton, SD

NOV. 1-2

Gun Show

Sat 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sun. 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Redfield, SD

605-472-0965

NOV. 1

The Waddington Bros. Concert

7 p.m.

Johnson Fine Arts Center

Aberdeen, SD

NOV. 1-2

The Black Market/

Formerly Benson's Flea Market

Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m..

Sun. 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds Expo Bldg.

Sioux Falls, SD

NOV. 7-9

Hill City Girlfriends' Weekend

Information on Facebook Page

Hill City, SD

NOV. 8

TNT's Gifts & Goodies Galore

10 a.m.-2 p.m.

510 S. Main St..

Dimock, SD

NOV. 8

More Than a Meal Gala

5:30 p.m.

Aberdeen, SD

Tickets: 605-229-4741

NOV. 14-15

Junkin' Market Days

Fri. 4-7 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Ramkota Exhibit Hall

Sioux Falls, SD

NOV. 15

Club 14 Craft + Vendor Fair

9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Hendricks Public School

Hendricks, MN

605-690-5586

NOV. 15

Dueling Pianos

Playing for Permanency

5:30 p.m.

Holiday Inn & Convention Center

Spearfish, SD

605-722-4558

NOV. 16

An Old-Fashioned Thanksgiving

2 p.m.

Gayville Music Hall

Gayville, SD

605-760-5799

NOV. 16

FEZtival of Trees

Mon.-Fri. 4-7 p.m.

Sat. 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

802 S. Main St.

Aberdeen, SD

605-225-4841

NOV. 22

Lille Norge Fest

8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Canyon Lake Activity Center

Viking Hall

2900 Canyon Lake Dr.

Rapid City, SD

NOV. 27

Community Thanksgiving

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Groton Community Center

Groton, SD

NOV. 28

Snacks With Santa

2-4 p.m.

Hill City Center

Hill City, SD

DEC. 6

Parade of Lights

6 p.m.

Redfield, SD

605-472-0965

DEC. 14

Shaun Johnson Big Band

Experience Holiday Show

4 p.m.

Johnson Fine Arts Center

Aberdeen, SD

Note: We publish contact information as provided. If no phone number is given, none will be listed. Please call ahead to verify the event is still being held.