

Cooperative Connections



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Outdoor Summer Safety Tips

"When The Thunder Roars, Go Indoors"



Ben Dunsmoor

bdunsmoor@northernelectric.coop

Northern Electric Cooperative would like to wish you a safe and happy Fourth of July and urge you to always keep safety in mind when you are planning your outdoor activities this summer.

Summer can be a busy time filled with camping trips and outdoor activities, especially around the Fourth of July. But, when you are enjoying time outside you also have the responsibility to keep safety in mind. Electrical safety is not only something to practice inside around outlets and appliances, but it is also something to be aware of when you are outdoors.

Lightning is one of the most dangerous hazards you will face this summer when it comes to staying safe outdoors. Lightning is responsible for around 30 deaths in the United States every year. When you are outside this summer you should keep these safety tips in mind.

- **Get Inside an Enclosed Building:** When you see lightning or hear thunder near your outdoor activity you should go inside an enclosed structure or vehicle. The motto used as a safety reminder is, 'When the thunder roars, go indoors.' Lightning can strike up to 10 to 15 miles away from the storm. Baseball dugouts, pop-up portable canopies, and picnic shelters are not adequate buildings to protect you from lightning. You need to take shelter in a sturdy enclosed building or vehicle.
- **Wait 30 Minutes:** Once you are inside a safe place you need to wait 30 minutes following the last rumble of thunder before you can safely resume your outdoor activity.

These lightning safety tips are important to keep in mind when you are at a sporting event, at the beach or lake, or camping this summer.

Sometimes thunderstorms can turn into severe storms which contain more than just the threat of lightning. Severe storms can contain high winds, heavy rain, and large hail which can break power poles and damage overhead power lines. If you come across a downed power line this summer, you should take the following precautions.

- **Stay Away:** Stay as far away from a downed power line as possible. You cannot tell if a damaged power line is energized or dead, so it is best to keep yourself and others a safe distance away from downed lines.
- **Call Emergency Responders:** Please, report downed power lines to emergency officials so they can take the proper steps to keep the scene safe.
- **Call the Co-op:** It is also important to call **Northern Electric Cooperative at 605-225-0310** so crews can be dispatched to repair the damaged power line as quickly and as safely as possible.

Remembering these safety tips when it comes to lightning, severe weather, and downed power lines is crucial to keeping you, our employees, and the community safe. Northern Electric Cooperative would like to wish you a safe and happy Fourth of July and urge you to always keep safety in mind when you are planning your outdoor activities this summer.



(USPS 396-040)

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Northern Electric Cooperative's regular board meeting was held May 24, 2018, at the headquarters in Bath with all directors present except for Josh Larson. As the first order of business, the Board approved the April 19, 2018, minutes and April expenditures. The Board then reviewed and accepted monthly reports by management including details on financial, operations, member services, safety, communications and IT.

Directors viewed the East River Power Cooperative video report. East River Director Mark Sumption reported on actions taken by the East River Board at the May 3, 2018, meeting which was held via conference call. General Manager Char Hager reported on the East River and Basin MAC meetings she attended May 2-3, 2018, in Bismarck, ND. The next South Dakota Rural Electric Association board meeting will be held June 28-29, 2018, in Pierre. Director Glen Larson reported that the South Dakota Wind Energy Association Annual Meeting will be held June 20, 2018, in White Lake, SD.

Manager's Report

General Manager Char Hager's report to the board included the following items:

- Update and discussion on new and progressing development projects and activities taking place in the community and our service area.
- Brief update on Rural Electric Economic Development (REED) revolving loan fund activities.
- Reported to the board that the donations to SPURS and Mellette Community Center have been matched by East River and Basin Electric.
- Informed the board of the American Coalition for Ethanol Conference, August 15-17, 2018, in Minneapolis, MN.

MAY BOARD REPORT

- Informed the board that NEC will sponsor three youth for the SDREA Youth Excursion to North Dakota, July 23-26, 2018.
- Informed the board of the invitation to the Trail of Governors unveiling ceremony Friday, June 15, 2018, in Pierre.

Board Report

The board considered and/or acted upon the following:

1. Approved the date and time of the next regular board meeting for 8:30 A.M. on Friday, June 22, 2018.
2. Approved payment of legal fees for Harvey Oliver in the amount of \$2,824.38.
3. Approved payment of legal fees for LERMAN SENTER PLLC in the amount of \$272.50.
4. Approved Work Order Inventories #18-04 for \$1,461,565.90 and #18-04MC for \$122,821.87 to be submitted to the Rural Utilities Service for reimbursement from loan funds for electric plant construction already completed.
5. Appointed Glen Larson as delegate and Donna Sharp as alternate to the 2018 NCSC Annual Meeting, June 12, in Indianapolis, IN.
6. Approved Policy P-18E Northern Electric Cooperative, Inc. Safety Policy, to be effective as of May 24, 2018.
7. Tabled the contribution request to the CFC Cooperative System Integrity Fund until the June Board meeting.

Questions or more details on any of these matters? Please ask your cooperative manager, staff member or director.

Financial Report	April 2018	April 2017
kWh Sales	24,557,915 kWh	21,501,397 kWh
Electric Revenues	\$2,240,743	\$2,063,610
Total Cost of Service	\$2,390,472	\$2,166,104
Operating Margins	(-\$149,729)	(-\$102,494)
Year To Date Margins	\$218,908	(-\$114,495)

Residential Average Monthly Usage and Bill

April 2018	2,244 kWh	\$218.65	.0974 per kWh
April 2017	1,599 kWh	\$170.25	.1065 per kWh

Wholesale power cost, taxes, interest, and depreciation accounted for 83.1% of NEC's total cost of service.

Safety Before and After Storms

Severe storms are more common in the spring and summer, but they can occur any time of year. Be prepared for storms and know how to stay safe.

Before the storm:

- Assemble a kit of essentials, like water, battery-operated flashlights, and radios. Keep a list of emergency phone numbers, including the electric utility.
- If severe weather is on its way, pay attention to local weather reports and recommendations. A tornado or severe storm watch means conditions are favorable for those weather conditions forming. A warning means dangerous weather conditions are imminent.
- Lightning can travel up to 10 miles away from a storm, so seek shelter when you hear thunder.
- Consider installing ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) or purchasing a portable GFCI. GFCIs detect dangerous electrical situations and cut off power before a person can be shocked. These dangerous electrical situations are likely to occur around water, so GFCIs should be installed in bathrooms, laundry rooms, kitchens, basements and outdoors – anywhere water and electricity may meet.
- If power goes out, switch off lights, large electronics and appliances to prevent overloading circuits and damaging appliances when power is restored. Leave one lamp or switch on as a signal for when your power returns.

After the storm:

- When venturing outside, stay away from downed power lines and be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard. Assume any dangling wires you encounter are energized and dangerous. Warn others to stay away and contact the electric utility.
- If you are driving and come upon a downed power line, stay in your vehicle, warn others to stay away and contact emergency personnel or electric utility. Also, when driving, be careful at intersections where traffic lights may be out. Stop at all railroad crossings and treat road intersections with traffic signals as a four-way stop before proceeding with caution.
- Before re-entering storm-damaged buildings or rooms, be sure all electric and gas services are turned off. Never attempt to turn off power at the breaker box if you must stand in water to do so. If you can't reach your breaker box safely, call your electric utility to shut off power at the meter.
- Never step into a flooded basement or other area if water is covering electrical outlets, appliances or cords. Be alert to any electrical equipment that could be energized and in contact with water. Never touch electrical appliances, cords or wires while you are wet or standing in water.
- Do not use water-damaged electric items until a qualified electrician has inspected them and ensured they are safe.
- When using a portable generator, follow all manufacturers' recommendations. Keep the generator dry and never plug it into a wall outlet or directly into the home's wiring. This could inadvertently energize the utility lines and injure yourself or others working to restore power.
- A permanent standby generator should be professionally installed and include a transfer switch to prevent electricity from leaving your generator and going into power lines where it can kill line workers.

Source: safeelectricity.org

C - VOTE

F AMERICA'S
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

- ✓ Pledge to be a co-op voter
- ✓ Find key election information
- ✓ Learn about the issues
- ✓ Register to vote

VOTE.COOP

KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



"Don't fly kites near power lines."

Sophia Bad Warrior, Second-grader at Dupree Public School

Sophia is the daughter of Dugan and Peg Bad Warrior, Dupree, S.D. They are members of Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative, Timber Lake, 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.

Delectable Desserts

Rhubarb Dessert

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 white cake mix | 1 (3 oz.) pkg. strawberry jello |
| 4 cups diced rhubarb | Whipped topping |
| 1 cup sugar | |

Prepare cake according to package directions. Spread in a 9x13-inch pan. Layer rhubarb over cake batter. Sprinkle with sugar and dry jello. Bake at 350°F. for 35 to 40 minutes. Serve with Cool Whip.

Pam Hofer, Carpenter, SD

Best Ever Chocolate Chip Cookies

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 cup white sugar | 2 tsp. baking soda |
| 1 cup brown sugar | 2 tsp. cream of tarter |
| 2 cups butter-flavored Crisco | 2 tsp. baking powder |
| 2 eggs | 1 tsp. salt |
| 2 tsp. vanilla | 3-1/2 cups flour |
| | 12 oz. chocolate chips |

Cream together the first 5 ingredients; add next 5 ingredients. Stir in chocolate chips. Bake on air bake pan at 350°F. for 10 to 12 minutes. Let set a few minutes before removing from pan.

Sharon Sunvold, Renville, MN

Honey Bun Cake

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 yellow cake mix | 1 T. cinnamon |
| 4 eggs | Icing: |
| 2/3 cup vegetable oil | 1-1/2 cups powdered sugar |
| 1 (8 oz.) container sour cream | 3 T. butter, melted |
| 1 cup brown sugar | 2 T. milk (or to desired consistency) |

Combine cake mix, eggs, oil and sour cream. Pour 1/2 of batter into a greased 9x13-inch pan. Mix together brown sugar and cinnamon; sprinkle over batter in prepared pan. Pour remaining batter over top of cinnamon mixture. Run a butter knife through to marble the batter. Bake at 350°F. for 45 minutes. Let cake set 5 minutes, then frost with icing. For icing, mix together powdered sugar, butter and milk; pour over cake. Let cool at least 30 minutes before serving.

Sheryl Fromm, Hartford, SD

Raspberry Almond Crumb Bars

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 2-1/2 cups flour | 1 tsp. McCormick® Pure Almond Extract |
| 1/2 cup confectioners' sugar | 3/4 cup (1-1/2 sticks) cold butter, cut into chunks |
| 1/2 cup granulated sugar | 1 cup raspberry preserves |
| 1/2 tsp. baking soda | 1/2 cup sliced almonds |
| 1/2 tsp. salt | |
| 1 egg | |

Mix flour, sugars, baking soda and salt in food processor until well blended. Add butter; pulse until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Mix egg and almond extract in small bowl. Add to food processor while pulsing. Reserve 1/3 of crumb mixture for topping. Press remaining crumb mixture into an even layer in foil-lined 9x13-inch baking pan. Spread raspberry preserves over top. Sprinkle clumps of the reserved crumb mixture over preserves. Sprinkle with almonds. Bake at 350°F. 35 to 40 minutes or until edges are lightly browned. Cool in pan on wire rack. Cut into bars. Makes 24 servings.

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 175, Total Fat 7g, Sodium 129mg, Cholesterol 23mg, Carbohydrates 26g, Protein 2g, Dietary Fiber 1g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Mother's Day Pie

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 cup sugar | 1 tsp. vanilla extract |
| 2 T. all-purpose flour | 3 eggs |
| 1/4 tsp. salt | 1 (12 oz.) can evaporated milk |
| 6 T. butter, melted | 1 cup shredded coconut |

In a medium bowl, combine sugar, flour and salt. Stir in butter and vanilla extract. Add eggs, one at a time, mixing well after each addition. Mix in evaporated milk followed by coconut. Pour into a greased and floured 9-inch pie plate or quiche pan. Bake at 325°F. for 35 to 40 minutes or until custard is nearly set and a knife inserted in center comes out clean. Let cool. Refrigerate before serving.

Joy Hagen, Webster, SD

Please send your favorite salad, garden produce and pasta 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 2018. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.



HAPI will construct its 200th home this year. The non-profit organization focuses on affordable housing in the Aberdeen area.

MAKING (MORE) HOMES POSSIBLE

HAPI Announces Largest Subdivision Of More Than 160 Homes

Ben Dunsmoor

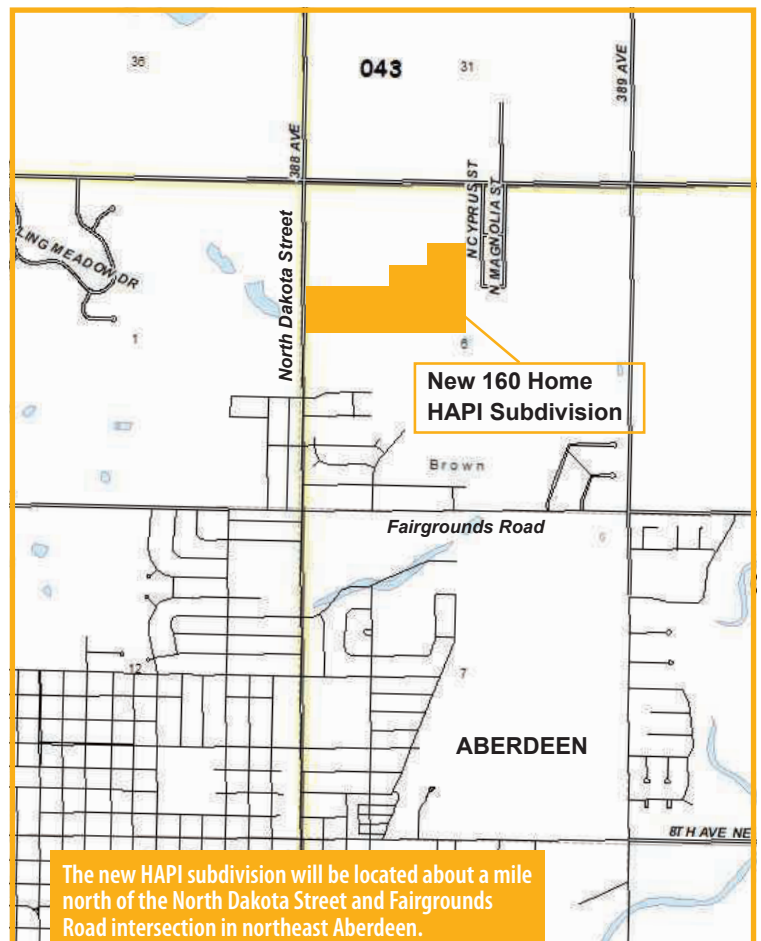
bdunsmoor@northernelectric.coop

Northern Electric member Philip Boeke is settling into his new home in northeast Aberdeen. The Agtegra Cooperative employee moved from Nebraska into his brand-new Homes Are Possible Incorporated (HAPI) house in mid-December with his wife and young daughter.

Boeke says he was drawn to the HAPI development – and the home he ultimately purchased – because the house was the right price in a rural location.

“[I was] able to get into a brand-new home and [be] on the edge of town instead of in the middle of town,” Boeke said as he explained the reasons he purchased a home from HAPI.

Boeke is just one of the hundreds of homeowners who have worked with the Aberdeen non-profit



The new HAPI subdivision will be located about a mile north of the North Dakota Street and Fairgrounds Road intersection in northeast Aberdeen.

organization since HAPI was incorporated in 1999. This year, HAPI will build its 200th home and begin work on its 11th development.

“The whole idea from us as a non-profit is to make this [homeownership] as affordable as possible,” HAPI Executive Director Jeff Mitchell said.

HAPI began as an organization that connected income-eligible families with down payment assistance and other affordable-housing programs. Since 2003, the organization has also been planning subdivisions and building homes for buyers to purchase.

In May, HAPI announced its largest subdivision will be located on nearly 60 acres of land at 3030 North Dakota Street in Aberdeen. The new subdivision is located in Northern Electric Cooperative’s service territory and about a mile north of the North Dakota Street and Fairgrounds Road intersection.

HAPI is planning 81 lots for the first phase of the new Dakota Street subdivision and another 81 homes for the second phase. HAPI will work as the contractor to construct about half of the homes and the other half will be built by other contrac-

tors. The typical HAPI house costs around \$168,000 but there are several income-eligible programs to help with the down payment and to reduce monthly mortgage payments. The homes built by outside contractors in HAPI developments often range in price from \$180,000 - \$220,000.

“The whole idea from us as a non-profit is to make this [homeownership] as affordable as possible.”

“Really what our goal is, is to make affordable houses available in our subdivisions,” Mitchell said. “The whole idea from the very start is you have a mix of homes.”

Mitchell anticipates it will take more than two years to develop the first phase of the Dakota Street subdivision. HAPI will move into the second phase as the subdivision progresses.

The non-profit organization has built a few homes in other communities, but

Aberdeen is the only community where HAPI has subdivisions. As HAPI subdivisions have filled up over the past 15 years Mitchell says he has experienced first hand the need that is being met by the organization.

“If HAPI wasn’t doing this nobody else would be,” Mitchell said. “Housing makes a huge difference as far as sales tax revenue and job creation.”

Boeke says HAPI made it easy for his family to move from Nebraska and make their home in Aberdeen.

“Altogether between buying a new house through HAPI or a regular home I wouldn’t say it was any more of an issue or took any more time,” Boeke said. “For the dollar amount, and for what houses cost in Aberdeen, dollar for dollar that was the best buy around.”

And as HAPI breaks ground on its largest subdivision this summer it is hoping to make even more homes possible over the next several years.



HAPI will break ground on its largest subdivision this summer. Nearly 60 acres of land at 3030 North Dakota Street will be turned into more than 160 residential lots over the next several years.

New and emerging technologies are continuously offering innovative ways to effectively manage and reduce energy consumption. Unfortunately, not all technologies can live up to their hype. Your local electric co-op can help you navigate these emerging technologies and provide the most cost-effective and beneficial energy management solutions.



NAVIGATING

Emerging Efficiency Technologies

Kaley Lockwood

National Rural Electric
Cooperative Association

Investing in energy efficient technology is becoming an increasingly attractive way to cut costs for homeowners and renters alike. This rings true especially in the deep heat of summer. Hotter days often result in higher energy bills, partially due to A/C units working overtime to keep homes cooled and comfortable.

New and emerging technologies are continuously offering innovative ways to effectively manage and reduce a home's energy consumption. Smart thermostats, for example, have proven their worth in shaving 10 to 15 percent off an average home's electric bill. These thermostats, in time, will effectively pay for themselves which make them an attractive option to many. Unfortunately, not all technologies can live up to their hype and some even come with side effects that can arguably overshadow their benefits.

The Mistbox Air Conditioner Cooler is one such technology. Mistbox claims to save its customers between 20 to 38 percent on their electricity bills. This technology requires a simple installation to a home's outdoor A/C unit and works by spraying a mist to precool the air around the unit. In using this evaporative cooling method, you're a/c unit theoretically doesn't have to work as hard to pump cool air into your home. This may be beneficial when air temperature is at its highest. In the short term Mistbox may work, but there are some real caveats that need to be considered.

A primary point of concern is that an A/C unit is not designed to be sprayed down with such frequency. Although the Mistbox system comes with a water filter, the company only recommends using its technology if your home's water has a hardness less than 500 parts per million. This automatically rules out anyone who uses well water. Even if you do have a

Electric cooperatives know it's important to help our members navigate these emerging technologies and provide the most cost-effective and beneficial energy management solutions.

home with the required water hardness, the filtration system can't completely prevent your system from rusting. Corrosion will occur resulting in a damaged unit.

Electric cooperatives know it's important to help our members navigate these emerging technologies and provide the most cost-effective and beneficial energy management solutions. If you're interested in taking steps to become more energy efficient, we recommend these tried and true tips:

- Clean and change the filters on your HVAC system regularly to make your unit run more efficiently, keeping your house cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.
- In spring and summer months, set your ceiling fans to turn in the counterclockwise direction to create a cool breeze. In autumn and winter months, set your fan to turn in the clockwise direction. This will redistribute warm air throughout the room.
- Add caulk or weather stripping to seal air leaks around leaky doors and windows.
- Insulation is important. Properly insulating your home reduces heating and cooling costs, and improves comfort.
- Remember, there are easy steps you can take now to improve the energy efficiency of your home. To learn about additional ways to save, contact the energy experts at your local electric cooperative.

Kaley Lockwood writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural

Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56 percent of the nation's landscape.

Empower Youth Kicks Off

New Youth Leadership Program Holds First Session

Ben Dunsmoor

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A dozen high school students from across eastern South Dakota learned about their individual strengths and were inspired to be leaders during the first Empower Youth session on May 31.

Empower Youth is a program which aims to engage local youth to be leaders at their schools, local cooperatives, and in their communities. The youth leadership program was created by Sioux Valley Energy which is an electric cooperative headquartered in Colman, South Dakota. This summer, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, which generates most of the electricity for co-ops in South Dakota, is offering the program to students across the state. The first session of the newly expanded program was held at the Dakota Event Center in Aberdeen.

“It was great to see it all come together and be successful,” Empower Youth Coordinator Kristie Ching said about the inaugural session.

Students from Northern Electric Cooperative and Central Electric Cooperative, which is headquartered in Mitchell, are participating in the Empower Youth sessions this summer.

The participating teens engaged with youth motivational speaker Craig Hillier during the first few hours of the Empower Youth session. Hillier focuses on youth leadership and interacted with the students as he helped them understand how they can become true leaders in their communities.

“I learned a lot from Craig about how



Students participate in a team-building activity during the first Empower Youth session in Aberdeen on May 31.

your attitude affects other people,” Doland High School sophomore Tianna Tschetter said.

Hillier helped the teens realize that anyone can develop leadership skills if they have the motivation to take action in their communities. Hillier’s high-energy presentation also assisted in bringing out the best in the students throughout the day.

“You could see them open up and come out of their shell as the day progressed,” Ching said. “You could see the leadership skills come out.”

During the afternoon session, the Empower Youth participants used craft supplies to build model homes as they learned about cooperatives and the components that make the co-op business model unique.

The first session concluded when the students learned the results of a strengths assessment that was administered prior to the first session. The results helped the students understand their individual strengths and the importance of working as a team to capitalize on the strengths of the group.

“I thought it was great. It really made



Noah Poor from Groton and Grace DuVall from Chamberlain build a house out of craft supplies as they learn about cooperatives.

me realize I had strengths,” Groton High School sophomore Noah Poor said. “I think the rest of the sessions have the opportunity to build off what we learned.”

During the second scheduled Empower Youth session, participants will join other teens from across South Dakota for the annual South Dakota Rural Electric Association Youth Excursion to Bismarck, North Dakota, from July 23-26. The students will stay at Bismarck State College, tour Basin Electric power generation resources, learn about different careers, and participate in team building activities.

The Empower Youth program will wrap up with a final session focusing on college and career readiness on August 7 at the Dakota Event Center in Aberdeen.

2018 Participants



Portia Aman-Buechler
Home (Aberdeen)
2018-2019 Grade:
Sophomore (10)



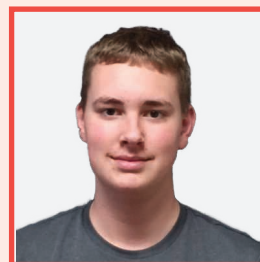
Alexandra Day
Aberdeen Central
2018-2019 Grade:
Sophomore (10)



Brent Ekanger
Home (Aberdeen)
2018-2019 Grade:
Sophomore (10)



Taryn Flack
Aberdeen Central
2018-2019 Grade:
Sophomore (10)



Austin Kingsriter
Aberdeen Central
2018-2019 Grade:
Sophomore (10)



Becca Monson
Warner
2018-2019 Grade:
Senior (12)



Jeremy Pasara
Home (Aberdeen)
2018-2019 Grade:
Sophomore (10)



Noah Poor
Groton
2018-2019 Grade:
Junior (11)



Tianna Tschetter
Doland
2018-2019 Grade:
Sophomore (10)



Lauren Wiedebush
Warner
2018-2019 Grade:
Junior (11)

2018 Participants



Three students from Northern Electric Cooperative will attend the four-day Youth Excursion to North Dakota July 23-26. The students will tour the power-generation resources which provide electricity to Northern Electric.

All students who are participating in Empower Youth will also attend the 2018 Youth Excursion.



Grace Hagen
Grace will be a senior at Warner High School in the fall. Grace participates in band and play and volunteers at the animal shelter. She is the daughter of Jamie and Dawn Hagen.



Malee Olson
Malee will be a senior at Aberdeen Central High School next school year. She is the daughter of Lisa and Brent Olson. She enjoys singing, dancing, baking and hanging out with friends.



Dawson Whitley
Dawson will be a sophomore at Redfield High School in August. He enjoys football, shooting trap, hunting, playing video games, and meeting new people. He is the son of Kirk and Jessi Whitley of Redfield, SD.



Energy Audits

Savings You Can Count On

Derrill Holly

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Better energy efficiency at home starts with savings, not sales, and an energy audit conducted by a trained energy advisor can help you get there.

“Members are our community and we are the experts in the electric energy arena,” said Manuela Heyn, an energy services representative for Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, who is also a member of the Southport, Florida-based Co-op. “We have the tools, knowledge and commitment to assist our people. Saving energy can also help shave peak loads.”

Heyn conducted her first energy audits with very basic tools: a flashlight, laser temperature gun and candy thermometer (to check water heater output temperature). She now has access to more sophisticated equipment such as thermal imaging equipment.

Members become frantic when they see a major increase in the power bill and want almost immediate answers as to why. In conjunction with experience and the ability to refer to meter data reports, the process of identifying major power consumption problems has been simplified and resolved in many instances in the office.

During on-site audits, she uses all her senses to find abnormalities such as hot water line leaks, running well pumps, damaged power cords, construction issues – one case leading to spongy drywall, disconnected ducts and lack of insulation to name a few.

She also checks household systems many homeowners seldom see or consider unless they spend time with their HVAC technician.

“One home I visited had an overflowing air handler water pan and extreme fungal growth” said Heyn. “Some members, particularly renters, don’t realize that their HVAC systems have an air filter. When they are dirty, they can freeze up the system and cause an increase in power consumption.”

Expert advice

Many of the electric co-ops that provide energy audits support professional development for energy advisors that includes exposure to building science concepts.

Training focused on both new construction techniques designed to improve energy efficiency and retrofitting options for upgraded older housing are common. Specialized training for multi-family units and manufactured housing are also common.

“By providing a picture of how energy is used in the home, people can concentrate on what can save them the most energy,” said Eileen Wysocki, an energy auditor with Holy Cross Energy, headquartered in Glenwood Springs, Colorado.

Wysocki starts with a baseload estimate of energy use based upon meter data. Talking with the consumer-member, she learns about household size and behavior patterns, and considers seasonal factors like heat tape used to prevent water lines from freezing.

“We have many ‘second homes’ in our service territory,” said Wysocki, adding that even when those homes are empty, energy use continues. “Fan coil blower motors, whole house humidi-

fiers, boiler pumps, ventilation systems, driveway snowmelt pumps, pool pumps, hot tubs, garage heaters, heated toilet seats and towel bars are using energy, regardless of occupancy.”

The co-op serves Colorado’s popular ski areas around Aspen and Vail, and is currently designing a new audit form. It will stress benefits members can receive through efficiency upgrades, including comfort, said Mary Wiener, energy efficiency program administrator for Holy Cross Energy.

Co-ops that offer energy audits use the service to reinforce their roles as trusted energy advisors, helping members save energy in an effort to help them control their electricity costs.

While some co-ops provide complementary audits free of charge, especially when they are requested in response to high bill concerns, others may charge a small fee, offering rebates to members who implement some of the recommendations provided.

Time spent with an energy auditor can help a member avoid ineffective upgrades or the purchase of oversized equipment

that might not improve their comfort or produce savings through recoverable costs.

Offering solutions

An energy advisor’s home visit usually gets far more attention than a brief discussion

On average, a member can reduce their energy use by about 5 percent if they follow the low-cost or no-cost advice given during the audit.

about energy efficiency at a co-op district meeting, a county fair or other community event. Most audits are initiated following a request tied to high bill concerns, when members are really motivated to control their energy costs.

On average, a member can reduce their

energy use by about 5 percent if they follow the low-cost or no-cost advice given during the audit. Additional savings of up to 20 percent can be achieved by addressing issues with big-ticket items, such as HVAC replacement, attic insulation or major duct repair discovered during the audit.

Improved energy efficiency not only helps the co-op control peak demand and wholesale power costs, it also provides opportunities to discuss services available to members. Those include rebates, weatherization programs and payment assistance.

To learn more about energy audits available to you, contact your local electric cooperative.

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Energy Audits Point the Way to Savings

Conducting an energy audit of your home is a great way to identify opportunities for energy savings. Below are five areas an auditor will typically cover.

- **Leaks and Losses:** Damaged, missing or improperly installed insulation can increase energy use year-round. Knowing where and how to check can identify problems.
- **Comfort Costs:** A visual inspection of your thermostat, water heater, heating and air conditioning equipment and ductwork, can identify performance problems.
- **Assessing Appliances:** The age, condition, location and use patterns for washers, dryers, refrigerators, and other major appliances can impact their efficiency levels.
- **Learning Lighting:** A quick discussion about lighting options with an energy auditor can take the guesswork out of choosing the best bulbs and fixtures.
- **Activity Adjustments:** Knowing how and when you use energy can help you save money. Shifting the time of day you use energy to do things (like laundry and cooking) to cooler, less humid hours can ease the load on HVAC systems.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominating Petition Due By July 13, 2018

Call For 2018 Board of Directors Nominations

During Northern Electric Cooperative's 2018 Annual Meeting (Wednesday, September 12, 2018, at the Aberdeen Civic Arena) members will elect Directors for Districts 1, 8, and 3.

Incumbent directors Mark Sumption, Frederick (Dist. 1) and Francis Esser, Redfield (Dist. 8) are eligible to run again. The District 3 seat will be vacant because Secretary Glen Larson of Aberdeen has reached his term limit.

Northern Electric Cooperative uses a petition process to nominate directors. The procedure requires all candidates to circulate a petition. Candidates must be cooperative members and reside in the district they wish to represent. Each petition must be signed by at least ten (10) cooperative member-consumers residing in that candidate's district.

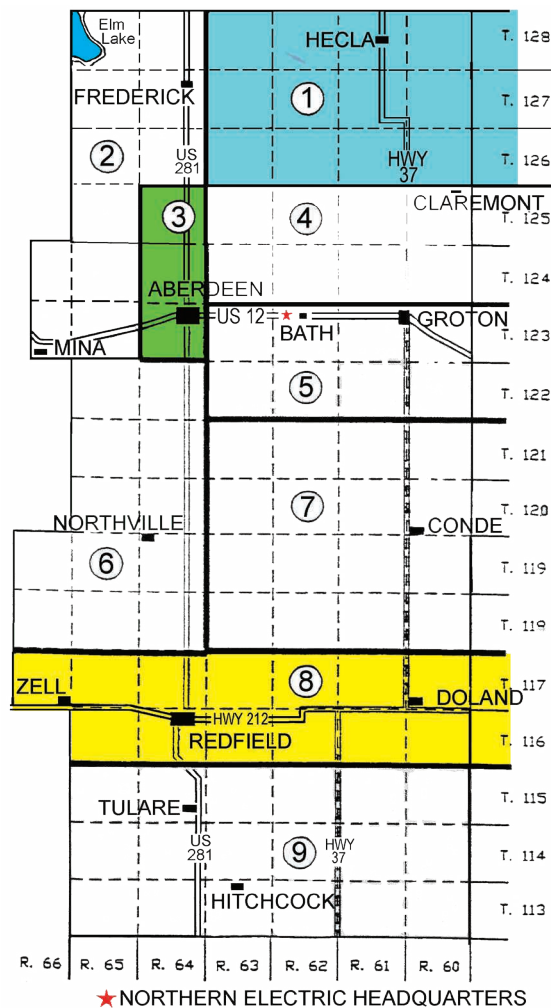
For a joint membership, either the husband or wife may sign a petition but NOT both.

Petitions are available at the Northern Electric offices in Bath and Redfield. Director petitions must be submitted at least sixty (60) days before the Annual Meeting to have names placed on the official ballot and the Notice of the Meeting. No petition filed later than sixty (60) days prior to the meeting shall be considered valid.

Petitions must be filed at a Northern Electric Cooperative office by close of business (4:30 p.m.) **Friday, July 13, 2018.**

Nominations are not permitted from the floor during the meeting.

Members may only sign ONE nominating petition for a director candidate from their district of record.



Director Qualifications

Northern Electric Cooperative Bylaws Article IV Section 3

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director who:

- 1) Is an employee of Northern Electric Cooperative.
- 2) Is not a member and bona fide resident of the service area served by the Cooperative located within the particular District up for election;
- 3) Is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the members of the Cooperative;
- 4) Has been previously removed as a Director of the Cooperative in accordance with the procedures provided for removal in these Bylaws;
- 5) Has failed to attend at least 2/3 of all regular board meetings during any consecutive twelve (12) month period.
- 6) Has been employed by the Cooperative in the past five years.
- 7) Has pled guilty or has been convicted of:
 - A felony,
 - Any crime involving dishonesty, or
 - Any crime involving moral turpitude.

2018 Annual Meeting Scheduled September 12

Director Nomination and Election Process

At the 2018 Annual Meeting, Districts 1, 8, and 3 are up for election. Northern Electric Cooperative Bylaws set the criteria required to seek election as a Northern Electric Cooperative director:

Article IV, Board Members:

Section 1. General Powers. The business and affairs of the cooperative shall be managed by the Board of Directors consisting of nine members elected by the membership at an annual meeting from districts as provided in this article, which Board shall exercise all of the powers of the Cooperative, except such as are by law, the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws conferred upon or referred to the members. It shall be the duty of each Director to participate in such activities as are deemed necessary to enhance the prestige of the Cooperative, broaden its operation and fulfill its public obligation as a member of the various communities in which it does business and in furtherance, thereof, to devote reasonable time and attendance at meetings of affiliate organizations and at training sessions to assist and improve Directors and Officers in carrying out their duties.

Section 2. Election and Tenure of Office. At each Annual Meeting of the members, Board Members shall be elected by secret ballot; provided, that when there is no contest for the representation of a particular district and there is no objection, balloting may be dispensed with in respect of that district and voting may be conducted in any other proper manner. Board Member shall, unless the Cooperative's members determine otherwise in advance of the initial balloting, be elected by a plurality vote of the members. Drawing by lot shall resolve, when necessary, any tie votes.

Except as hereinafter provided, no Directors shall be eligible for re-election who has served as a Director for nine (9) consecutive years and such Director shall be disqualified for a period of three (3) consecutive years.

Section 3. Voting Power. Each of the Directors will be entitled to one (1) vote upon all issues which they are called upon to vote.

(Qualifications printed in inset on page 14)

Upon establishment of the fact that any person being considered for, or already holding, a Directorship or other position of trust in the Cooperative lacks eligibility under this Section,

it shall be the duty of the Board to withhold such position from such person, or to cause the member to be removed therefrom as the case may be. Nothing in this Section shall contain or shall be construed to affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the Board, unless such action is taken with respect to a matter which is affected by the provisions of this Section and in which one (1) or more of the Directors have an interest adverse to that of the Cooperative.

Section 4. Director Districts. The territory served or to be served by the Cooperative shall be divided into nine (9) Director Districts, the boundaries of each being established by the geographical area within the township and ranges as set forth opposite of the District designation including adjacent areas on the outer perimeters of the Cooperative's territory. One (1) Director shall be elected from each of the nine (9) Director Districts.

District 1 shall consist of the following: Townships 126, 127 & 128 in Ranges 60, 61, 62 & 63; Township 127 in Range 59; Township 129 in Range 63; and Township 129 in Range 60.

District 2 shall consist of the following: Townships 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128 & 129 in Range 65; Township 123 in Range 66; and Township 126, 127 and 128 in Range 64.

District 3 shall consist of the following: Townships 123, 124 & 125 in Range 64.

District 4 shall consist of the following: Townships 124 & 125 in Ranges 60, 61, 62 & 63; and Township 124 in Range 59.

District 5 shall consist of the following: Townships 122 & 123 in Ranges 60, 61, 62 & 63.

District 6 shall consist of the following: Townships 118 & 119 in Range 67; Townships 118, 119, 120 & 122 in Range 66; Townships 118, 119, 120, 121 & 122 in Range 65; and Townships 118, 119, 120, 121 & 122 in Range 64.

District 7 shall consist of the following: Townships 118, 119 & 120 in Ranges 60, 61, 62 & 63; Township 119 in Range 59; and Township 121 in Ranges 59, 60, 61, 62 & 63.

District 8 shall consist of the following: Townships 116 & 117 in Ranges 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65 & 66; and Township 117 in Range 67.

District 9 shall consist of the following:

Townships 113, 114 & 115 in Ranges 61, 62, 63 & 64; Townships 114 & 115 in Ranges 65 & 66; Townships 114 & 115 in Range 60; and Township 115 in Range 59.

Section 5. Nomination of Directors. The nominating process shall be premised on a nine (9) District - nine (9) Director Cooperative. **Any ten (10) or more members residing in such District may file a nominating petition with the Secretary placing in nomination any qualified member from such District. Each signatory shall place the date of signing and his address on said petition. No member may sign a petition to nominate more than one candidate, and to do so shall invalidate the member's signature on the petition signed on the latest date.**

This procedure shall be followed in each Director District in which the Director terms shall expire. Upon receipt of such petition and having found the same to be in order, the Secretary shall post such nomination in the principal office of the Cooperative. Candidates so nominated shall be identified in the Notice of the Meeting and shall also be named on the official ballot.

No petition filed later than sixty (60) days prior to the annual meeting shall be considered valid. The order in which the nominees shall appear on the printed ballot shall be determined by lot under the supervision of the Secretary. If any nominee should refuse to become a candidate or is not qualified, in accordance with the requirements of the Bylaws, the Secretary of the Cooperative is authorized and directed to remove the name or names from the list of posted nominees and/or from the ballot.

The Secretary shall be responsible for mailing with the Notice of the Meeting, or separately, but at least ten (10) days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of Board Members to be elected and the names and addresses of the candidates nominated. No nominations shall be permitted from the floor. **Each member of the Cooperative present at the meeting shall be entitled to vote for one candidate from their specific District from which a director is to be elected. Voting may occur two hours before or during the official meeting in accordance with the procedure established by the board of directors.** The candidate from each District receiving the highest number of votes at the meeting shall be considered elected as a Board member.

June 21-23

Crystal Springs Rodeo, Clear Lake, SD, 605-874-2996

June 22-23

Oahe Days Arts & Music Festival, Pierre, SD, oahedaysinfo@gmail.com

June 22-24

Annual Main Street Arts and Crafts Festival, Hot Springs, SD, 605-440-2738

June 29-July 1

Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Annual Wacipi, Agency Village, SD, 605-698-8284

June 30-July 1

Archeology Awareness Days, Mitchell, SD, 605-996-5473

June 30-July 1

The Great Outdoor Festival, Pierre, SD, 605-224-7361

June 30-July 4

99th Annual Black Hills Roundup, Belle Fourche, SD, 605-723-2010

July 2-4

Sitting Bull Stampede Rodeo, Mobridge, SD, 605-845-2387

July 3-5

Frontier Days Rodeo, Interior, SD, 605-455-1000

July 6-8, 13-15, 20-22

Laura Ingalls Wilder Pageant, 8 p.m., Pageant Site, De Smet, SD, 800-880-3383

July 7

Hedahls Auto Value Car Show, Hav-A-Rest Campground, Redfield, SD, 605-380-9985

July 7, 21, Aug. 25, Sept. 8, 22

Lawn Mower Races, Pukwana, SD, 605-680-1718 or 605-682-9781



July 29: 13th Annual Langford Car Show, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., trophies awarded at 1:30, Park of the Pines, Langford, SD, Contact Russell Nickelson at 605-493-6597

Photo courtesy: Langford SD Facebook Page

July 10-15

4th Annual 3 Wheeler Rally, Deadwood, SD, 605-717-7174, www.d3wr.com

July 12-15

Hot Harley Nights, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-334-2721

July 13-14

Senior Games, Aberdeen, SD, Contact Gene Morsching at 605-216-2822

July 14

Cruiser Car Show and Street Fair, Rapid City, SD, 605-716-7979

July 14-15

Summer Arts Festival, Brookings, SD, 605-692-2787

July 17-22

Corn Palace Stampede Rodeo, Mitchell, SD, 605-770-4919

July 18-21

Black Hills Corvette Classic, Spearfish, SD, 605-759-4530

July 18-21

Senior Games, Rapid City, SD, Contact Kristi Lintz at 605-394-4168

July 20-21

Senior Games, Brookings, SD, Contact Traci Saugstad at 605-692-4492

July 20-21

Gumbo Ridge Bronc Ride and Ranch Rodeo, Murdo, SD, 605-669-3031

July 20-21

JazzFest, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-335-6101

July 20-21

Storybook Land Festival, Aberdeen, SD, 605-626-7015

July 20-22

Annual Gem & Mineral Show, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD, 605-269-2015

July 20-22

Stampede Rodeo, Burke, SD, 605-830-0304

July 21

Annual Heritage Music Fest, Elk Point, SD, 605-366-9466

July 21-22

41st Annual Festival in the Park, Spearfish, SD, 605-642-7973

July 22

Summer Fest/Car Show, City Park, Groton, SD, Topper Tastad at 605-397-7337, Facebook: Groton SD Lions Club

July 28

Make-A-Wish South Dakota Poker Run, On the Road to Wishes, Aberdeen, SD, Contact Lorren and Jan Weber at 605-225-7262, www.facebook.com/bieglers

October 6

Pumpkin Train, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644

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.