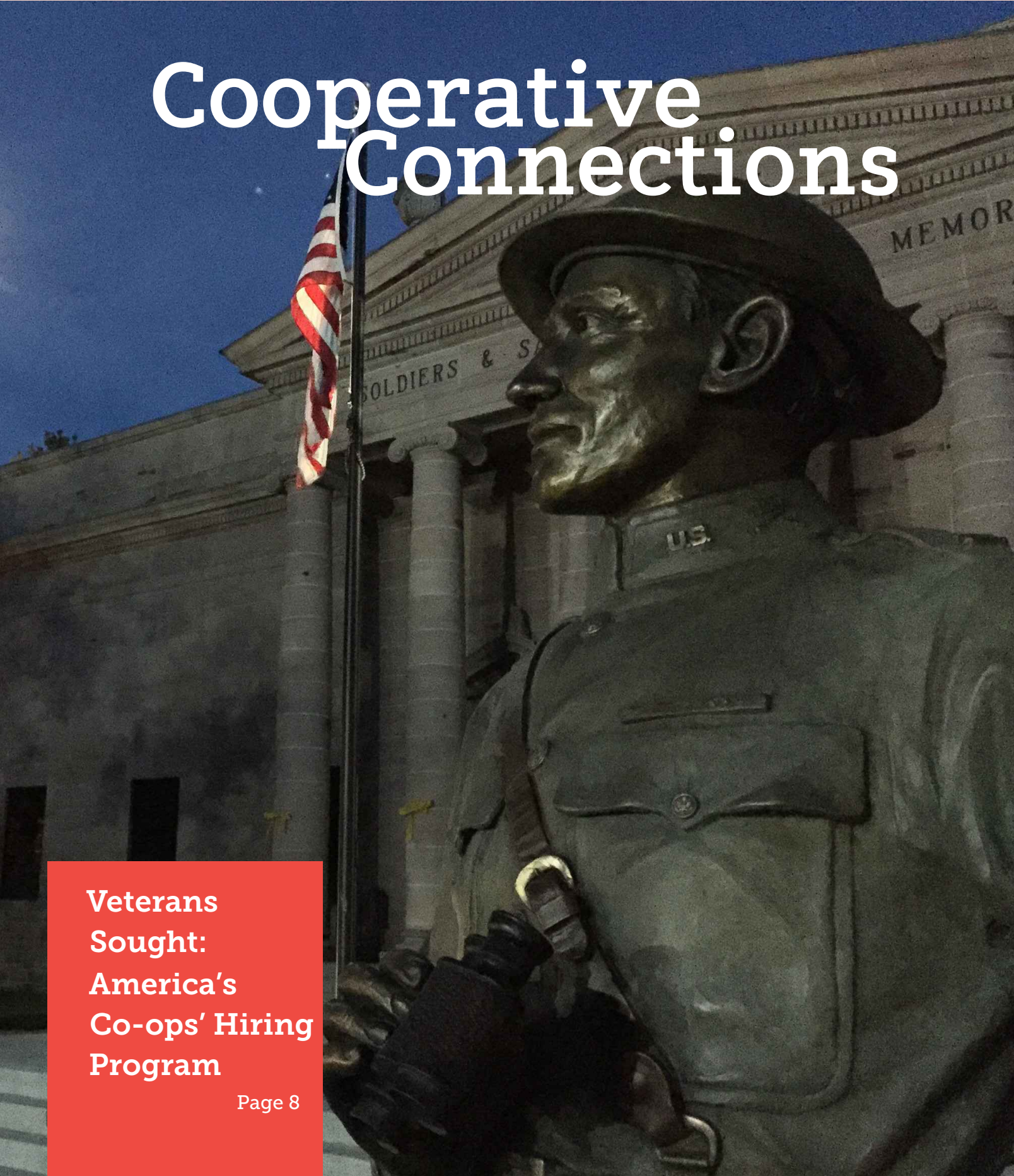


Cooperative Connections

**Veterans
Sought:
America's
Co-ops' Hiring
Program**

Page 8



Constitutional Amendments and Initiated Measures

How Are You Going To Vote?



Ben Dunsmoor

bdunsmoor@northernelectric.coop

These ballot issues should not be last-minute eenie-meenie-miny-moh decisions in your voting booth.

It always seems like most of the attention in any election is focused on candidates. It is important for voters to research the people who will represent them on a local, state or national level. But, what about the decisions that are further down the ballot? Those constitutional amendments and initiated measures can often become an alphabet soup of confusion. However, the issues that are on the bottom of the ballot can have a big impact on South Dakota and the laws we live under. These ballot issues should not be last-minute eenie-meenie-miny-moh decisions in your voting booth. So, for the rest of this column, I will attempt to help you out by giving you a brief rundown of the amendments and measures we will be voting on November 6.

Constitutional Amendment W Amendment W is an initiated amendment, which means petitions were circulated and signatures were gathered to get this amendment on the ballot. It is called the 'South Dakota Voter Protection and Anti-Corruption Amendment.' At first glance, you might think this amendment sounds good, but the South Dakota Rural Electric Association has joined nearly three-dozen other South Dakota organizations in opposing this amendment. It would set up a taxpayer-funded accountability board that would essentially be a fourth branch of government with unchecked authority over all the other branches of government. For more information on why South Dakota's electric cooperatives are opposing Amendment W, you can read the article on [pages 12-13](#).

Constitutional Amendment X This amendment is actually pretty simple. It would raise the threshold for approving constitutional amendments on a general election ballot from a simple majority to 55 percent of the votes cast. Supporters believe there should be a higher standard to amend the South Dakota Constitution. Opponents say approval should remain at a simple majority, so South Dakota citizens can have a voice at the ballot box.

Constitutional Amendment Z Constitutional Amendment Z says that any amendment to the South Dakota Constitution must only embrace one subject and should not include multiple layers or topics. This change would not only impact voters who want to gather signatures to get an amendment on the ballot, but it would also affect lawmakers in Pierre when they propose amendments.

Initiated Measure 24 This initiated measure would limit out-of-state contributions to ballot questions. Governor Dennis Daugaard would like voters to cast a 'yes' vote on this measure because he says 97 percent of the money that was donated to ballot question committees in the last election came from out-of-state groups. However, opponents to the measure say it takes away the first amendment right to free speech because it limits out-of-state contributions. Opponents also say Initiated Measure 24 unfairly targets companies that are headquartered outside of South Dakota but do business in the state, or trade organizations that support businesses and groups in our state.

Initiated Measure 25 This initiated measure would raise the tobacco tax for cigarettes and tobacco products. It would generate an estimated \$5 million for the state's general fund and \$20 million to reduce tuition at South Dakota's technical schools. Opponents to the measure say workforce development and tech schools are important but South Dakota government has a history of not using increased tax dollars for their intended purpose.

I hope you found these brief descriptions of the amendments and measures helpful. I would also encourage you to visit the South Dakota Secretary of State's website at sdsos.gov and click on the 'ballot question pamphlet' tab for more information.

Educate yourself before you head to the polls this year, our constitution and the laws we live under depend on it.



(USPS 396-040)

Board President: Donna Sharp

Board of Directors

- Randy Kienow – Vice President
- Nolan Wipf – Secretary
- Wayne Holt – Treasurer
- Fran Esser
- Victor Fischbach
- Ron Kaaz
- Josh Larson
- Mark Sumption

CEO/General Manager: Char Hager – info@northernelectric.coop

Chief Financial Officer: Cathi Podoll

Operations Manager: Mike Kelly

Manager of Member Services: Russel Ulmer

Manager of Information Technology: Derek Gorecki

Communications Director: Ben Dunsmoor - bdunsmoor@northernelectric.coop

Executive Secretary: Kay Albrecht

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Northern Electric Cooperative's regular board meeting was held September 20, 2018, at the headquarters in Bath with all directors present. New board member Ronald A. Kaaz, Aberdeen, elected during the NEC Annual Meeting held September 12, 2018, was welcomed and seated. Ron replaces District 3 Director Glen Larson who was term-limited and could not seek re-election to the board. As the first order of business, the Board approved the August 23, 2018, minutes and August expenditures. The Board then reviewed and accepted reports by management including details on financial, operations, member services, safety, communications and IT.

East River Director Mark Sumption reported on actions taken by the East River Board at the September Annual & Regular Meetings. Directors Francis Esser, Mark Sumption, General Manager Char Hager and Communications Director Ben Dunsmoor reported on the 2018 East River Electric Annual Meeting, held September 5 in Sioux Falls. South Dakota Rural Electric Association Director Nolan Wipf reported that the next SDREA board meeting will be held September 27-28, 2018, in Pierre. General Manager Char Hager and Manager of Marketing/Member Services Russ Ulmer reported on the Basin Electric Meeting and 2018 NRECA Regional Meeting, held September 17-19, in Minneapolis, MN. General Manager Char Hager reported on the SDREA Managers Meeting, held September 13-14, 2018, in Pierre.

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.

- Evaluation of the cooperative's 2018 Annual Meeting held September 12 and discussion on the 2019 meeting.
- Reminder that the 2018 Basin Electric Annual Meeting will be November 6-8 in Bismarck for directors attending.
- Reminder that the 2018 Mid-West Electric Consumers Association annual meeting will be December 10-13 in Denver, CO for directors attending.
- Reported that the 2018 Annual Legislative Issues Forum will be held November 27, in Aberdeen.

Board Report

The board considered and/or acted upon the following:

1. As part of the annual Board reorganization, the Board elected officers as follows: President Donna Sharp, Vice-President Randy Kienow, Secretary Nolan Wipf, and Treasurer Wayne Holt. Annual signature and transaction authorizations were also approved.
2. Approved the date and time of the next regular board meeting for 8:30 A.M. on Thursday, October 18, 2018.
3. Set the 2019 Annual Meeting date for Wednesday, September 5, to be held in Aberdeen.
4. Approved payment of legal fees for Harvey Oliver in the amount of \$850.94.

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

Financial Report		August 2018	August 2017
kWh Sales		22,904,761 kWh	2,851,166 kWh
Electric Revenues		\$2,257,843	\$2,160,121
Total Cost of Service		\$2,246,959	\$2,148,305
Operating Margins		\$10,884	\$11,816
Year To Date Margins		\$309,158	\$242,433
Residential Average Monthly Usage and Bill			
August 2018	1,349 kWh	\$175.63	.1302 per kWh
August 2017	1,234 kWh	\$159.49	.1292 per kWh
Wholesale power cost, taxes, interest, and depreciation accounted for 83.4% of NEC's total cost of service.			

Halloween Safety Tips

Are your Halloween traditions a trick or a treat? The following helpful tips will let you know if real danger is lurking in your Halloween décor.

Trick:

- Costumes can catch fire! Avoid costumes with billowing or long trailing fabric. If you are making your own costumes, choose fire-resistant materials.
- Never use electrical products outdoors that are marked "for indoor use." You could get shocked – or worse!
- Avoid using dried flowers, corn stalks, hay or crepe paper in your festive decorations. These items are highly flammable and could even be ignited by heat from a nearby light bulb or heater.
- Never block exits or escape routes.

Treat:

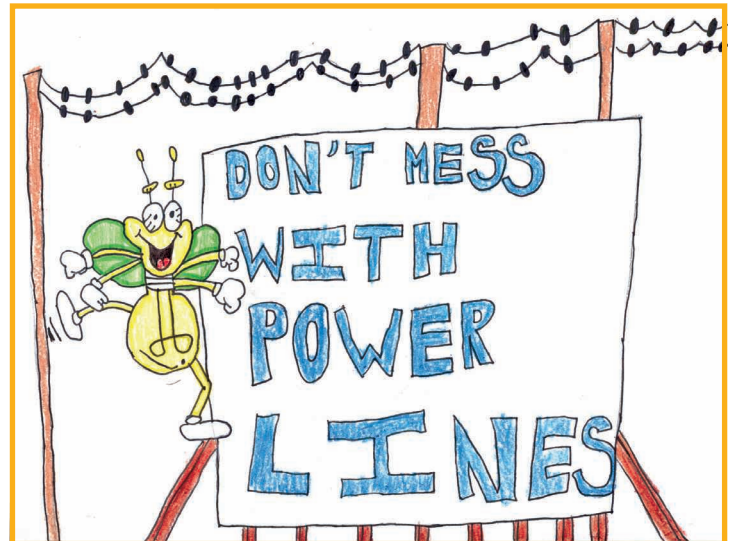
- Inspect all electrical decorations and extension cords before use. Discard any that have cracked, frayed or exposed wiring.
- Outdoor electrical decorations are increasingly popular. To reduce your risk of shocks, ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) should be used wherever water may come into contact with electrical products. Replace traditional receptacles with GFCIs or use a portable one.
- Use only electrical lights and decorations that are approved for safe use by a nationally tested laboratory such as UL, Intertek (ETL) or CSA.
- Always turn off electrical decorations and extinguish any open flames before leaving home or going to bed.
- Use a flashlight or battery-operated candles in a jack-o-lantern. If you must use a real candle, use extreme caution as it can start a fire or burn someone.
- Curiosity leads to many things, not all of them safe. Protect children by installing tamper resistant receptacles in your home. This permanent, cost-effective solution prevents injuries and deaths caused by the insertion of foreign objects into outlets.

Source: esfi.org



VISIT VOTE.COOP TO LEARN HOW TO BECOME A CO-OP VOTER.

KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



"Don't mess with power lines."

Jackson Baumgarn, 8 years old

Jackson is the son of Casey and Anne Baumgarn, Webster, S.D.

They are members of Lake Region Electric Association, Webster.

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.

Crock Pot Creations

3-Bean Crockpot Casserole

1/2 lb. bacon	1/2 cup brown sugar
1/2 lb. hamburger	1/2 cup ketchup
1 cup chopped onions	1 can pork and beans
1/2 tsp. salt	1 can lima beans
2 T. vinegar	1 can kidney beans
1 T. prepared mustard	

Brown bacon until crispy. Brown hamburger with the onions. Combine all ingredients in a crock pot. Cook on LOW for 3 to 4 hours.

Mary Ellen Luikens, Tea, SD

Triple Chocolate Surprise

1 (18 oz.) chocolate cake mix	3/4 cup oil
8 oz. sour cream	4 eggs
1 pkg. instant chocolate pudding	1 cup water
	1 cup chocolate chips

Combine all ingredients. Spray crock pot with no stick cooking spray. Pour mixture into pot. Cook on LOW 6 to 8 hours.

Betty Klingbile, Wall, SD

Juanita's Crockpot Peanut Clusters

1 (16 oz.) jar salted peanuts	4 oz. German chocolate bar, broken into pieces
1 (16 oz.) jar unsalted peanuts	3 lbs. almond bark, broken into pieces
1 (12 oz.) bag semi-sweet chocolate chips	

Layer ingredients in crock pot in order given. Cook on LOW for 3 hours. DO NOT OPEN. After 3 hours, stir and cook an additional 5 minutes. Turn off crock pot and let cool at least 15 minutes. Stir and spoon heaping spoonfuls onto waxed or parchment paper. Let sit until set.

Marcia Broone, Rapid City, SD

Slow Cooker Chicken Rice Curry

4 bone-in chicken breasts, halves (about 2 lbs.), skin removed	1 medium Golden Delicious apple, unpeeled, cored and coarsely chopped
1 T. McCormick® Curry Powder	1/4 cup raisins
1 pkg. McCormick® Chicken Gravy Mix	1/4 cup McCormick® Onions, Chopped
1 (14.5 oz.) can chicken broth	2 McCormick® Bay Leaves, broken in half
1 medium red bell pepper, cut into 1/2-inch pieces	1/2 tsp. McCormick® Garlic Powder
	1 cup instant rice

Rinse chicken and pat dry. Cut each breast half into 2 pieces. Sprinkle chicken with curry powder. Gradually stir gravy mix into broth in slow cooker until well blended. Add seasoned chicken and remaining ingredients except rice; stir well. Cover. Cook 8 hours on LOW or 4 hours on HIGH. Gently stir in rice. Cover. Cook 15 to 20 minutes longer on HIGH or until rice is tender. Remove bay leaves before serving. Makes 6 servings

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 296, Total Fat 4g, Cholesterol 78mg, Sodium 600mg, Protein 35g, Carbohydrates 30g, Dietary Fiber 2g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Crockpot French Dip Sandwiches

3 lb. roast, beef or pork	1 (10 oz.) can beef broth
1 (10 oz.) can French onion soup	1 (12 oz.) can beer
	Swiss cheese

Cook above ingredients in crock pot on LOW for 7 hours. Shred meat with fork. Let set 30 minutes. Fill buns (I use steak buns). Top with Swiss cheese. Use the juice in crock pot for dipping, if desired.

Jane Ham, Rapid City, SD

Please send your favorite holiday, soup or brunch 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.

2018 Annual Meeting

More Than 400 Members and Guests Register For 71st Annual Meeting

Ben Dunsmoor

bdunsmoor@northernelectric.coop

Northern Electric Cooperative members experienced a new digital registration process and seated a new member on the Board of Directors during the 71st Annual Meeting held at the Aberdeen Civic Arena and Theatre on September 12.

Northern Electric employees used iPads to register a total of 227 members and 432 attendees through a new registration app provided by National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC). NISC is Northern Electric's software provider for all accounting, billing, and payment platforms. The 2018 Annual Meeting was the first time Northern Electric used the digital registration process. Senior Billing Clerk Doris Scheuffele said the process was quick and more convenient for members.

"I think it went really smoothly as far as registering," Scheuffele said. "It was faster for the membership."

Board Secretary and District 3 Director Glen Larson was recognized for his nine years of service to the cooperative during the business meeting. Larson reached his term limit of serving three consecutive three-year terms on the board of directors. Ron Kaaz of rural Aberdeen officially replaced Larson on the board. Kaaz was the only member from District 3 to submit a valid petition to fill the vacant seat. Chief Financial Officer Cathi Podoll and Accountant Rebecca Kappenman were also recognized for ten years of service as employees.

Several children who attended the meeting learned about electricity and efficiency with the interactive 'Pedal Power' display during the energy expo which was held in conjunction with the free buffet meal prior to the start of the business meeting. Children also had the chance to see what it is like to be a line-worker when they got to ride in a Northern Electric bucket truck that was parked outside the arena.

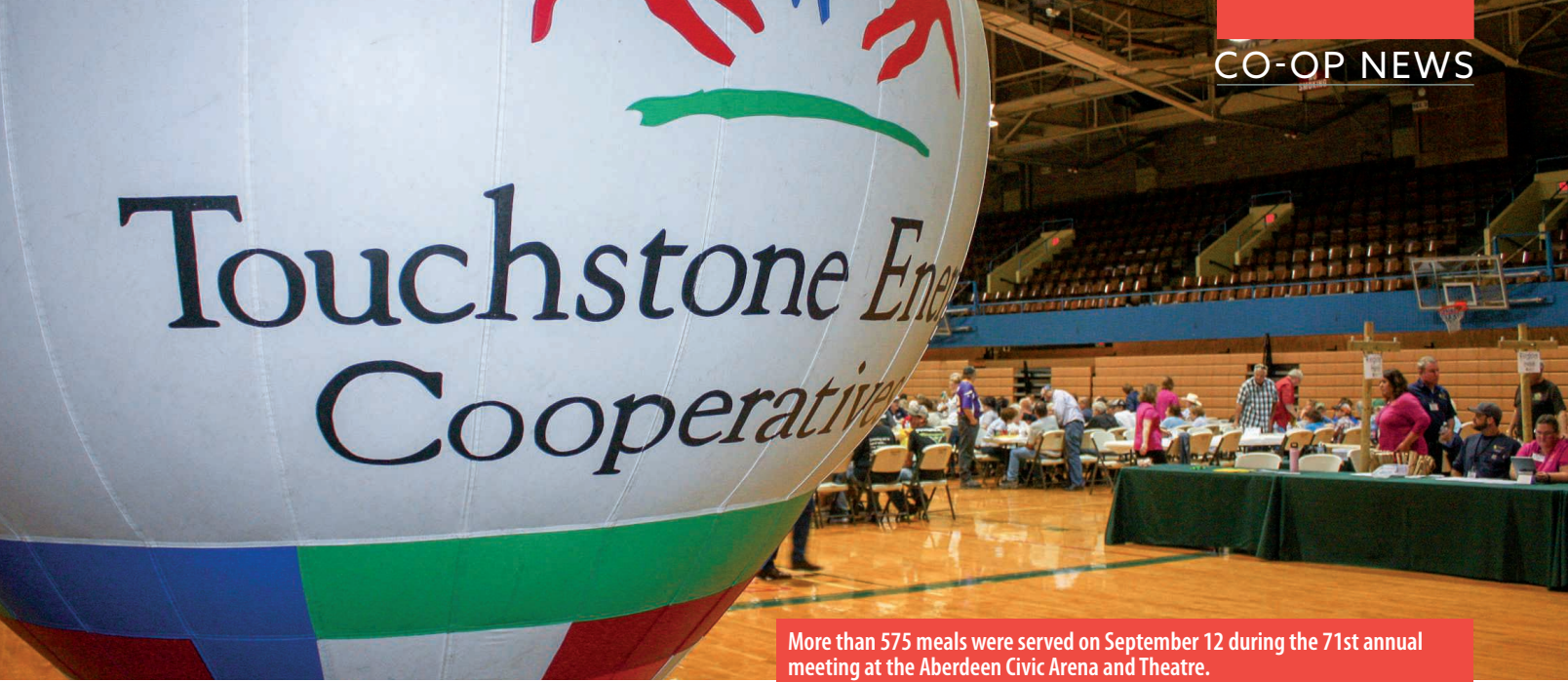
Following the meeting, 15 members received prizes which included gift cards and donated items. The 2019 Northern Electric Annual Meeting will be held in Aberdeen on September 5.



Northern Electric employees registered members for the 2018 annual meeting using iPads. This was the first year a digital registration process was used at the annual meeting.



Northern Electric Board of Directors Secretary Glen Larson (left) was recognized for his nine years of service to the co-op. Larson reached his term limit in September. President Donna Sharp (middle) and General Manager/CEO Char Hager (right) presented Larson with a plaque for his years of service.



More than 575 meals were served on September 12 during the 71st annual meeting at the Aberdeen Civic Arena and Theatre.



Children who attended the 71st annual meeting discovered how much energy it takes to power a light bulb using the 'Pedal Power' display.

Northern Electric employees used iPads to register a total of 227 members and 432 attendees through a new registration app provided by National Information Solutions Cooperative.



Northern Electric linemen gave kids attending the annual meeting bucket truck rides.



Greg Milbrandt of Milbrandt Enterprises in Groton won a \$100 American Express gift card. It was the top prize of the annual meeting.



Military veterans meet with electric co-op leaders at a Veterans in Energy event. Veterans in Energy is a professional development group that was formed through NRECA's Serve Our Co-ops; Serve Our Country initiative to help veterans transition into the energy workforce after they've been hired at electric cooperatives.

An Electric Co-op Mission to **HIRE VETERANS**

Paul Wesslund

NRECA

Electric cooperatives are working to make even better use of a powerful source of energy – military veterans.

“Veterans, active military and their spouses are some of our greatest assets as employees,” says Michelle Rostom, director of workforce development for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). “They are mission-driven. When we think about providing safe, reliable and affordable power, we know our veterans – whatever their job – are focused on making sure we are operating safely and that we are creating a reliable electric network for co-op members.”

Rostom spends a lot of her time getting more veterans hired by electric co-ops in her role as program manager for NRECA's initiative called “Serve Our Co-ops; Serve Our Country.”

The program launched in January 2016 “to honor and employ veterans,” said Rostom.

Since then, the program has been forming a coalition of co-ops and other groups to focus attention on the benefits of hiring veterans and to actually hire more veterans.

In announcing the program, Jim Matheson, CEO of NRECA,



An NRECA Commemorative Coin Recognizes veterans hired through the Serve Our Co-ops; Serve Our Country program. On the Cover: A statue of South Dakota Gov. Leslie Jensen, who was governor in 1937-1939, stands in front of the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building in Pierre. Jensen served in both WWI and WWII.

said, “Our military veterans deserve our unending gratitude for their service to our country, on Veterans Day and every day. Veterans possess many of the qualities sought by electric co-ops, including a deep commitment to service and an uncompromising work ethic. More than 200,000 service members transition out of the military to civilian life each year and we’d like to tap into that talent to help fill the thousands of co-op jobs opening up.”

Hiring veterans is certainly a decent thing to do, but Rostom lists why it makes business sense as well.

“They understand their role and they go out and execute it,” she says. “They bring leadership skills, they work in teams and look out for each other in that kind of ‘brotherhood.’ They work in all types of weather. They are disciplined. They show up on time. Those are professional competencies that not every job applicant brings with them, but you find them in the military.”

The initiative grew out of broader strategic planning by NRECA. That plan envisioned that 25,000 jobs at electric co-ops would need to be filled in the next few years.

“We are racing to make sure we have the right talent applying for our jobs,” says Rostom.

Part of that work has been developing and distributing information to bring attention and advice aimed at connecting veterans with co-op jobs. A series of three checklists published by the program helps guide electric co-ops in setting up a veteran hiring effort. The checklists show co-ops how to recognize veterans, contact groups in their communities for broad-based effectiveness and bring attention to the skills and abilities veterans offer.

Some of those skills and abilities might not be immediately obvious, says Rostom, like what they learn by having to change their job and their residence every few years.

“They are trained to learn,” she says. “They change jobs every couple of years, so they learn to adapt.”

Serve Our Co-ops; Serve Our Country also started a group called “Veterans in Energy,” a professional organization to go

beyond hiring, by helping veterans transition into the energy workforce.

Military spouses make up another often-overlooked resource, says Rostom.

“You’ll get resumés for a spouse and they will have big gaps in their experience,” she says. “They’ve put their career path

Our military veterans deserve our unending gratitude for their service to our country, on Veterans Day and every day.

on hold to follow their spouse around the world with the military, so don’t just discount that resumé.”

Rostom says, “They’ve had to move their family probably 10 times over the past 15 years, so they have to plan, they have to find housing, find schools, medical care – and they’re doing that without their spouse there, who is deployed somewhere. Often, they are volunteering, so they are community-focused, which is what we look for in the co-ops. In working with

groups of volunteers, they are managing people, they are probably managing a budget, they are securing vendors for events. There are a lot of skill sets that they bring.”

Rostom continues, “Many are working on a degree while they are moving around the world. They are a phenomenal group of untapped talent we should consider. When you see that resumé, it doesn’t say military spouse, but I think it should. It totally changes the game – it shows the potential employer why their career has been put on hold. They are smart, educated, they are project managers, they work with diverse groups of people. They’re an untapped group of talent that we don’t always think about.”

Through Serve Our Co-ops; Serve Our Country, electric co-ops are better positioned to increase their veteran workforce and support local veteran communities. To learn more about the program, visit www.servevets.coop.

Paul Wesslund 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.



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Ben Dunsmoor, Editor		9/26/2018

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Barry H. Dunn, PhD
President, South Dakota State University

Featured Speaker

Governor Dennis Daugaard



Panel Discussions

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Young Farmers and Agribusinesses
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Talk with industry experts and other livestock developers

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COST: FREE! Please RSVP before November 1

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Campaign buttons advocating a no vote on Amendment W are pictured.

ELECTRIC CO-OPS JOIN FIGHT AGAINST W

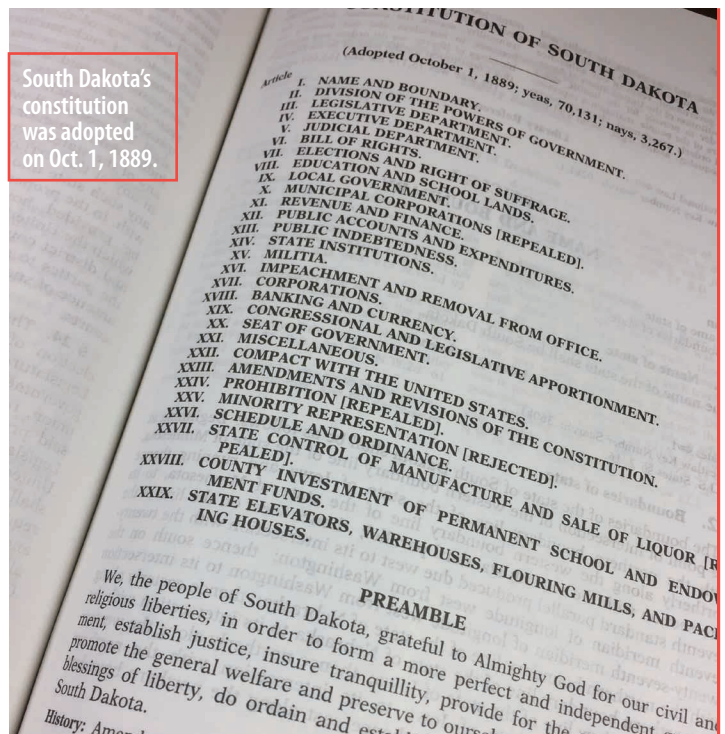
Brenda Kleinjan

brenda.kleinjan@sdrea.coop

South Dakota’s electric cooperatives, through their statewide association, the South Dakota Rural Electric Association in Pierre, have joined with more than 30 other South Dakota-based groups and individuals opposing an amendment to the South Dakota constitution.

Voters in November will decide the fate of Amendment W, which is titled “An initiated amendment to the South Dakota Constitution changing campaign finance and lobbying laws, creating a government accountability board, and changing certain initiative and referendum provisions.” A “yes” vote would change South Dakota’s constitution. A “no” vote leaves the constitution as is.

“Amendment W creates an entirely new article of the South Dakota Constitution and declares that the new article is superior to all other sections of the constitution. It creates a non-elected tribunal called “The State Government Accountability Board,” forces the



South Dakota's constitution was adopted on Oct. 1, 1889.

legislature and Governor to fund it and allows that board to go to court for more money,” said David Owen, president of the South Dakota Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Owen is the head of a coalition of South Dakota groups that have formed the “W is Wrong” statewide Ballot Question Committee opposing the amendment.

“No other state has anything like Amendment W,” Owen said. “Only two other states even mention an ethics board in their constitution and neither of them overrides the legislative process for funding and oversight.”

The SDREA board – comprised of local South Dakotans elected by their neighbors to serve on their local electric cooperative board and then elected to serve on the statewide board – has historically been engaged on advocating on behalf of their member-owners. SDREA was formed in 1942 to help cooperatives bring electricity to the state and continues to work to give voice to the 120,000 co-op members in the state. In Minnesota, the Minnesota Rural Electric Association does similar work on behalf of Minnesota electric cooperatives. The SDREA board consists of members of multiple political ideologies and parties.

“In reaching their conclusion to oppose Amendment W, the SDREA board walked through the proposed language thoughtfully and considered its potential ramifications carefully,” said Ed Anderson, general manager of the South Dakota Rural Electric Association. “With any proposed initiated measure or constitutional amendment this complex, a thoughtful, reasoned consideration of all possible effects is the only responsible approach to take and I applaud them for their effort.”

To see the amendment in its entirety, along with other measures voters will be deciding on in November, go to <https://sdsos.gov/elections-voting/upcoming-elections/general-information/2018-ballot-questions.aspx>

Who Backs W?

Promoters of Amendment W claim to be a South Dakota group calling themselves “Represent South Dakota.” Financial reports from 2017 and from this year’s pre-primary report show that the effort has been funded from a Massachusetts organization known as “Represent US.”

For calendar year 2017, the Amendment W campaign reported to have raised \$369,588; and spent \$362,348 – leaving a balance of \$7,240

2017 notable contributions were:

- Represent US – Florence, MA – \$121,000
- End Citizens United Non-Federal – \$15,000 (in-kind)
- Donated by Represent US – \$47,238

Plus a supplemental report that is 191 pages of individual contributions – many multiple \$1, \$3, \$5 listings – totaling \$233,588 and not one from South Dakota. The last eight donations were responsible for 50 percent of the total. This report sets the stage of a deceptive claim that there are thousands of supporters of Amendment W who gave small contributions.

Right before the primary election the Amendment W campaign reported they had raised an additional \$26,681 and spent \$33,084 – with a new balance of \$837.40.

Why is W Wrong?

- Amendment W creates an entirely new Article of the South Dakota Constitution and declares that the new article is superior to all other sections of the constitution and all other provisions of law.
- The Amendment bluntly states that **“if there are any conflicts with any other provisions of the constitution and the new article, this article shall control.”** Amendment W gives the new article control over the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the constitution. To further secure this power the amendment uses the phrase **“notwithstanding any other provision of the constitution”** four times including a specific reference to Article II – which states **“The powers of the government of the state are divided into three distinct departments, the legislative, executive and judicial; and the powers and duties of each are prescribed by this Constitution.”**
- Amendment W creates an inquisition style board called “The State Government Accountability Board” and gives it unprecedented powers including taking anonymous complaints about campaign violations and a long list of other powers including (but not limited to): **(I) Investigate any allegation of bribery, theft, or embezzlement of public funds, or any violation of this Article, ethics rule, or state law related to government ethics, campaign finance, lobbying, government contracts, or corruption by any elected or appointed official, judge, or employee of any state or local government and to issue subpoenas related to the investigation;**
- This inquisitorial board will have authority over all “non-federal elected officials” starting with the Governor and ending with members of road districts and irrigation districts and political precinct chairmen and chairwomen. The reach of the new board includes every public employee working for state, county and local governments including townships.
- The members of the board are required to disclose the conflicts of interest and are expected to recuse themselves from participating in any investigation that deals with those conflicts unless **“the board member’s vote is necessary to resolve the matter”**...meaning that a member of the board with a conflict of interest will only vote when it matters most.
- The Amendment uses the constitution to appropriate and annual budget for the new board of \$389,000 (increasing with inflation) which is in direct conflict with the other provisions of the Constitution that require that appropriations be in the annual budget or a separate spending bill and passed with a 2/3rds majority of both the Senate and House of Representatives. The new board is also empowered to intervene in any civil lawsuit. **“The board may intervene as a matter of right in any civil action involving any government entity, agency, or instrumentality alleged to be in violation of any mandate or prohibition under this Article and to and in any civil action relating to the board’s powers or the sufficiency of resources provided for the board’s implementation and operation.”**

Source: <http://www.wiswrong.com/amendment-w.html>

Lend Your Voice to Rural America

In 2016, rural America played a big part in our national elections – 500,000 MORE rural voters went to the polls than in 2012. This is an incredible story, as many in small towns and communities across our country went to the polls to ensure their voices were heard and elected officials took notice. But, elections matter EVERY year.

2018 will be no different and electric cooperatives have the opportunity to play a vital role in encouraging rural voter turnout and engaging on issues that matter most to us. This year, we must build on the momentum we started in 2016, to join with 42 million members of electric cooperatives around the country and remind our elected officials that rural issues matter.

Electric co-ops are not-for-profit energy providers that are owned by the members they serve. They provide coverage for 88 percent of our nation's counties. They are a foundation in their communities and their members can make a difference in lending their voices to issues like rural infrastructure and broadband and maintaining access to affordable, reliable electricity.

To ensure that all electric co-op members do continue the

drumbeat that started in 2016, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) will continue the successful Co-ops Vote program. This is a non-partisan initiative that remains quite simple at its core: to ensure that members are registered to vote and they go to the polls for every election and to ensure rural issues remain part of the national discussion.

By participating in the Co-ops Vote program in 2018, co-op members continue to send a resounding message that all candidates – at all levels – will need to put rural America's concerns front and center in order to earn our vote. We proved in 2016 that with millions of electric co-op members speaking out with one voice, we can have a major impact in making our top issues part of the national conversation.

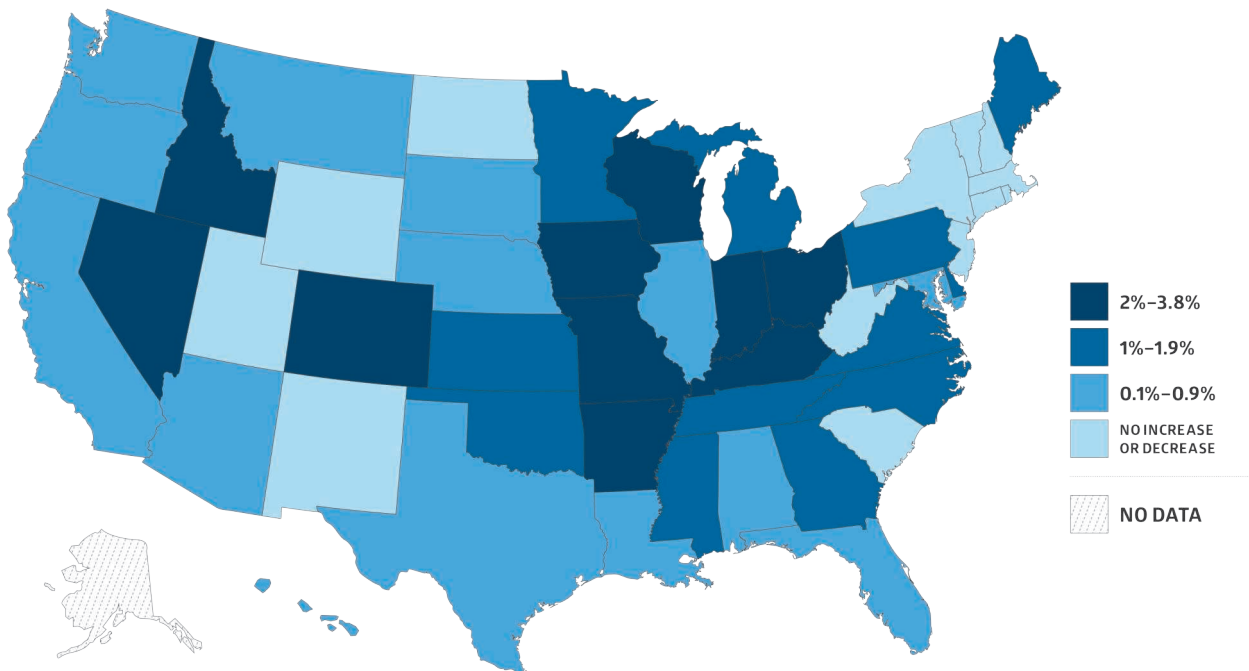
Everyone, regardless of their political beliefs, are encouraged to join America's electric cooperatives in this national effort. Let's continue to stand up for the priorities of the rural electric co-op community – it's more important now than ever. Learn more at www.vote.coop.

CO-OPS VOTE 2016 RURAL TURNOUT



RURAL VOTE vs. URBAN VOTE

This data demonstrates where rural counties had a higher voter percentage turnout in 2016 than their urban and suburban counterparts.



CO-OPS VOTE

A PROGRAM OF AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES
VOTE.COOP



America's Electric Cooperatives understand what's important to our homes and our communities, and we understand that registering to vote and voting in every

election is vital to protecting our way of life. So is building relationships with elected officials, so they understand the unique issues we face.

Co-ops Vote is designed to boost voter turnout, develop relationships with candidates and elected officials, and ensure that issues that matter in rural America are heard everywhere, from local councils all the way up to the U.S. Capitol.

Co-ops Vote provides the tools to help build those relationships and educate co-op employees, directors and consumer members prior to hitting the polls for every election.

Please join us, and make sure our elected leaders know that we expect them to represent all the people electric cooperatives serve. Learn more at vote.coop.

Follow **CO-OPS VOTE** on social media and stay updated



@CoopsVote

WHAT IS CO-OPS VOTE?

Co-ops Vote is a non-partisan campaign focused on enhancing the political strength of electric cooperatives through relationship building and voter engagement. The main goal of the campaign is to boost voter turnout in cooperative areas, making sure that our members exercise one of their most basic rights - the right to vote. Working in collaboration with states and local co-ops, this effort will educate and engage candidates and voters on important issues like:

- Expanding broadband coverage throughout rural America.
- Ensuring continued access to reliable electricity.
- Promoting the work of co-ops within the communities they serve.

AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

- ✓ **833** distribution and **62** G&T cooperatives, a total of **905** co-op members.
- ✓ Serve a total of **42 million** people in **47 states**.
- ✓ Generate 5% of the total electricity in the United States.
- ✓ Own and maintain **2.6 million miles** or **42%** of the nation's electric distribution lines, covering **56%** of the U.S. landmass.
- ✓ Serve **19 million**, businesses, homes, schools, churches, farms, irrigation systems, and other establishments in **88% of US counties**.



WHY IS THE CO-OPS VOTE PROGRAM IMPORTANT?

- We must elect public officials who identify with America's Electric Cooperatives and will vote to support the issues important to 42 million electric cooperative members across the nation.
- Electric cooperatives are a trusted resource in the communities we serve. Voters want to hear from community leaders (like electric co-ops) about important issues.

For more information on **Co-ops Vote** please visit vote.coop or cooperative.com/coopsvote.

October 20

SD State High School Boys and Girls Cross Country Meet, Yankton Trail Park, Sioux Falls, SD

October 20-21

South Dakota State and National Corn Husking Contest, State is on the 20th and National on the 21st, 9 a.m., Flandreau, SD

October 26-27

Harvest Halloween, Yankton, SD, info@harvesthalloween.com

October 26-27

Deadweird, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

October 26-28

ZooBoo, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7003

October 26-28

Autumn Festival, An Arts and Crafts Affair, Sioux Falls, SD, 402-331-2889

October 27

Scare in the Square, Rapid City, SD, 605-716-7979

October 27

ZOO BOO, Watertown, SD, 605-882-6269

October 27-28

Dakota Territory Gun Show, Davison County 4-H Grounds, Mitchell, SD, 605-630-2199

November 1-3

South Dakota Local Foods Conference, Brookings, SD, Contact 605-681-6793 or SDSPAinfo@gmail.com

November 8-10

Ringneck Festival and Bird Dog Challenge, Huron, SD, 605-352-0000

October 20-January 6:
Pheasant Hunting Season,
Statewide, Pierre, SD,
605-223-7660



November 9

Hairball, Deadwood Mountain Grand, Deadwood, SD, 605-559-1188

November 10

Sisseton Area Merchants and Crafters 21st Annual Holiday Extravaganza, Sisseton, SD, 605-698-7425

November 10

Mountain West Beer Fest, Rapid City, SD, 605-343-6161

November 9-11

Christmas at the Barn, A fun shopping event featuring handmade, new and vintage items, Front Porch605, Groton, SD, 605-216-4202

November 15-December 18

Black Hills Christmas Tree Permit Season, Custer, SD, 605-673-9200

November 16-17

Holiday Arts Christmas Craft Show, Masonic Temple, Mitchell, SD, 605-359-2049

November 17-18

Winterfest: A Winter Arts Festival, Aberdeen, SD, artscouncil@nvc.net

November 20-December 26

Christmas at the Capitol, Pierre, SD, 605-773-3178

November 23-24, Dec. 1-2, 8-9, 15-16, 22-23

1880 Train Holiday Express, Hill City, SD, 605-574-2222

November 29-30

Festival of Trees, Lead, SD, 605-584-2067

December 1

Christmas Stroll and Holidazzle Parade, Spearfish, SD, 605-717-9294

December 1-2

Living Christmas Tree, Aberdeen, SD, 605-229-6349

Dec. 1, 7-8, 13-15, 20-21

Strawbale Winery Twilight Flights, Renner, SD, 605-543-5071

December 8

Community Christmas Musicale, Eureka, SD, 605-284-2161

December 8

Frontier Christmas, Lake City, SD, 605-448-5474

December 8-9

Black Hills Cowboy Christmas, Lead, SD, 605-584-2067

December 9

REO Speedwagon, Deadwood, SD, 605-559-0386

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.