

# Northern Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## Cooperative Connections

NOVEMBER 2017 VOL. 18 NO. 7



# Art Emerging

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Lemmon Artist Reshapes Metal into Art



# 2018 Annual Meeting to be held Sept. 12

**Northern Electric Cooperative's** regular board meeting was held September 22 at the headquarters in Bath with all directors present except for Francis Esser. New board member Josh Larson, Columbia, elected during the NEC Annual Meeting held September 13, 2017, was welcomed and seated. Josh replaces District 4 Director Mike McHugh 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, 2017, 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 Electric director Mark Sumption reported on actions taken by the East River Electric Board at the September Annual & Regular Meetings. Director Donna Sharp and General Manager Char Hager reported on the 2017 East River Electric Annual Meeting, held September 6, in Sioux Falls. South Dakota Rural Electric Association Director Nolan Wipf reported that the next SDREA board meeting will be held September 28-29, 2017, in Pierre. Directors Wayne Holt, Nolan Wipf, Donna Sharp, General Manager Char Hager and Communications Director Ben Dunsmoor reported on the 2017 NRECA Regional Meeting, held September 20-21 in Minneapolis, MN.

## MANAGER'S REPORT

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

- Update and discussion on 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. Legal and Legislative report from General Manager Char Hager and Attorney Harvey Oliver on legal issues.
- Evaluation of the cooperative's 2017 Annual Meeting held Sept. 13 and discussion on next year's meeting.
- Reminder that the 2017 Basin Electric Annual Meeting will be November 7-9 in Bismarck for directors attending.
- Informed the directors of the Northeast Cooperative's 2017 Legislative Issues Forum that will be November 28 at the AmericInn Lodge and Suites in Aberdeen.

- Reminder that the 2017 Mid-West Electric Consumers Association annual meeting will be December 11-14 in Denver, CO for directors attending.
- Calendar review of upcoming meetings and events.

## 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 Glen Larson, and Treasurer Wayne Holt. Annual signature and transaction authorization were also approved.
2. Approved the date and time of the next regular board meeting for 8:30 A.M. on Thursday, October 19, 2017.
3. Set the 2018 Annual Meeting date for Wednesday, September 12, to be held in Aberdeen.
4. Approved payment of legal fees for Harvey Oliver in the amount of \$2,299.34.
5. Approved third quarter requests for capital credit retirements of \$17,969.26.
6. Approved Work Order Inventory #17-08 for \$92,621.07 to be submitted to the Rural Utilities Service for reimbursement from loan funds for electric plant construction already completed.
7. Authorized limited board attendance to the 2017 Winter School for Directors, December 1-6 in Nashville, TN.

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

Financial Report		August 2017	August 2016
<b>kWh Sales</b>		21,851,166 kWh	23,470,925 kWh
<b>Electric Revenues</b>		\$2,160,121	\$2,219,788
<b>Total Cost of Service</b>		\$2,148,305	\$2,157,101
<b>Operating Margins</b>		\$11,816	\$62,687
<b>Year To Date Margins</b>		\$242,433	\$622,395
Residential Average Monthly Usage and Bill			
<b>August 2017</b>	1,234 kWh	\$143.26	.1161 per kWh
<b>August 2016</b>	1,458 kWh	\$164.96	.1131 per kWh
Wholesale power cost, taxes, interest, and depreciation accounted for 85.0% of NEC's total cost of service.			

# Northern Electric Cooperative Connections

(USPS 396-040)

## CEO/General Manager

Char Hager  
info@northernelectric.coop

## Board of Directors

Donna Sharp, **President**  
Randy Kienow, **Vice President**  
Glen Larson, **Secretary**  
Wayne Holt, **Treasurer**  
Fran Esser  
Victor Fischbach  
Josh Larson  
Mark Sumption  
Nolan Wipf

Harvey Oliver,  
NEC Attorney

## Management Staff

Russel Ulmer, Manager of Member Services  
Derek Gorecki, Manager of Information Technology  
Mike Kelly, Operations Manager  
Cathi Podoll, Chief Financial Officer  
Kay Albrecht, Executive Secretary  
Ben Dunsmoor, Director of Communications

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**TOLL-FREE: 1-800-529-0310**

Design assistance by SDREA and TDG Communications



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

## Editor's Column

# How Is Your Power Bill Calculated?

**Do you understand** how Northern Electric Cooperative calculates your monthly statements? You may not think you need to have an understanding of energy demand and purchasing, but do you ever look at your bill and wonder what it all means? If your answer to that question is “yes,” then you might be interested to learn how demand impacts your utility bill.

To start, it is important to understand how electricity is made and how it is delivered to your home.

Before Northern Electric Cooperative can send electricity to your home, that electricity needs to be generated by a generation and transmission cooperative known as a G&T. The G&T cooperatives which supply power to Northern Electric are East River Electric Power Cooperative in Madison, South Dakota, and Basin Electric Power Cooperative in North Dakota. Once the electricity

has been generated, it travels over high-voltage transmission lines to substations, where the voltage is reduced to a lower level. The electricity then travels over distribution power lines operated by Northern Electric Cooperative and finds its way into your home, farm, or business. So, while you pay your bill to us – your electric distribution cooperative – we don't actually generate the electricity you use. That is the job of the G&T and Northern Electric pays a monthly bill to them for wholesale power.

You play a big part in determining how much electricity the G&T needs to create every month in order to keep the lights on in our community. That is where the terms “consumption” and “demand” come in.

Consumption is measured in kilowatt hours (kWh). Demand is measured in

kilowatts (kW). A lightbulb “consumes” a certain number of watts, let's say 100 watts per hour. If that lightbulb stays on for ten hours, it “consumes” a certain number of kilowatts hours - in this case, 1 kWh. Now, if you turn on ten, 100-watt lightbulbs in your home for one hour, you are still “consuming” the same number of kWh, however, you are placing a greater “demand” on the utility to have the kW available to you over the course of one hour, instead of ten. This requires power plants to produce more power in less time in order to meet your “demand.”



**Ben Dunsmoor**  
Communications Director

Northern Electric purchases power from its G&T based on the total “consumption” (kWh) of our members and the “demand” (kW) placed on the system during the billing peak. Peak demand refers to the time of day when the demand for electricity is highest. This is typically during the evening when families return home from work or school, cook dinner and use appliances the most. Using electricity during this peak demand period costs more to both Northern Electric and to our members.

During our recent annual meeting in September we talked about how demand, billing peaks, and load management affect your power bill. There is more information about these topics on pages 10-11 in this issue of *Cooperative Connections*, and the role they will play in an upcoming rate change for 2018. Please, read this article carefully so you can stay informed on the rate changes which will take effect January 1, 2018.

Generating and distributing power can be a complicated business, but rest assured we will always meet the necessary demand to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

# Halloween Electrical Safety

**Halloween haunts** usually mean strings of decorative lights, fog machines, strobe and black lights, animatronics, electrically powered decorations and the list goes on. These things all add to the ambience of your haunt, but they also create the added dangers of fire, electrocution and other nasty and potentially disastrous accidents. It is very important that you look for and eliminate potential dangers from your Halloween lights and decorations that could lead to fires and injuries.

- Carefully inspect each electrical decoration. Cracked or frayed sockets, loose or bare wires and loose connections may cause a serious shock or start a fire. Discard damaged sets of lights or damaged props that can no longer be used safely.
- Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, house walls or other firm supports to protect the lights from wind damage. Use only insulated staples to hold strings in place, not nails or tacks. Or, run strings of lights through hooks (available at hardware stores). Don't staple or nail through light strings or electrical/extension cords – you could damage the wire or insulation, which could lead to an electrical shock or fire.
- Don't overload extension cords or allow them to run through water or snow on the ground. Before using any light strings, animated displays or other electrical products outdoors, make sure the product is approved by a nationally recognized certification organization and marked for outdoor use.
- Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord. Don't use electrical decorations or light strings on materials that could catch fire. It is important to turn off all electrical light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed. Follow the use and care instructions that accompany your electrical decorations.
- Rule of thumb, most household circuit breakers are rated up to either 10 or 15 amps (you can tell by looking at the breakers themselves) and household current is generally 110 volts. Amps times volts equal the amount of watts that a breaker can handle without tripping. With caution, learn what breakers protect each section of your home and label them. Don't overload your circuit breakers/fuses.
- For added electric shock protection, plug outdoor electric lights and decorations into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters. Portable outdoor GFCIs can be purchased where electrical supplies are sold. GFCIs can be installed permanently to household circuits by a qualified electrician.
- Turn off all lights when you go to bed or leave the house. The lights could short out and start a fire. Always have at least one fire extinguisher available and know how to use it. In homes with small children or animals, take special care to avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable.

Practice safety, use common sense and you'll have a happy, memorable Halloween!

Source: [www.halloween-online.com](http://www.halloween-online.com)

## Kids' Corner Safety Poster

**"Don't touch active wires."**



**Max Baker, 9 years old**

*Max is the son of Travis and Becki Baker, Fulton, S.D. They are members of Central Electric Cooperative, Mitchell, 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.

 Touchstone Energy\* Cooperatives

  
**PoweringYourSafety.com**  
 KNOW WHAT TO DO IF YOU HIT A POWER LINE

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**STAY PUT**  
If your equipment contacts a power line, stay inside. **DO NOT EXIT. Call 911.**

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**JUMP CLEAR**  
If you must exit due to a fire, jump from the equipment so that no part of your body touches the equipment and ground at the same time. Hop or shuffle with your feet together at least 40 feet away.

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**STAY AWAY**  
When you are clear of the area, call for help and keep others away. **DO NOT** approach your vehicle again until utility crews and emergency responders tell you it is safe.



# Crockpot Creations



## Slow Cooker Potato Casserole

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 2 lb. pkg. frozen hash brown potatoes, partially thawed | 1 (13 oz.) can evaporated milk, undiluted |
| 2 (10 oz.) cans Cheddar cheese soup                     | 1 can French-fried onions                 |
|   | Salt and pepper to taste                  |

Combine potatoes, soup, milk and half the onions. Pour into a greased slow cooker. Add salt and pepper to taste. Cover and cook on LOW 8 or 9 hours or on HIGH for 4 hours. Sprinkle remaining onions over top before serving.

**Carolyn Saugstad, Alcester**

## Slow Cooker Corn

- |                             |            |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| 2 (16 oz.) bags frozen corn | 2 T. sugar |
| 1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese | 2 T. water |
| 1 stick butter              |            |

Place frozen corn in slow cooker. Cut cheese and butter into small cubes. Add to corn with sugar and water. Cook on HIGH for 45 minutes. Stir with a wooden spoon. Turn to LOW for 3-1/2 hours, stirring occasionally.

**Shirley Miller, Winfred**

## Slow Cooker Whole Chicken

- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| 4 tsp. salt  | 1/2 tsp. garlic powder   |
| 2 tsp. paprika   | 1/2 tsp. black pepper    |
| 1 tsp. each cayenne pepper, thyme, onion powder and white pepper | 1 large roasting chicken |

In a small bowl, combine spices. Place frozen chicken in slow cooker. Pour seasonings over chicken. Do not add any liquid. Cook on LOW 4 to 8 hours.

**Teresa Affeldt, Box Elder**

## Sweet and Sour Pork

- |   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1-1/2 to 2 lbs. pork steak, cut into strips | 1 (8 oz.) can tomato sauce           |
| 2 T. canola oil                             | 1 cup brown sugar                    |
| 1 large onion, sliced                       | 2 T. vinegar or Worcestershire sauce |
| 1 large green pepper, cut into strips       | 1-1/2 tsp. salt                      |
| 1 (4 oz.) can mushroom pieces               | 1 (10 oz.) jar sweet & sour sauce    |

Brown pork in oil; drain. Place all ingredients into slow cooker. Cover and cook on LOW 6 to 8 hours. May serve over rice or noodles.

**Patricia Hopkins, Central City, Neb.**

## Slow Cooker Chocolate Pecan Pie Cake

- |   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1 pkg. (2-layer size) chocolate cake mix                  | 2 cups chopped pecans                |
| 2 tsp. McCormick® Cinnamon, Ground                        | 1-1/2 cups light corn syrup          |
| 1 T. plus 2 tsp. McCormick® Pure Vanilla Extract, divided | 1-1/2 cups firmly packed brown sugar |
|   | 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, melted     |

Spray inside of 6-quart slow cooker with no stick cooking spray. For the Chocolate Cake, prepare cake batter as directed on package, stirring in cinnamon and 2 tsp. vanilla. Pour into greased slow cooker. Place towel over slow cooker and cover with lid. Cook 2 hours on LOW or until cake is almost set. For the Pecan Pie Topping, sprinkle pecans over cake. Beat remaining ingredients with wire whisk until smooth. Slowly pour over pecans. Cover. Cook 10 minutes longer on LOW. Turn off slow cooker. Carefully remove slow cooker insert and place on wire rack. Cool 20 minutes before serving. Serve with vanilla ice cream, if desired.

*Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 580, Total Fat 28g, Saturated Fat 7g, Sodium 377mg, Cholesterol 57mg, Carbohydrates 78g, Dietary Fiber 2g, Protein 4g*

**Pictured, Cooperative Connections**

## Thyen Family Slow Cooker Dressing

- |                               |                          |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1/2 cup parsley               | 1-1/2 tsp. sage          |
| 1 cup diced onions            | 1 tsp. poultry seasoning |
| 2 (8 oz.) cans mushrooms      | 1 tsp. thyme             |
| 2 cups diced celery           | 4-1/2 cups chicken broth |
| 1 cup butter                  | 2 eggs, well beaten      |
| 12 to 13 cups of bread crumbs |                          |

Saute first 4 ingredients in butter. Combine bread crumbs, sage, poultry seasoning and thyme. Mix together all ingredients. Put in slow cooker on HIGH for 45 minutes. Reduce heat to LOW for 4 to 8 hours.

**Emily Luikens, Tea**

## Morning Slow Cooker Casserole

- |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1 (2 lb.) bag frozen hash brown potatoes     | 1 cup shredded cheese |
| 1 lb. diced, cooked and drained bacon or ham | 12 eggs               |
| 3/4 cup diced onions                         | 1 cup milk            |
| 1 green pepper, chopped                      | 1 tsp. salt           |
|  | Pepper to taste       |

Place layer of frozen hash browns on bottom of slow cooker. Layer 2 or 3 times the bacon, onions, green peppers, cheese and hash browns; ending with cheese on top. Beat eggs, milk, salt and pepper. Pour over all; cover. Cook on LOW for 10 to 12 hours.

**Elaine Rowett, Sturgis**

*Please send your favorite holiday treat, soup and 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 2017. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.*



# 2017 Annual Meeting

## Members Elect New Director and Learn About Load Management

**Aberdeen, SD** Northern Electric members who live in District 4 elected Josh Larson of Columbia as their representative on the co-op's Board of Directors during the 70th Annual Meeting. The meeting was held on Wednesday, September 13, at the Aberdeen Civic Arena and Theatre. The District 4 election took place during the free meal and energy expo which was held prior to the 6:30 p.m. business meeting. Larson defeated Tanya Torguson of Bath for the three-year term on the board.

Nearly 600 members and their families enjoyed a free dinner buffet which was served prior to the business meeting. A total of 223 members officially registered at the meeting. The number of plates served and the total number of registered members increased compared to the attendance at the 2016 meeting.

During the business meeting Jeff Rud, the Power Supply Specialist from



**Josh Larson**  
Elected as New  
District 4 Director

Northern Electric's wholesale power supplier East River Electric Power Cooperative, spoke about the importance of load management. Load management is a program Northern Electric and East River operate together to reduce demand on the electrical grid at peak times. By cycling large electrical appliances and equipment - like water heaters and grain bin fans - on and off East River and Northern Electric can avoid paying a premium price for power at peak times.

Aryan Jamal of Aberdeen and Jazzlyn Tschetter of Doland were the two youth speakers who addressed the members gathered during the business meeting. Jamal talked about his experiences

during the 2017 Youth Excursion to North Dakota where youth learn about cooperatives, electricity, and power generation. Tschetter shared her experiences from the 2017 Youth Tour to Washington D.C. where she met with teens from other electric cooperatives from across the country.

Former Northern Electric Board President Mike McHugh received recognition for his nine years of service with the board at the end of the meeting. McHugh has reached his term limit of serving three consecutive three-year terms. Linemen Marty Newman and Kenny Swanson were also recognized for their decades of service with the co-op. Swanson has worked at Northern Electric for 30 years and Newman has been with the co-op for 25 years.

The 71st Northern Electric Annual Meeting will be held on September 12, 2018.



**Far Left: Kids could picture themselves as a line worker during the energy expo at the 2017 Annual Meeting.**

**Left: James and LaDonna Frankenstein were the big prize winners taking home a \$100 American Express gift card.**





## Prize Winners

Robert & Mary Gruman	6 Movie Tickets
Steven & Janice Stager	\$25 American Express Gift Card
Virginia Doerr	Round Table Top Electric Grill
Richard Bottum	\$50 Famous Footwear Gift Card
Harry & Rene Hixon	\$25 Cabela's Gift Card (Donated by irby electrical distributor)
Allen & Dorthy Kost	\$50 Menards Gift Card
Marlene & Robert Brugger	Two Cutting Boards (Donated By East River Electric)
Northern Valley Communications	\$50 American Express Gift Card
Larry & Joyce Wolf	\$100 Best Western Ramkota Gift Card
Lorren & Janet Weber	\$25 Cabelas Gift Card (Donated by irby electrical distributor)
Maurice & Arlowene Hitchcock	\$50 Herberger's Gift Card
James & LaDonna Frankenstein	\$100 American Express Gift Card
Greg & Julie Milbrandt	\$25 American Express Gift Card
Lyle Lips	\$50 Sears Gift Card



**Above:** A total of 598 members and their families enjoyed a free dinner buffet during the 2017 Annual Meeting. **Left:** East River Electric Power Supply Specialist Jeff Rud talks about load management. **Below:** Members from District 4 received ballots during registration to vote for a new director. **Bottom:** Northern Electric Member Services representatives discussed energy efficiency during the energy expo.





# Taking Shape

## *Lemmon Artist Transforms Old Iron into Masterpieces*

**Brenda Kleinjan**

**Below: Artist John Lopez stands in front of the his Cow Bossman statue which honors Ed Lemmon. The mural on the wall of the Kokomo Inn was created by Nigerian artists as a background for the sculpture.**

(Photos Courtesy Artist John Lopez)

**S**TUDY ONE OF JOHN LOPEZ'S HYBRID METAL ART sculptures long enough, you might just be able to decipher what an individual element's purpose was.

The filigreed piece that forms what looks like a shield on some pieces may have started out as a grate on a stove or in a building. Chains and gear links are formed into various parts of the sculpture. Disc blades give definition to large muscles on a finished horse or buffalo. The finely textured feathers of the peacock? Closer examination shows that they once graced many a dining room table as various patterns of silverware.

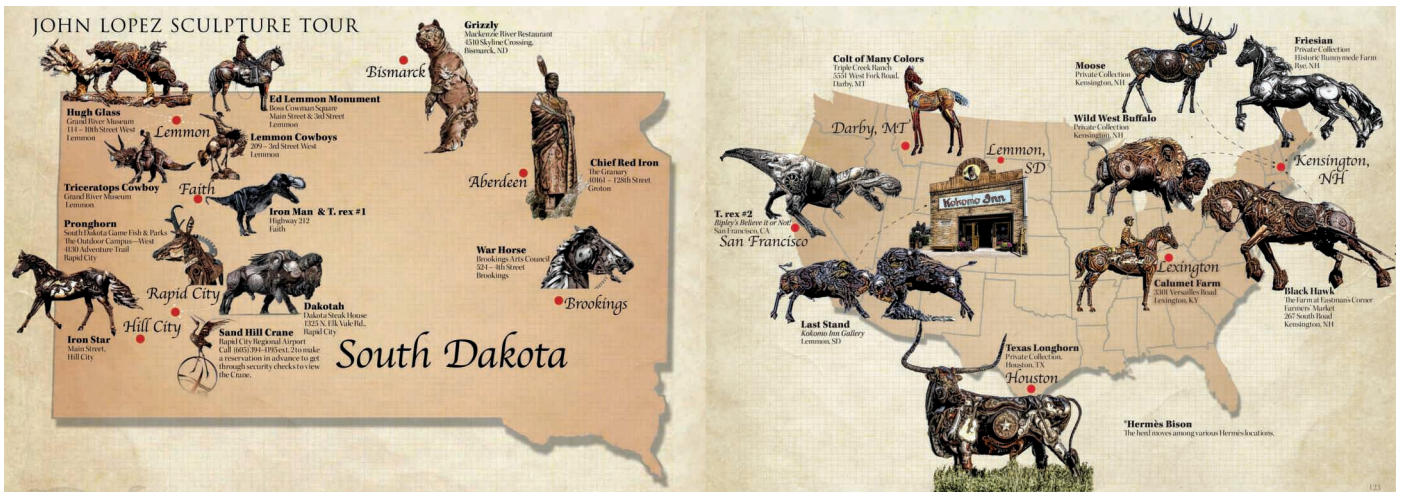
Whether farm implement or table ware or individual pieces of unidentifiable metal, Lopez's talented touch transforms that which may have been headed to the scrap yard into stunning pieces of art.

One of the artist's newest sculptures is that of Ed Lemmon, namesake of the northwestern South Dakota community. Lemmon, atop a horse, stands in the Cow Bossman Square next to Lopez's Kokomo Gallery in the Kokomo Inn on Main Street in Lemmon, S.D.

According to Lopez's description of the monument, he created the statue primarily using scrap iron donated by local friends and neighbors. The portrait of Ed Lemmon is cast in bronze making this monument a Hybrid Metal Sculpture. It took Lopez about six months to create the work. You can watch out for the revolver and jack knife donated in honor of Alvin Jacobs (a cowboy that inspired John). There are other personal items hidden within the sculpture which are the fingerprints of the community members.







At the Grand River Museum, also in Lemmon, Lopez has depicted the grizzly bear attack of Hugh Glass. The grizzly bear comes to life with chains and other metal pieces creating the bear's fur. Lopez's portrait of Glass depicts the terror of the attack as the ferocious grizzly advances.

"The Last Stand" depicts two bison – one with a likeness of Gen. George Custer and the other with a likeness of Sitting Bull – engaging one another. It is on display at the Kokomo Gallery, which is open Monday through Saturdays from May 1 to Oct. 30.

Also in the gallery, the aptly named "Silverware Peacock" captures the imagination. Utilizing steel cable and silverware to create the bird's tail, the 142 forks, 70 spoons, and 71 butter knives meld into a regal bird proudly standing on a pillar. The sculpture is one of



**Silverware Peacock can be viewed at Lopez's Kokomo Gallery in Lemmon, S.D.**

many of Lopez's to win awards. "Silverware Peacock" was the People's Choice Award at the annual Sculpture in the Hills Show in Hill City, S.D.

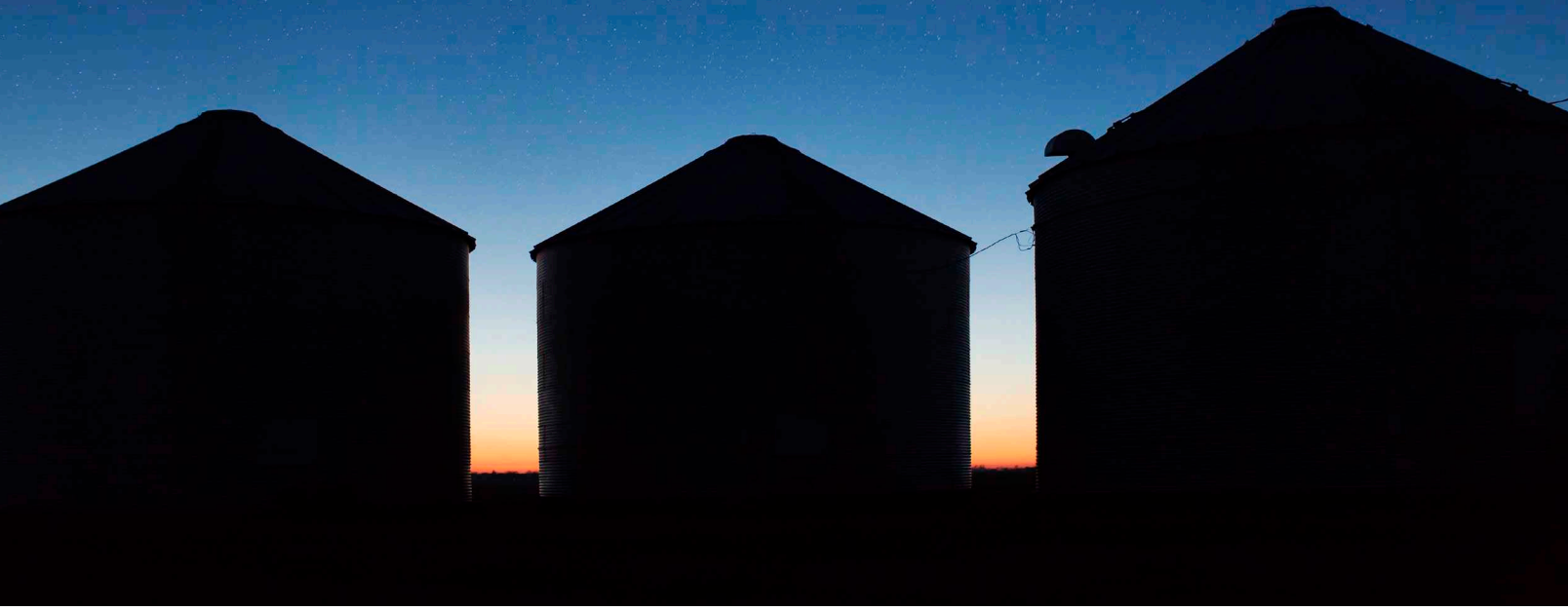
You can find Lopez's more traditional bronze sculptures as part of the The City of Presidents series in Rapid City (John Adams, John F. Kennedy and John, Jr., Calvin Coolidge, Teddy Roosevelt and Ulysses S. Grant) or in the Governor's Trail in Pierre (Arthur Mellette and Harvey Wollman).

His Hybrid Metal Art can be found across the breadth of the state and from coast to coast as pieces are on display in San Francisco, New Hampshire, Texas and points in between.

For more on Lopez's work, go to <http://www.johnlopezstudio.com/> There is also a coffee table book of Lopez's work, "John Lopez: Sculpture" available as well.



**Above: "The Last Stand" depicts two bison butting heads. The left bison includes a likeness of Gen. George Custer while the right buffalo pays tribute to Sitting Bull. Right: A close up of a portion of "The Last Stand" reveals the multi-levelled story telling that takes place in Lopez's statues. On the Cover: "War Horse" stands in front of the Brookings Arts Council building on Fourth Street in Brookings, S.D.**



# Rate Changes Discussed During Annual Meeting

## Changes Will Take Effect January 1, 2018

**During the 2017 annual meeting** in September, Northern Electric Cooperative discussed rate structure changes that will be implemented in 2018. Some Northern Electric members may notice a significant shift in the way they are billed for their electric use while others will see minimal changes in how they pay for their monthly electric use. All changes will be put in place by January 1, 2018. More specific details about the rate changes will be released in the next several months. However, this article will offer general information about how rates will be changing and the topics discussed during the 2017 annual meeting.

### **Why are Rates Changing?**

Northern Electric Cooperative pays a monthly electric bill to East River Electric Power Cooperative similar to the way members at the end of the line pay their electric bill every month. East River is a wholesale generation and transmission cooperative in Madison,

South Dakota. East River owns and operates the transmission lines and substations that deliver electricity to the Northern Electric service territory. East River gets its electricity from the Western Area Power Administration, or WAPA, and Basin Electric Power Cooperative in North Dakota. WAPA and Basin provide East River with power from coal, natural gas, and renewable resources.

In 2016, Basin Electric raised its rates. Those rate increases are passed down to Northern Electric through East River. Northern Electric notified members about the Basin rate increase in August of 2016 and have utilized the power cost adjustment (PCA) in 2017 to offset the increase while Northern Electric's independent engineering firm conducts a comprehensive rate study. The rate study has been ongoing in 2017 and the results of the study will be reflected in the rate changes which will be implemented in 2018.

### **Rate Study**

The 2017 rate study has been one of the most comprehensive studies completed in the history of Northern Electric Cooperative. New technology has given the cooperative access to more data about electric use patterns throughout the service territory. This information is useful in structuring new rates because 45 percent of Northern Electric's monthly power bill paid to East River Electric is based on the electricity being used during one half-hour period of peak demand during the month. This half-hour period is known as the coincidental billing peak.

With new metering technology, the co-op is able to access data that will reflect the demand Northern Electric members are placing on the system during that coincidental billing peak. If Northern Electric members can avoid using electricity, and putting more demand on the East River system, during this billing peak every month the co-op and its members can avoid



paying a premium price for electricity.

## Load Management

Northern Electric currently manages the amount of electricity used during peak times through the load management program. Load management is a way to cycle loads like water heaters, air conditioners, irrigation pivots, and grain bin fans on and off during peak periods of electric use. East River operates the load management system and cycles the electric loads on and off on hot summer afternoons, cold winter nights, and any other period of peak demand. Northern Electric members who have a load management receiver on a water heater, air conditioner, grain bin, or irrigation system receive special rates or credits for helping the co-op avoid the premium cost of electricity during the billing peak. Northern Electric members are encouraged to call a Northern Electric Member Services Representative to enroll or learn more about the program.

## Demand Energy Charge for Large Power Users

Since the load management program was launched in 1985 Northern Electric members have increased their demand for electricity by expanding on-farm grain storage facilities, irrigation systems, large farm shops, and acreages. This expansion has led to the rapid increase of electric load, especially during harvest when grain dryers and fans are running along with other related industrial processes. With the amount of infrastructure that has been built out several farms now have electric loads that are similar to large grain-handling facilities rather than the small residential farms from a few decades ago. If irrigation systems and grain bin fans or dryers are running during the monthly East River peak it has a significant impact on Northern Electric's monthly wholesale power bill to East River.

The rate study conducted by Northern Electric's independent engineer has determined that the co-op must restructure its rates to pass

on the premium power costs of using electricity during the billing peak to the large users who are placing the demand on the system. However, if these large users are willing to reduce their use during the coincidental billing peak they will only pay the demand for their contribution to the billing peak.

This rate structure will give farmers, producers, and business owners the flexibility to control their power bill by conserving energy during peak times and running their processes during off-peak times. This structure not only helps the co-op keep its wholesale power costs low but will also help members at the end of the line control their power costs and conserve energy.

The large users who will be billed under this new structure will have the ability to receive text messages or emails about the monthly billing peak so they have the opportunity to conserve energy and avoid paying those power costs.

The members who will be directly affected by this change will receive communication from Northern Electric over the next several months. If these members have any questions immediately they can call a Member Services Representative at 605-225-0310.

## Residential Members

A residential member with average monthly electric use will likely not see a significant impact on their bill. Northern Electric is still reviewing the rate study to see if changes need to be made to the monthly facility charge or to the kilowatt-hour charge. Currently, the facility charge pays for the fixed costs of the poles, wires, and infrastructure it takes to bring electricity to a home. The kWh, or energy charge, is based on the monthly usage of a home. Residential members should look for updates within the next several months about any changes to these rates in upcoming issues of this publication, the co-op's website at [www.northernelectric.coop](http://www.northernelectric.coop), or through various other co-op communication channels.

# Rate Terminology

**facility charge** The portion of a member's bill which reimburses the cooperative for the poles, wires, equipment, and other non-power costs incurred to generate, transmit, and distribute electricity.

**kWh** The basic measure of electric energy use. kWh stands for kilowatt hours. Typically, most residential members are charged based on the number of kWh that are used every month.

**100 W x 1 hour = .10 kWh**

**100W x 10 hours = 1 kWh**

**kW** The abbreviation for kilowatts. The basic unit of electric demand, equal to 1,000 watts. A measure of both the cooperative's capacity and a consumer's demand or load.

**1 kW x 10 hours = 10 kWh**

**10 kW x 1 hour = 10 kWh**

**demand rate** A pricing structure where a member - usually a large residential, commercial, or industrial member - pays for electricity based on the maximum kW used during times of peak demand.

**coincidental (billing) peak** The amount of power used by a member, or class of members, during a wholesale power supplier's peak.

**capacity** The amount of electric load, measured in watts or kilowatts, needed to power electrical equipment.

# Lending a Helping Hand

*Organization Helps Those in Need Bring In the Harvest*

**D**URING TRAGIC CIRCUMSTANCES, FARMERS AND ranchers usually don't have many options. What happens when a natural disaster, injury, health issue or fatality is experienced by an agricultural family?

Getting the harvest in on time and cutting enough hay for the coming year can become major issues these families face when tragic circumstances occur. So, in the Midwest, farmers are helping farmers.

Farm Rescue – a nonprofit organization created in North Dakota and headquartered in Horace, N.D., just outside of Fargo, is providing help to farmers and ranchers through the organized efforts of volunteers. People from across the nation have volunteered their time and effort to assist agricultural families who need help getting their crops in during a family crisis. This organization's volunteers

not only help harvest and plant crops, but also haul grain and provide donated hay to farmers and ranchers affected by the drought.

Bill Gross, founder and president of Farm Rescue, started the organization in 2005 when it received its nonprofit status. In 2006, volunteers began their harvest heroism helping families in North Dakota. Since then, Farm Rescue has grown. It now offers help to agriculture communities in a five-state region with plans to expand. Currently, this region encompasses North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Montana and Minnesota.

Farm Rescue's Carol Wielenga, program coordinator, said roughly 100 volunteers are called upon every year. They are included in a database of nearly 1,000 nationwide. Most volunteers have an agriculture background and want to get back to the farm.

Jocelyn Romey







Yet, a few come from different demographics. Wielenga said one volunteer was a scientist from NASA.

Ted Smith, director of engineering and operations from Sioux Valley Energy in Colman, S.D., is one of those volunteers who dedicates his time off to helping others. He began his work with Farm Rescue in 2012.

While describing his volunteer services, Smith said, "Some people think I'm crazy to take my vacation time to go work, but I enjoy it...I've worked for really nice folks over the years."

Good deeds are not always easy to act out, however. Smith told one story in which he and his partner set a record for how many times they could become stuck in one day while volunteering.

Smith said, "I don't think anyone has broken our record yet, at least I hope not."

Farm Rescue not only relies on volunteers like Smith, but also sponsors and donors to aid farmers and ranchers.

One donor heavily involved in aiding agricultural families through Farm Rescue is RDO

Equipment Co. From the beginning, this company has been the sole donor of all the equipment needed by volunteers to plant, harvest and haul.

Currently, Farm Rescue employs four full-time employees and is managed by a board of directors. These directors make the qualification decisions of every applicant requesting help from Farm Rescue. Wielenga described the application process as easy and quick. She also noted that many requests for assistance are made anonymously by a friend of the family. Since Farm Rescue assists families who are usually stressed, the application process is simple and has no cut-off date. This ensures that help is available for any family in need.

Information regarding qualification for assistance can be found on Farm Rescue's website [www.farmrescue.org](http://www.farmrescue.org).



**Above:** Volunteers pause from their duties to pose for a photo.

**Top:** A Farm Rescue combine and semi trailer continue the harvest at dusk.

**Opposite Page:** Farm Rescue volunteers harvest soybeans.

**Left:** Farm Rescue volunteers operate an air seeder to help a farm family in crisis during



# Donna Sharp Becomes First Woman To Lead Northern Electric Board



**President**  
Donna Sharp  
District 5  
Bath, SD



**Vice President**  
Randy Kienow  
District 6  
Aberdeen, SD



**Secretary**  
Glen Larson  
District 3  
Aberdeen, SD



**Treasurer**  
Wayne Holt  
District 2  
Aberdeen, SD

**The Northern Electric** Board of Directors elected Donna Sharp of Bath as the cooperative's 20th president at its regular September meeting. Sharp is the first woman to serve as Northern Electric's board president.

"I don't feel like I am any different than any other candidate. We want to serve no matter if we are male or female," Sharp said.

During its regular reorganization meeting following the annual meeting in September the board also elected Randy Kienow from District 6 as the vice president. Glen Larson of Aberdeen will serve as the secretary

of the Northern Electric Board of Directors and Wayne Holt will continue his tenure as board treasurer.

Sharp was elected president after serving as board secretary from 2013 to 2016 and as vice president for the past year. Sharp's husband, Gary Sharp, also served as the president of the Northern Electric Board of Directors from 2008-2013. Sharp says her family has always had a deep commitment to service and community involvement.

"It's part of being in a community and we want to serve the community well," Sharp said.

Kienow takes over the role of vice

president after serving as secretary of the board for the past year. Larson is taking on the first officer position of his tenure after being elected as board secretary. Wayne Holt has served as treasurer since 2012.

Sharp says she is looking forward to serving the cooperative in her new role. She has a positive outlook for the future of Northern Electric.

"The co-op is very strong and very stable. We have a great staff," Sharp said.

"I'm delighted to be able to serve the cooperative in this manner."



## Heating Help Is Available



### **The Low -Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP)**

helps eligible South Dakotans pay for home heating costs. Energy assistance may not pay for all your home heating costs but it will help ease the strain of the heating season. Energy assistance is available from October 1 - May 15.

### **Eligibility for the program is based on:**

- Number of people in household
- Gross income of everyone in household
- Type of heating for the home
- Geographic area you live in

Applications can be obtained by calling **1-800-233-8503**, online at <http://dss.sd.gov/economicassistance/energyassistance/lowincome.aspx>, at the **local Department of Social Services office** or from the **Northern Electric office in Bath, SD.**



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Office of the Assistant Secretary for  
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Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) **fax:** (202) 690-7442; or

(3) **email:** [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

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## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Spending more time in the kitchen during the holiday season? Here's one way to be more energy efficient: Unplug small kitchen appliances, like toaster ovens and microwaves, when not in use. You could save \$10 to \$20 per year.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy



## Regional Dateline

### October 21

Black Hills Opry with Aces and Eights featuring Alan Crossland, Lead, SD 605-584-2067

### October 21

Nelly's Revenge Murder Mystery Dinner Theater Deadwood, SD, 605-580-5799

### October 22

Kidz Bop Kids Best Time Ever Tour, Sioux Falls, SD 605-367-7288

### October 27-28

Harvest Halloween, Yankton, SD info@harvesthalloween.com

### October 27-28

Deadweird, Main Street Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

### October 27-29

Autumn Festival Sioux Falls, SD, 402-331-2889

### October 27-29

ZooBoo, Sioux Falls, SD 605-367-7003

### October 28

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

### October 28

ZOO BOO, Watertown, SD 605-882-6269

### October 29

Trick or Treat Trails, Pierre, SD 605-773-2885

### November 4

78th Annual Lutefisk Feed Summit, SD, 605-881-4377



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHAD COPPERS, S.D. TOURISM

## Events of Special Note

### October 21-January 7

Pheasant Hunting Season Statewide, Pierre, SD 605-223-7660

### November 11

Little Black Dress Event 5 to 9 p.m., Turton, SD 605-635-6153

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.

### November 10-12

Christmas at the Barn Shopping event, Groton, SD 605-216-4202

### November 11

Holiday Extravaganza Sisseton, SD, 605-698-7425

### November 11

Foo Fighters, Sioux Falls, SD 605-367-7288

### November 17-January 7

Winter Wonderland Sioux Falls, SD, 605-275-6060

### November 18-19

Winterfest 2017, A Winter Arts Festival, Aberdeen, SD 605-626-7025

### November 21-December 25

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

### November 24

Annual Parade of Lights Sioux Falls, SD, 605-338-4009

### November 24-December 23

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

### November 25

Holiday Celebration and Winter Market, Rapid City, SD 605-716-7979

### December 1-2

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

### December 1-2, 7-9, 14-16

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

### December 2

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

### December 2

Christmas Parade, Custer, SD 605-673-2244

### December 2-3

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

### December 9

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

### December 9

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

### December 15

Jazz Sessions: A Green Dolphin Jazzy Christmas Concert Spearfish, SD, 605-642-7973

### December 15-17

Sioux Empire Wacipi Sioux Falls, SD 310-922-1886

### December 15-March 31

South Dakota Snowmobile Trails Season, Lead, SD 605-584-3896

### December 31

Make-A-Wish New Year's Eve Dance, Ramkota Hotel and Convention Center Aberdeen, SD, 605-370-4588