

Northern Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Cooperative Connections

OCTOBER 2017 VOL. 18 NO. 6

Coming Up Pumpkins

Page 8-9

Webster, S.D., Celebrates Pumpkin Fest



Capital Credits Distributed As **September Bill Credit**

Northern Electric Cooperative's regular board meeting was held August 23 at the headquarters in Bath with all directors present. As the first order of business, the board approved the July 21, 2017, minutes and July expenditures. The board then reviewed and accepted monthly reports by management including details on financial, operations, member services and communications.

Directors viewed the East River Electric Power Cooperative video report. East River Director Mark Sumption reported on actions taken by the East River Board at the August meeting. South Dakota Rural Electric Association Director Mike McHugh reported that the next SDREA meeting will be held September 28-29, 2017, in Pierre.

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 on legal issues.
- Reminded directors of the 2017 NRECA Regional Meeting, September 20-21 in Minneapolis, MN.
- Reminded directors that ACRE dues are due by August 31, 2017.
- Informed directors of the 2018 NRECA Annual Meeting, February 22-28, in Nashville, TN.
- Reminded directors of the East River Electric Annual Meeting, September 6, 2017, in Sioux Falls.
- General Manager Char Hager and Operations Manager Mike Kelly reviewed the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP) results.
- Informed directors that East River Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. Power Supply Specialist Jeff Rud will be speaking at the Northern Electric annual meeting, September 13, 2017.
- Calendar review of upcoming meetings and events.

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, September 22, 2017.
2. Approved payment of legal fees for Harvey Oliver in the amount of \$2,785.88.
3. Approved Work Order Inventory #17-07 for \$96,014.98 to be submitted to the Rural Utilities Service for reimbursement from loan funds for electric plant construction already completed.
4. Appointed Director Francis Esser voting delegate and General Manager Char Hager alternate for the Basin Electric Annual Meeting, November 8-9, 2017, in Bismarck, ND.
5. Authorized limited board attendance to the Mid-West Electric Consumers Assoc. 60th Annual Meeting, December 11-14, 2017, in Denver, CO and appointed Director Donna Sharp delegate and Director Francis Esser alternate.
6. Appointed Director Nolan Wipf as voting delegate to vote on NRECA director from South Dakota.
7. Approved policy P-8D, Member Attendance at Board Meetings.
8. Approved revisions to Rate Tariffs BR10, BR11, FR10, BR12, BR17 and Sheet 24, Section 15.3.
9. Held Executive Session.

For questions on any of these matters, please ask your cooperative manager, staff or director.

Financial Report		July 2017	July 2016
kWh Sales		25,220,490 kWh	23,596,301 kWh
Electric Revenues		\$2,571,814	\$2,260,882
Total Cost of Service		\$2,403,841	\$2,145,533
Operating Margins		\$167,973	\$115,349
Year To Date Margins		\$217,480	\$424,844
Residential Average Monthly Usage and Bill			
July 2017	1,581 kWh	\$186.56	.1180 per kWh
July 2016	1,501 kWh	\$167.78	.1118 per kWh
Wholesale power cost, taxes, interest, and depreciation accounted for 86.3% 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, **Vice President**

Randy Kienow, **Secretary**

Wayne Holt, **Treasurer**

Fran Esser

Victor Fischbach

Glen Larson

Mark Sumption

Nolan Wipf



Harvey Oliver,
NEC Attorney

Northern Electric Cooperative
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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, Communications Director

Editor's e-mail: bdunsmoor@northernelectric.coop
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NORTHERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is the monthly publication for the members of Northern Electric Cooperative, PO Box 457, Bath, SD 57427. Families subscribe to Northern Electric Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. Northern Electric Cooperative Connections' purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to electric cooperative members on electric cooperative matters and better rural living.

Subscription Information: Electric cooperative members devote 50 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Nonmember subscriptions are available for \$12 annually. Periodicals Postage Paid at Bath, SD 57427.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Northern Electric Cooperative Connections, PO Box 457, Bath, SD 57427; telephone (605) 225-0310; fax (605) 225-1684;

www.northernelectric.coop

TOLL-FREE: 1-800-529-0310

Design assistance by SDREA and TDG Communications



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

Editor's Column

Look Up and Look Around In The Field This Fall

There are a lot of safety catch phrases these days.

'Click it or ticket,' is a campaign by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to remind motorists to buckle their seat belts.

'Over the limit. Under arrest,' is the slogan coined by the U.S. Department of Transportation to curb the deadly practice of drinking and driving and warn drunk drivers about the consequences of their actions.

These phrases are meant to grab your attention and stick in your memory to keep you and others safe while you are driving on our streets, roads, and highways.

As the harvest ramps up this fall, there is another phrase I would like you to remember: 'look up and look around.'

During planting season, Northern Electric crews responded to way too many incidents of farm equipment and heavy machinery hitting poles, power lines, and electrical infrastructure. From the beginning of April to the middle of May there were more than a dozen contacts between machinery and power lines or poles.

Most of these contacts involved a planter or rock roller breaking off poles at the edge of the field as farmers were working this spring. Not only can these incidents be expensive for the equipment operator or landowner who hit the pole, but these situations can also be very dangerous. If a pole breaks the line sags toward the ground creating a hazardous situation for workers in the area, neighbors, or passersby. A majority of the time the line is still energized even when the supporting structure is damaged.

Safety codes require distribution power lines, like the lines Northern Electric Cooperative maintains, to be at least 18.5 feet above the ground. As agricultural equipment gets larger the margin for error around power lines is getting smaller. It is more important than ever before to look up for any power lines as you are driving to your fields this fall, or loading and unloading this year's crop.

It's also important to look around for any pad-mount transformers or underground junction boxes that can

also be struck by heavy equipment. Damage to any of this equipment can be just as dangerous as hitting an overhead power line. The connections inside the boxes can come loose and exposed which means there is not much standing between you and 7,200 volts.

The issue of larger equipment contacting power lines led the electric cooperatives

in eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota to get together this year and launch a campaign called 'Powering Your Safety.' The campaign is meant to bring awareness to the issue and warn equipment operators to be cautious around power lines. It also looks to reinforce the proper steps to take if contact is made with an electrical line.

So, before you head out into the field this fall I would encourage you to visit the website – www.poweringyoursafety.com – and make an effort to, 'look up and look around,' during this year's harvest. That's a catch phrase that can keep us all safe.



Ben Dunsmoor
Communications Director

Fall Electrical Safety Tips

The weather is starting to get cooler and as summer rolls into fall, we thought we'd remind everyone of ways they can keep their homes safe from fires!

Check your smoke detectors. You should test your smoke detectors twice a year – once in the spring, once in the fall. In addition, remember that smoke detectors are designed to last 10 years. If yours is older than that, it's highly recommended that you install a new one. New smoke detector laws that went into effect earlier this year require all new smoke detectors to have 10-year batteries, so you don't have to worry about replacing the batteries along the way.

Check carbon monoxide (CO) detectors. Having a smoke detector isn't enough anymore; if you want to keep your family totally safe, you need to also install a carbon monoxide detector. Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless, and highly toxic gas that can be deadly even in small amounts and can be released by any faulty gas appliance, including furnaces and fireplaces. Your best bet? Install a combination smoke alarm/carbon monoxide alarm for maximum protection.



Inspect your extension cords. With the holidays coming up, you're going to want to make sure your extension cords are in good shape and not damaged or frayed. Any extension cords you're planning on using outdoors should be weather-rated. Inside, make sure you use surge protectors and power strips with internal overload protection and make sure you minimize the amount of adapters plugged into a single outlet.

Be careful with space heaters. Space heaters are convenient, but can be a major fire hazard if you're not careful with them. Make sure there is nothing flammable within three feet of the space heater and never plug it into an extension cord.

Protect your outdoor electrical systems. Any outdoor electrical outlets should be GFCI outlets and covered by a "bubble cover" to keep the elements out. If your electrical service cable is exposed, make sure it's not damaged. During the holidays, don't hang any decorations on or near the cable.

Install arc fault circuit interrupters. These are not required by building codes, but they offer a higher level of protection for your electrical system and are generally highly recommended. Arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCI) are designed to detect an unintended electrical arc and disconnect the power before an electrical fire can start. They are the safest way to protect a home from the risk of electrical fire.

Source: kolbelectric.com

Kids' Corner Safety Poster

"Don't drive under a power line with your bucket high."



Gus Dennis, 9 years old

Gus is the son of Chance and Hope Dennis, Red Owl, S.D. They are members of Grand Electric Cooperative, Bison, 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.



**CO-OPS
COMMIT
To Members**

National Co-op Month | October 2017

Did you know? Co-ops are rooted in values to better serve their members. Co-ops are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality and solidarity.

Pasta Perfection



Creamy Grilled Chicken Piccata

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Chicken: | Pasta: |
| 3 T. lemon juice | 2 cups dried penne |
| 3 T. olive oil | 2 T. butter |
| 1 T. minced garlic | 6 T. lemon juice |
| 1 tsp. salt | 1 T. minced garlic |
| 1/4 tsp. black pepper | 1/2 cup half & half |
| 1/2 tsp. basil | 1/2 cup grated parmesan cheese |
| 2 boneless chicken breasts | 2 tsp. dried basil |
| | 2 T. capers |

Combine first 6 ingredients and mix well. Place chicken and liquid mixture in Ziploc bag and marinate overnight. Grill when done. Cook penne according to package directions; drain, reserving 1/2 cup pasta water. In same saucepan, melt butter over medium heat. Whisk in lemon juice and garlic. Pour in half & half; whisk until hot. Add salt and pepper to taste. Add parmesan cheese, basil and capers; heat until cheese is melted. Check sauce consistency and add pasta water to loosen sauce if necessary. Toss in pasta.

PJ Hansel, Sherman

Bow Tie Pasta

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 2 lbs. ground beef | 1 large jar Pace mild chunky salsa |
| 2 medium onions | |
| 1 (12 oz.) box bow tie pasta | 1 (12 oz.) pkg. mozzarella cheese, shredded |
| 1 jar Cheese Whiz | |

Dice onions and fry with hamburger; drain well. Cook, rinse and drain pasta according to package directions. Stir Cheese Whiz and salsa together well. Combine all ingredients except mozzarella and place in a 9x13-inch pan. Top with mozzarella cheese. Bake at 350°F. for 45 minutes. Enjoy with Italian or garlic bread!

Trudy Moberg, Bruce

Pizza Macaroni

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 2 eggs | 1 onion |
| 1 cup milk | 1 can pizza sauce |
| 2 cups cooked macaroni | Shredded cheese |
| 2 lbs. ground beef, browned | |

Beat together eggs and milk. Add to cooked macaroni; spread on greased cookie sheet. In a saucepan, combine hamburger, onion and pizza sauce; simmer a few minutes. Spread on macaroni mixture. Top with cheese. Bake at 350°F. for 20 minutes. Let set a few minutes before serving.

Kathleen Hahn, Lennox

Ham and Spinach Two-Cheese Pasta

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2 oz. dried whole-grain penne pasta (2/3 cup) | 1/2 tsp. McCormick® mustard, ground |
| 1 (5 oz.) pkg. fresh baby spinach | 1/2 cup evaporated fat-free milk |
| 2 tsp. olive oil | 1/4 cup shredded reduced-fat Italian blend cheese |
| 1/2 cup chopped onion (1 medium) | 2 T. shredded Parmesan cheese |
| 1 T. all-purpose flour | 2 oz. low-sodium ham, cubed |

In a medium saucepan, cook pasta according to package directions. Place spinach in a large colander in sink. Pour pasta over spinach in colander; drain well. Set aside. In same saucepan, heat oil over medium heat. Add onion; cook about 5 minutes or until tender. Stir in flour, mustard, and 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper. Cook and stir for 1 minute. Add evaporated milk all at once. Cook and stir until slightly thickened. Cook and stir for 1 minute more. Stir in Italian blend cheese and half of the Parmesan cheese. Cook and stir until cheese melts. Stir in pasta mixture and ham; stir gently to coat. Divide mixture between 2 10-ounce ramekins or individual casserole dishes. Sprinkle with remaining Parmesan cheese. Bake at 400°F. about 10 minutes or until tops start to brown.

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 332, Total Fat 4g, Sodium 571mg, Cholesterol 27mg, Carbohydrates 37g, Protein 23g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Lasagna

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 8 oz. lasagna noodles | 1/4 C. dried basil |
| 1 lb. ground beef | 1 clove garlic |
| 2/3 (28 oz.) jar spaghetti sauce | 1 (8 oz.) pkg. sliced pepperoni sausage |
| 2 lbs. ricotta cheese | 8 oz. mozzarella cheese, shredded |
| 1/2 cup grated Romano cheese | |
| 1 egg | |

Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Add pasta and cook for 8 to 10 minutes or until al dente; drain. Brown hamburger; drain. In a saucepan, heat spaghetti sauce. In a medium bowl, stir together ricotta cheese, Romano cheese, egg, basil and garlic. Coat bottom of a 9x13-inch baking dish with sauce. Place 3 or 4 noodles in bottom of pan, overlapping edges; cover with sauce. Spread half of the ricotta mixture over noodles. Cover ricotta with half hamburger, half pepperoni slices and 1/4 of mozzarella cheese. Repeat sauce, noodles, ricotta, meat and cheese layers. Layer sauce and noodles again; pour remaining sauce over all, being sure to cover edges. Top with remaining mozzarella. Cover pan with foil and pierce 3 or 4 times with a fork to ventilate. Bake at 375°F. for 45 minutes. Remove foil and bake an additional 15 minutes to brown top.

Courtney Reedy, Tea

Please send your favorite slow cooker, holiday treat and soup 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.

GREAT FUTURES START HERE.



Boys and Girls Club of the Aberdeen Area Opens New Building

Project Received REED Fund Financing

by Ben Dunsmoor

It is something that has never been done before. The Boys and Girls Club of the Aberdeen Area welcomed club members into a new building for the first time this summer.

Since the Boys and Girls Club of the Aberdeen Area started serving youth in northeast South Dakota in 1970 the organization has been located in an old county shop that was built in 1940 and retrofit to house the youth center. There has been a crucial need for a new building for several years and local donors made the dream of opening a new building a reality in 2017.

The club moved into the new \$5 million facility on June 6 with a celebration, and a dedication, that included a visit from national Boys and Girls Club President and CEO Jim Clark.

“This is a shining example of what a Boys and Girls Club should look like and can look like,” Clark said in his remarks during the June 6 ceremony.

Northern Electric Cooperative helped fund the 30,000 square foot building by facilitating a U.S. Department of Agriculture sponsored no-interest loan.



Above: Boys & Girls Club Executive Director Mike Herman (right), gives a tour of the new Aberdeen facility to Annie Donovan (left), director of the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, and Lin VanHofwegen (center) the managing director of Dakotas America.

The Boys and Girls Club also received a second low-interest loan through the Rural Electric Economic Development (REED) Fund which is available for electric co-ops to use on rural economic development projects in their service territories.

“This project was all about giving the children of our area a safe and educational place to go when they are not in school,” Northern Electric General Manager and CEO Char Hager said. “We were proud to partner with the REED Fund to make this incredible project possible.”

Northern Electric Cooperative also helped with the fundraising effort by providing a \$3,000 donation to the capital campaign in partnership with Basin Electric Power Cooperative and East River Electric Power Cooperative.

“It was very gracious of (the electric co-ops) to participate in the capital campaign and the finance piece,” Mike Herman, Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club of Aberdeen Area, said.

The project has truly been transformational for the Boys and Girls Club of the Aberdeen Area. According to club officials attendance has grown over the past six years which has made

the need for a new building more urgent. In just the last few years the average daily attendance has skyrocketed from 80 kids a day to nearly 400 kids a day this summer. The new facility was built to comfortably accommodate between 500-550 members a day. On June 7, the first full day of operation in the new facility, the Boys and Girls Club had an attendance of 521 youth.

“With your (Northern Electric and

“It’s a great time not only for the Boys and Girls Club but for the area. It’s a great asset for Aberdeen and the surrounding area.”

REED Fund) financing and reasonable interest rate we were able to do more for the kids,” Boys and Girls Club of the Aberdeen Area Board President Stacey Bebo said. “It’s allowed us to serve more kids sooner.”

The new facility includes a room that is

only open to teens, a full-size gymnasium, a large commons area with pool tables and games, and several individual learning rooms for crafts and activities. Club members can participate in various scheduled activities or they can explore different free-time activities available throughout the club.

The Boys and Girls Club of the Aberdeen Area also provides nutritious snacks and meals for the members who attend the club. A new kitchen and cafeteria was included in the new building allowing the meal program to accommodate a larger number of kids on a regular basis.

The organization serves youth within a six-county area around Aberdeen and will accept any member regardless of their family’s income level. The cost to attend the club is \$20 a year which makes support from the community even more crucial for the Boys and Girls Club, and makes the completion of the building project a big accomplishment.

“It’s a great time not only for the Boys and Girls Club but for the area,” Herman said. “It’s a great asset for Aberdeen and the surrounding area.”



Pumpkins Galore

PUMPKINS WILL TAKE CENTER STAGE AT A FESTIVAL dedicated to the ubiquitous fall vegetable Oct. 6-7 in Webster, S.D.

What started as a lighted evening parade centered around the orange squash in this northeastern South Dakota town has expanded to a two-day festival celebrating not only pumpkins, but the onset of fall in general.

"It started as a parade first and then became a full-blown Pumpkin Fest," said Marcia Lefman, secretary/treasurer for the Webster Area Chamber of Commerce, which helps organize the festival.

And, there truly is something for everyone.

On Friday, Pumpkin Fest treats and coffee can be found at Webster banks with a bake sale being held at one bank.

At 5 p.m., winners of the Sixth Annual Scarecrow Contest will be announced in both the business and individual categories. (The local Touchstone Energy® Cooperative, Lake Region Electric Association in Webster, took top honors in the 2016 contest.)

"It's all a lot of fun and very festive for fall with the scarecrows and the decorated corners," said Lefman.

Later that evening, coloring contest entries are due and the American Legion hosts the first of two nights of bingo and turkey shoots.

Saturday morning, dozens of pumpkins decorated by area elementary students will be on display at the Day County Arts building.

And, pets get in on the fun in the Pumpkin Costume Contest held on Main Street with prizes for kids, adults and pets.

For adults 21 and over, there's even a poker run, but leave your motorcycle or car at home. Participants in this poker run make it from location to location using a lawn mower, ATV or golf cart as they make stops at five participating businesses to draw their best hand.

At 10 a.m., the Pumpkin King and Queen and Pumpkin Prince and Princess will be announced.

The public can nominate 3- to 5-year-olds for the prince and princess contest and voting takes place at the Dakotah Bank lobby. The King and Queen Contest is also sponsored by the bank, however this year local eating establishments are having a friendly competition by sponsoring the King and Queen candidates. They can be an employee or

Brenda Kleinjan

Below: Dozens of floats are lit up for the Pumpkin Fest Lighted Night Parade on Webster's Main Street. Cover Photo: Mascots of all shapes can be found on Pumpkin Fest floats.

(Photo Courtesy Webster, S.D., Reporter & Farmer newspaper.)





Photo by Lake Region Electric Association

loyal patron of the business (age 45 and older).

The business is allowed to have a container in their premises to help collect votes (dimes, quarters, dollars) for “their candidate.” All funds raised go to Make-A-Wish South Dakota.

Aspiring cooks, bakers and chefs offer a variety of pumpkin-based items as they compete for honors in one of five food categories: pies, cakes, cookies/bars, breads and miscellaneous.

“In the baking contest – pumpkin needs to be the main ingredient,” said Lefman, noting that a past entry of a pumpkin moon pie was pretty memorable.

Baking contest awards are given out at noon and all entries are sampled at 1 p.m.

A unique aspect of the festival is that outside food vendors typically found at larger community events are absent from the Webster festival, allowing for local nonprofit groups and churches to serve food as a fundraiser for the entity. Different groups can be found throughout town offering bake sale items, cotton candy, Indian tacos, BBQs and other treats.

Horse-drawn wagon rides, bounce house inflatables and face painting are just a few of the other activities held throughout the day around town and the Museum of Wildlife, Science and Industry is open Friday and Saturday. A Big Boy Toy Show will be held on the museum’s grounds from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and musical entertainment will be on stage from noon to 3 p.m. In the afternoon, free pony rides are offered for “the wee ones” and a children’s tractor pull will be held at 1 p.m.

Skills Tested at Pumpkin Challenge

The Freedom Church Pumpkin Challenge 2017 begins at 4 p.m. and offers a variety of pumpkin-related events:

Pumpkin Crabwalk Challenge – Open to teens and adults, two-person relay teams attempt a crabwalk while carrying a pumpkin in their lap.

Pumpkin Rumble Wheelbarrow Race – Also open to teens and adults, the two-person teams attempt to race 100 feet with one person acting as the driver and the other as the wheelbarrow. The person in the wheelbarrow position must roll a pumpkin down the race course using either their head or their

hands, while also walking on their hands.

Pumpkin Kids Shuffle – Open to children ages 4 to 8, each member of the two-person relay team will carry a pumpkin 100 feet. First to cross the finish line with the pumpkin wins.

Pumpkin Dumpkin Kids Relay Hop – Kids ages 8 to 12 compete in two-person teams as each team member hops down a 50-foot field while simultaneously gripping a pumpkin between his or her legs. The first team member hands off the pumpkin to the partner who hops back to the finish line in the same fashion.

Pumpkin Chunkin Manly Man Throw – Participants will hurl a big pumpkin as far as they can, with the distance measured from the center point of impact. Winners receive Chamber Dollars, a Manly Man Award and the championship t-shirt.

Pumpkins on Parade

The festival’s shining event takes place as the sun goes down. The Pumpkin Fest Lighted Night Parade begins at 7 p.m. on Main Street. Entries are judged at 6:30 p.m., with prizes awarded for the Most Original, Most Pumpkins and Best Use of Lights.

“The lighted float is a pretty big parade,” said Lefman, noting that the northeast South Dakota event makes for a good day-trip for families. “It’s beautiful with all the lights.”

Above: Lake Region Electric Association in Webster, S.D., will attempt to defend its 2016 Scarecrow Decorating Contest during Webster’s Pumpkin Fest Oct. 6-7. The grand prize was \$50 in Webster Chamber Bucks that was donated from LREA to the local food pantry. The 2016 display glowed with lights at night and stood out during the day with the vibrant color scheme.

Below: Pumpkins decorated by area school children are on display during the festival.



Photo courtesy Webster Area Chamber of Commerce

Farewell To Board President Mike McHugh

Northern Electric Cooperative

Board President Mike McHugh presided over his final monthly board meeting on August 23 at the co-op's headquarters in Bath. After reaching his term limit of serving three consecutive three-year terms, McHugh's last official duties came at the Northern Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting on September 13.

"I've enjoyed it. It has been an educational experience and I am thankful for the opportunity to serve the members of my district," McHugh said.

McHugh was first elected to the board in 2008 to represent members in District 4. District 4 is northeast of Aberdeen and covers the rural areas surrounding the towns of Columbia and Claremont.

"I've enjoyed it. It has been an educational experience and I am thankful for the opportunity to serve the members of my district."

A year after being elected, McHugh's fellow directors voted to appoint McHugh as the board secretary. He served in that position from September of 2009 to September of 2013 when he was elected to serve as the vice president of the board of directors. In 2014, McHugh was also chosen to be the representative for Northern Electric Cooperative on the South Dakota Rural Electric Association board (SDREA).

"SDREA has a large board and it only



Above: Northern Electric Board President Mike McHugh holds a cake following his final board meeting on August 23.

works because of board members like Mike. His quiet, steady leadership was a good fit on our board and he represented the members of Northern Electric admirably," SDREA General Manager Ed Anderson said.

SDREA Board President Doug Heeren also praised McHugh's service on the statewide board.

"Mike is always well prepared for the board meetings and gives a lot of thought to the comments that he makes. We will miss Mike at SDREA and wish him the best in the future," Heeren said.

Nolan Wipf has been selected to replace McHugh as the Northern Electric representative on the SDREA board.

In 2016, McHugh was elected president of the Northern Electric Board of Directors and has presided over the co-

op's monthly meetings for the past year.

McHugh says he has learned a lot about the generation, transmission, and distribution of electricity during his nine years as a director at Northern Electric and his time on the SDREA Board of Directors. However, he believes longer terms would be a benefit to the cooperative.

"There is a steep learning curve on the board so having directors serving for a longer period of time would be beneficial," McHugh said.

McHugh leaves the Northern Electric Cooperative Board of Directors serving as its 19th president. He says he wanted to make the most out of his time in the board room.

"I tried to do my best for the members of the cooperative."

National Co-op Connections Day Is October 6

Are you connected? Help us celebrate the power of human connections by using 'The One Card that Does it All' at local businesses on Friday, October 6, 2017.

October is National Cooperative Month and the members of Northern Electric Cooperative are getting ready to celebrate the cooperative business model by saving big and shopping local with their Co-op Connections Card.

On October 6, 2017, Northern Electric invites you to take advantage of the benefits the Co-op Connections Card provides by participating in the second annual National Co-op Connections Day, sponsored by Touchstone Energy Cooperative employees and member-owners can celebrate this money saving program and receive even more benefits when they use 'The One Card That Does It All®' at participating national and local retailers.

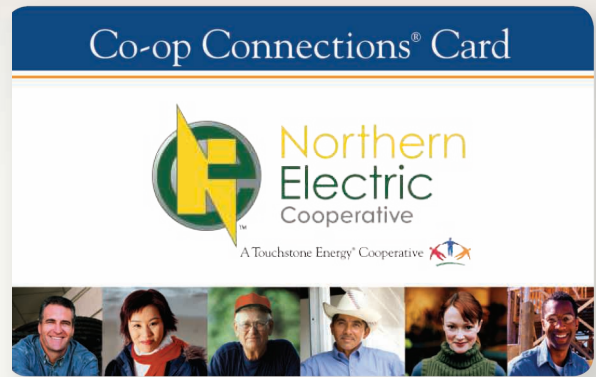
Co-op Connections day will feature special flash deals at www.connections.coop and a social media photo contest that runs throughout the first week of October. Be sure to get involved by sharing photos featuring your Co-op Connections Card with the hashtag #ImConnected on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. You may be announced as the photo contest winner.

Northern Electric encourages all members to get involved and take advantage of the savings and discounts offered on October 6. If you need a new card, download the "Co-op Connections" app, or contact Northern Electric Cooperative at 605-225-0310 or email Communications Director Ben Dunsmoor at bdunsmoor@northernelectric.coop.

If you are a local business wishing to be part of the Co-op Connections program, you can join for no cost to you. Just contact Northern Electric at 605-225-0310 to sign up.

For more information on the Co-op Connections Card program and benefits, visit www.connections.coop.

A list of participating businesses in northeast South Dakota is found on the right side of this page.



Restaurants-Food

Airport Travel Center: HALF OFF fountain drinks and coffee with purchase

Cherry Berry: 15% off a cup of frozen yogurt

Economy Meat Market: Buy 10 lbs. of ground beef get one FREE

Millstone Family Restaurant: 5% off total bill

Papa Murphy's: FREE cheese bread with any pizza purchase

Perkins: 10% off total bill

Qdoba: FREE drink with entree purchase

Stir Fry 88: FREE combo meal after 10th meal

Subway (Redfield): Purchase a six-inch sub and a 30 oz. drink and get a FREE six-inch sub of your choice

Retail

Dunham's Sports: 10% off merchandise (some exclusions apply)

Mainstream Boutique: 15% off two items in the store

Shoe Science: 15% off apparel purchases (some exclusions apply)

Spink County Mercantile: 10% discount on regularly price purchase of \$20 or more.

Services

Hardin's Photography: \$25 off studio session fee

Matador Detailing: \$10 off any detailing service of \$50

Quality Quick Print: Standard 8.5x11 color copies for 20 cents (Limit 100)

Redfield Computer Services: \$10 off phone or tablet repair. FREE personal computer diagnostic. (\$25 value)

Gas and Auto

Exhaust Pros: 10% off parts on service of \$100 or more

Appel Oil Company: 10 cents off per gallon cash discount on all grades of gasoline

Airport Travel Center: 5 cents off per gallon with cash purchase

Health and Wellness

Fisher Grove Country Club: FREE 9 holes of golf with the purchase of 9 holes (valid only once a season)

Profile by Sanford: 50% off startup costs and 20% off products

Snap Fitness: FREE enrollment when you show your card (\$49 value)

Download the FREE app or call
605-225-0310 for a FREE card.



A Brewing Tradition

Brewers Give South Dakota Flavor to Their Craft

HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY, GOVERNMENT AND SCIENCE are topics expected in the classroom, but for South Dakota's growing brewing community, they provide the inspiration and foundation of some uniquely flavored – and named – beverages.

Building on chemistry and biology degrees, Miner Brewing Company's Sandi Vojta incorporates a variety of South Dakota ingredients into one of the more than 80 varieties of drinks that have been created at the Hill City brewery. (Many of the brews are seasonal or limited production, but the brewery's tap room features about a dozen local offerings.)

Located in the heart of the Black Hills and owned and operated by the same family behind the award-winning Prairie Berry Winery, Miner Brewing Company, which opened in the fall of 2013, produces craft beers that are both traditional in

nature and yet uniquely and truly "South Dakota."

By infusing regional and seasonal ingredients, Vojta adapts traditional styles to create craft beers

Brenda Kleinjan

A visitor to the Miner Brewing Company in Hill City holds up two of the company's growlers. About a dozen different varieties are on tap on any given day.



with a regional character.

South Dakota wheat grown by the brewmaster's cousin graces "Miner Wheat" while South Dakota crab apples take the stage in Miner's Raspberry Crab Apple Cider, Pineapple Cider, Kombucha Cider, Fruit Side Dish and Crabby Blonde Ale.

The brewing company's well water is listed in Miner Winter Warmer, Miner Olde Winter Ale, Miner Oktoberfest, Miner Oatmeal Stout, Miner Brown Ale and Miner Black IPA.

Local strawberries and rhubarb are part of Miner Wassup Rhubarb?! while coffee beans from a Hill City coffee shop are included in Miner Third Dimension Ale.

Miner Spring Saison includes dandelions and honey from the Rushmore State and the Miner Rosehip Rye Lager includes handpicked South Dakota rosehips.

The Miner Pumpkin Cranberry Farmhouse Ale is a seasonal drink featuring South Dakota pumpkins while the Miner Imperial Porter features house-roasted South Dakota pumpkins.

For a decidedly local flavor, the Miner Pale Lager is brewed with Black Hills Spruce tips while wild prickly pears harvested at Cactus Flats, S.D., play a role in the Miner Cactus Flats.

The Miner Hippy Hole Gose features South Dakota wild plums, the Miner Black Currant Maibock is made with South Dakota black currants and both the Miner Chokecherry Brown Ale and the Miner Brown Ale have South Dakota chokecherries as an ingredient.

Geography is center stage at Spearfish's Crow Peak Brewing Company, which gets its name from nearby Crow Peak, elevation 5,787 feet.

Crow Peak's Mjollnir Ale is an American brown ale featuring spruce tips while the company's 605 Harvest Pale Ale features hops from 6th Meridian Hops in Yankton, S.D.

Across the state at Wooden Legs Brewery in Brookings, South Dakota crops and local history lore are part of the fabric of the establishment.

The brewery's name is a nod to the city's namesake, Wilmot Wood Brookings. Brookings was a Dakota Territory politician who lost his feet in a horse accident while en route from Sioux Falls



Left: Crow Peak Brewing Company in Spearfish gets its name from the nearby Crow Peak which stands 5,787 feet. **Below:** A growler from Wooden Legs Brewing Company in Brookings. The company gets its name from the city's namesake.

to Yankton for a session of the Dakota Territory Legislature. (Read more about him at <http://wooden-legsbrewing.com/our-name/>)

Among the brewery's offerings are Sanderson Gardens Strawberry Wheat Beer made with strawberries from the landmark strawberry farm near Aurora, S.D.

And, Wooden

Legs' American Oak Aged Broggot Rights mead is made with locally sourced honey from South Dakota and Nebraska.

Wooden Legs' co-owner and head brewer, Seth Koch, is listed as the officer for the South Dakota Craft Brewers Guild, which is establishing itself in the state.

One of the newest breweries in the state, The Bill of Rights Brewery, opened in Pierre in April 2017.

Learn More

The South Dakota Department of Tourism lists about 18 small South Dakota breweries at <https://www.travelsouthdakota.com/explore-with-us/spotlights/good-times-great-beers>. Here you'll find a listing of breweries by region and also a brief write up about each.

Wanting to dive into history? The South Dakota State Archives has an online listing of South Dakota breweries from 1862-1942. The file lists 78 breweries in 17 South Dakota communities (Deadwood had the largest number at 22 while Yankton boasted 13 breweries.) Find the list at <http://history.sd.gov/archives/exhibits/BREWERIES%20OF%20SOUTH%20DAKOTA%201862.pdf>.



Photos by Chad Coppess/South Dakota Tourism

Capital Credits Are Part of How Co-ops Are Special

The Cooperative Principles Guide Co-ops To Be Stewards of Their Communities

EVERY OCTOBER SINCE 1930, NOT-FOR-PROFIT cooperatives of all kinds have recognized National Cooperative Month as a way to educate the public about how co-ops work and to appreciate their many members.

This year, we highlight the notions that guide all co-ops: the seven cooperative principles. These notions lead electric cooperatives like yours to do business in a better way every single day. Here are real-life examples of how the principles affect your cooperative.

No. 1: Voluntary and Open Membership/ No. 2: Democratic Member Control

Co-ops are open to anyone who is able to use its services, which means any person who moves onto co-op lines is allowed membership. Annual meetings serve as a way for members to get to know the people who run their co-op, and it's where members are updated on business matters. Every year your local electric cooperative convenes for its annual membership meeting.

"Democratic member control" means members vote for a director who represents them on a board, which governs the cooperative. Annual meetings also serve as the forum for electing directors

No. 3: Members' Economic Participation

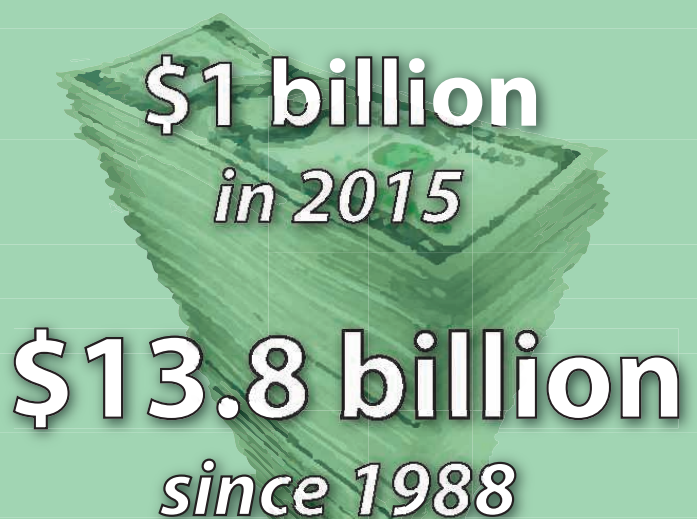
Because electric cooperatives are owned by its members, they do not create profits for distant shareholders. Any excess revenue – called "margins" – is allocated back to the membership in the form of capital credits, or patronage capital. Capital credits are "retired" and then paid back to members each year based on their purchases (in the case of electric cooperatives, electricity) from the cooperative. Margins are used by the co-op as working capital for a period of time, then paid back to individual members.

Your local board of directors sets the policy for how these credits are allocated.

Allocating and retiring excess revenue to members helps distinguish cooperatives. Co-ops are proud to support their communities by putting money back into the local

Did You Know?

Electric cooperatives have retired \$13.8 billion to members since 1988 — \$1 billion in 2015 alone. Because electric co-ops operate at cost, any excess revenues, called margins, are allocated and retired to members in the form of capital credits.



Source: National Rural Utilities
Cooperative Finance Corporation

economy – and into the pockets of those they serve. It makes the co-op business model special.

Nationally, electric cooperatives have retired \$13.8 billion in capital credits since 1988 – \$1 billion in 2015 alone.

No. 4: Autonomy and Independence

Electric cooperatives form a vast network across America. They're found in 47 states, and cooperative-owned electric lines cover 75 percent of the nation's land mass. But what's unique is that each cooperative is an autonomous, independent business.

We work with our co-op neighbors, but the local co-op members are the sole governors of their local cooperative. The member-elected board of directors approves policies and resolutions that guide the way the cooperative does business.

No. 5: Education, Training, and Information

Cooperatives have a charge to keep their members informed – not just about cooperative business, but also about topics like energy efficiency, safety, and community contribution. For example, this publication is one way your co-op keeps its members up on relevant news.

You can also stay informed via your co-op's website and Facebook page.

No. 6: Cooperation Among Cooperatives

Even though co-ops are independent entities, they still rely on one another to share resources, information, and, in some cases, manpower.

Electric co-ops have long relied on one another to get power restored more quickly after severe weather emergencies. Called "mutual-aid agreements," it works just as it sounds: When your co-op needs extra hands after a storm, such as the Christmas Day 2016 storm experienced in many parts of South Dakota, co-ops from neighboring towns and states help out. And when neighboring co-ops need help, your local co-op sends crews to them.

In major storms or disasters, mutual-aid assistance gets power back on so much faster than co-ops can do with just their own crews.

No. 7: Concern for Community

Possibly the most visible of all the cooperative principles, the last is what drives electric co-ops to be good stewards of the communities they serve.

Your local electric cooperative undertakes a variety of projects, from food drives and charity fund-raisers to school safety presentations and other community events.

While cooperatives' first priority is delivering safe, affordable, reliable electricity to those they serve, they also feel strongly about supporting and contributing to the development of our their communities.

Sources: National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation

The Seven Cooperative Principles, Explained

1. Voluntary and Open Membership – Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political, or religious discrimination.

2. Democratic Member Control – Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

3. Members' Economic Participation – Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefitting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

4. Autonomy and Independence – Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

5. Education, Training, and Information – Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives – Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional, and international structures.

7. Concern for Community – While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

Regional Dateline

September 21-24

South Dakota Film Festival
Aberdeen, SD, 605-725-2697

September 21-24

South Dakota Festival of Books
Deadwood, SD, 605-688-6113

September 21-24

First Annual Off Road Rally
Ballpark Road, Sturgis, SD
605-720-0800

September 22-23

Badger Clark Cowboy Music
and Poetry Gathering
Hot Springs, SD, 605-440-1007

September 22-24

North Country Fiber Fair
Watertown, SD, 605-956-7909

September 23

Living History Fall Festival
Groton, SD, 605-715-7117

September 23

Living History Fall Festival
Granary Rural Cultural Center
11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Groton, SD, 605-626-7117
Re-enactors, demonstrations
folk artists, live music, kids'
activities, pie social, old
fashioned spelling bee and
special guest Teddy Roosevelt
Come dressed in pioneer
costume, concessions and gift
shop available on site

September 23-24

Menno Pioneer Power and
Toy Show, Menno, SD
jjnusz@gwtc.net



PHOTO COURTESY OF WEBSTER AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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.

Events of Special Note

October 6-7

Pumpkin Fest and Lighted
Night Parade, Webster, SD
605-345-4668

November 10-12

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

September 23-24

Northern Plains Indian Art
Market, Sioux Falls, SD
605-856-8193

September 24

Sacred Heart Church Annual
Chicken Dinner, 4 to 7 p.m.
\$10 Adults, \$5 Children 6-12
FREE Children under 6
Includes chicken with all the
trimmings and pie for dessert
Westport, SD

September 28-30

Custer State Park
Buffalo Roundup and Arts
Festival, Custer, SD
605-255-4515

September 29-30

Oktoberfest, Deadwood, SD
605-578-1876

September 29-30

Annual Oktoberfest,
Vermillion, SD, 605-624-5571

September 29-30

Sioux Falls PREMIER Rodeo
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7288

September 30

Great Downtown Pumpkin
Festival, Rapid City, SD
605-716-7979

October 1

Fall Volksmarch at Crazy Horse
Memorial, Crazy Horse, SD
605-673-4681

October 4-8

Great Scarecrow Festival
Huron, SD, 605-352-9781

October 6

Jazz with Jami Lynn and Guests
Spearfish, SD, 605-642-7973

October 6-8

Black Hills Powwow
Rapid City, SD, 605-341-0925

October 7

Harvest Fest, Huron, SD
605-352-0000

October 7

Oktoberfest, Aberdeen, SD
605-225-3441

October 7

FestiFall/CandleLight Walk
Canton, SD, 605-987-2263

October 7-8

Quilt Festival, Watertown, SD
605-753-0229

October 7, 14, 20-21

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

October 12-14

Wild West Songwriters Festival
Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

October 14

South Dakota Women's Expo
Huron, SD, 605-353-7340

October 14-15

Dakota Pieces XIV Quilt Show
Sioux Falls, SD, 605-929-5008