

Northern Electric

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

Cooperative Connections

APRIL 2017 VOL. 17 NO. 12



Working with The Grain

Page 8-9

Member **VIP** Tour Set For June 27-28

Northern Electric Cooperative's regular board meeting was held February 20, 2017, at the headquarters in Bath with all directors present except Randy Kienow. As the first order of business, the board approved the January 25, 2017, minutes and January expenditures. The board then reviewed and accepted monthly reports by management including details on financial, operations, member services, safety 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 February meeting. Directors Mark Sumption, Glen Larson, Mike McHugh and General Manager Char Hager reported on the East River Energize Forum held February 1-2, 2017, in Sioux Falls. The next South Dakota Rural Electric Association board meeting will be March 30-31, 2017.

MANAGER'S REPORT

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

- Update and discussion on new and progressing development projects and activities taking place in the community and our service area.
- Brief update on Rural Electric Economic Development (REED) revolving loan fund activities.
- Reminded the board of the 2017 NRECA Legislative Conference, April 23-25, 2017, in Washington D.C.
- Informed the board of the American Coalition for Ethanol Conference, August 15-17, 2017, in Omaha, NE.
- Reported that the VIP Tour will be June 27-28, 2017, in Bismarck and Beulah, North Dakota.
- 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 9:00 A.M. on Thursday, March 23, 2017.
2. Approved payment of legal fees for Harvey Oliver in the amount of \$3,598.40.



3. Approved Work Order Inventories #17-01 for \$124,221.09 and #17-01MC for \$6,416.79 to be submitted to the Rural Utilities Service for reimbursement from loan funds for electric plant construction already completed.

4. Authorized board attendance to the Cooperative Finance Corp. Forum, June 11-14, 2017, in San Antonio, TX.

5. Ratified president's previous execution of Thomas Coburn's engagement letter for legal representation and the PURPA Agency Agreement with Basin Electric Power Cooperative regarding PURPA related matters.

6. Held Executive Session.

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

Financial Report – January 2017

	January 2017	January 2016
kWh Sales	33,369,625 kWh	31,311,414 kWh
Electric Revenues	\$2,677,995	\$2,470,053
Total Cost of Service	\$2,590,144	\$2,267,173
Operating Margins	\$87,851	\$202,880
Patronage Margins	\$89,875	\$204,357

Residential Average Monthly Usage and Bill

January '17	3,584 kWh	\$285.08	.0795 per kWh
January '16	3,403 kWh	\$267.81	.0787 per kWh

Wholesale power cost, taxes, interest and depreciation accounted for 84.9% 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

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

Harvey Oliver,
NEC Attorney

Management Staff

Russel Ulmer, Manager of Member Services/Marketing
Mark Fischer, Manager of Wireless 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
NEC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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;

NEC Web site: www.northernelectric.coop

Design assistance by SDREA and TDG Communications



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

Editor's Column

On April 10 #ThankALineman

EVERY YEAR, ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES take the time to thank our extraordinary linemen who dedicate their lives to keeping the lights on in communities across the country. In March, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association posted a picture gallery on its website – electric.coop - of its 75th annual meeting. One picture shows the back of an attendee's t-shirt that reads: *'If you can read this, thank a teacher. If you can read this at night, thank a lineman.'* Thanking linemen for ensuring electricity remains safe and reliable is exactly the purpose behind National Lineman Appreciation Day.

Northern Electric Cooperative linemen work to maintain more than 2,600 miles of line in our service territory, and without them, our region would be dark. We depend on our entire co-op staff to keep Northern Electric running smoothly for our members, but on April 10, we especially honor all linemen who often find themselves in dangerous and challenging situations, so our lives may be a little bit brighter and safer every day. Linemen repair damaged lines and maintain critical infrastructure for communities across the country. Without their hard work

and commitment to the job, our co-op would not thrive. No matter the time—day or night, weekday or weekend—if the lights go out, so do they.

Maybe you have seen them raising their bucket trucks in howling winds, or in freezing, icy conditions. They work around the clock near high-voltage power lines until electricity is restored to every member in our co-op community.

But, as you will read in this issue of *Cooperative Connections* (page 6) a lineman's work doesn't just involve restoring electricity during storms. Crews spend countless hours every year combing through the system and conducting maintenance work so small issues don't create bigger problems later.

The 14 linemen who work for Northern Electric have more than 250 years of combined experience and are critical to the success of the co-op. We hope you will join us in thanking the many line crews—both locally and around the world—that light our lives. Remember, your power works because they do. ■



Ben Dunsmoor
Communications Director



Please, use #ThankALineman on social media to show your support on April 10.

facebook.com/NorthernElectricCooperative

Paying the Price of Power Theft

It's often an "invisible" crime. Someone illegally hooks into a power supply, hooks up a line that has been disconnected or tampers with a meter to avoid recording electricity usage. Legitimate electricity consumers do not engage in these behaviors, so the impact of electricity theft – including the danger – is often unrecognized.

Power theft carries deadly risks. Many thieves pay for the power they steal with their lives. Electricity theft is not just dangerous for those who steal.

If you are on the same power line as someone who steals electricity, you could pay the cost for their theft too. The power line could become overloaded with electric energy, which could harm your electronics and appliances that are designed to receive a certain, steady amount of electricity. Electricity theft makes power service less reliable and lower quality for paying customers.

Electricity thieves may also unknowingly feed energy back into the power line. This is dangerous for linemen who may assume that the power line they are working on is de-energized.



Safe Electricity reminds that everyone can help prevent and reduce power theft:

- Notify your electric utility immediately if you know of an illegally connected consumer.

- Do not cut the seal on

your meter base or tamper with your own meter for any reason.

- Apply for a legal connection if you do not have one.

- Remain aware of your surroundings and report any suspicious activities to your electric utility.

Most electrical theft crimes occur through meter tampering, bypassing meters and tapping power lines. Other less frequent crimes include tapping into neighboring premises, using illegal lines after being disconnected, self-reconnection without consent and electrifying fences. Possessing fraudulent electricity bills is also a federal crime and is punishable by law.

Everyone is affected by power theft and detecting and reporting illegal activity will help reduce the price paid.

Source: safeelectricity.org

10th Annual National Safe Digging Month

Always call 811 a few days before digging

April marks the 10th annual National Safe Digging Month, which reminds residents to always call 811 72 hours before any digging project. National Safe Digging Month is formally recognized by the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate and has traditionally earned the support from nearly every state governor across the country.

When calling 811, homeowners and contractors are connected to the local one-call center, which notifies the appropriate utility companies of their intent to dig.

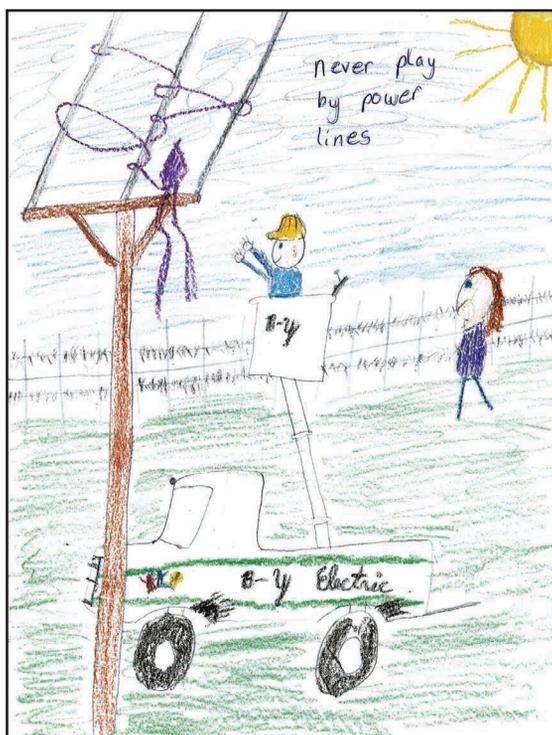
Professional locators are then sent to the requested digging site to mark the approximate locations of underground lines with flags, paint or both.

Every six minutes an underground utility line is damaged because someone decided to dig without first calling 811. Striking a single line can cause injury, repair costs, fines and inconvenient outages. Every digging project, no matter how large or small, warrants a call to 811. Installing a mailbox, building a deck and planting a tree or garden are all examples of digging projects that should only begin a few days after a call to 811.

"As April marks the traditional start of digging season, we are using this month to strongly encourage individuals and companies to call 811 before they begin digging," said Larry Janes, Executive Director of South Dakota One Call. "By calling 811 to have the underground utility lines in their area marked, homeowners and professionals are making an important decision that can help keep them and their communities safe and connected."



Kids' Corner Safety Poster



"Never play by power lines."

Addison Hovorka, 9 years old

Addison is the daughter of Roger and Audra Hovorka, Tabor, S.D. They are members of Bon Homme Yankton Electric Association, Tabor, 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.

Appetizers and Beverages



Hot Cocoa Mix

- 1 large box instant dry milk
- 1 (6 oz.) jar of Coffee Mate
- 1 (16 oz.) box Nestles Quick
- 1 cup powdered sugar

Combine all ingredients and store in air-tight container. Add 1/4-cup mixture to 1 cup hot water. Top with marshmallows, if desired.

Emily Luikens, Tea

Easy Sausage Appetizers

- 1 lb. sausage
- 8 oz. shredded or grated sharp Cheddar cheese
- 2 cups baking mix

Crumble uncooked sausage with cheese. Mix in baking mix. Shape into small balls. Place on ungreased cookie sheet or parchment paper. Bake at 375°F. for 20 to 25 minutes until browned.

Elaine Rowett, Sturgis

Holiday Punch

- 11 cups water, divided
- 1 (46 oz.) can pineapple juice
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 tsp. almond extract
- 1 (6 oz.) pkg. red gelatin

Boil together 2 cups water and sugar for 1 minute. Remove from stove and stir in gelatin. Pour into 5-quart plastic container. Add remaining ingredients. Mix well, cover and freeze. Three hours before serving, remove from freezer. When soft, break up with spoon and fluff with electric mixer.

Clarice Roghair, Okaton

Texas Caviar

- 1 can shoepeg corn
- Cilantro, to taste
- 1 can pinto beans
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 can black-eyed peas
- 3/4 cup apple cider
- 1 small jar pimento
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 1 red pepper, chopped
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 green pepper, chopped
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 1 jalapeno pepper, chopped
- Scoop chips
- 1 medium onion, chopped

Drain and rinse corn, beans, peas and pimento. Combine sugar, cider, oil, salt and pepper. Mix together all vegetables and marinate in dressing. Serve with chips.

Brad James, Vermillion

Country Ham and Swiss Dip

- 1 cup milk
- 1 cup cubed ham
- 1 pkg. McCormick® Pork Gravy Mix
- 1/2 cup shredded Swiss cheese
- 1 (8 oz.) container whipped cream cheese
- Pickle chips, optional
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- Sliced baguette or crackers
- 1 T. yellow mustard

Gradually stir milk into gravy mix with whisk in medium saucepan. Stirring frequently, cook on medium heat until gravy comes to boil. Reduce heat and simmer 1 minute. Stir in cream cheese, mayonnaise, mustard and ham. Spread mixture in glass pie plate sprayed with no stick cooking spray. Sprinkle with cheese. Top with pickles, if desired. Bake at 350°F. for 20 minutes or until cheese is melted. Serve with sliced baguette or crackers. Makes 16 servings, 2 T. each.

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 95, Total Fat 7g, Saturated Fat 7g, Cholesterol 21mg, Sodium 323mg, Carbohydrates 4g, Dietary Fiber 0g, Protein 4g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Dried Beef Log

- 1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened
- 1/3 cup chopped green olives
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1-1/2 oz. dried beef, finely snipped
- 1 T. prepared horseradish
- Crackers

Blend cream cheese, Parmesan cheese and horseradish. Mix in olives. On waxed paper, shape mixture into 2 6-inch rolls. Wrap and chill several hours or overnight. Roll in snipped beef. Slice and serve with crackers.

Tina Haug, Pierre

Tortilla Pinwheels

- 1 (8 oz.) container sour cream
- 1 cup grated Cheddar cheese
- 1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup chopped green onion
- 1 (4 oz.) can diced green chili's, drained
- Garlic salt to taste
- 1 (4 oz.) can diced black olives
- 8 to 10-inch tortilla shells
- 1 (2 oz.) can diced jalapeno's
- Salsa, if desired for topping or dipping

Mix thoroughly all filling ingredients. Divide filling and spread evenly over tortilla shells. Roll up tortillas. Place on individual pieces of plastic wrap and roll tightly. Refrigerate overnight. Unwrap tortillas; cut in slices 3/4- to 1-inch thick. An electric knife works great for this. Lay pinwheels flat on plate to serve. Top each pinwheel with a small amount of salsa, if desired.

Monica Johnson, Marion

Please send your favorite casserole, dairy or dessert recipe to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in June 2017. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

A Lineman's Job: Pay Attention To 'The Little Things'

by Ben Dunsmoor



Above: Line Foreman Terry Lundberg (on truck) and Apprentice Lineman Steve Beck (kneeling) sink a new anchor into the ground to repair a guy wire.



Above: Apprentice Lineman Brian Hansen repairs a broken wire tie found during spring line survey.

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LINEMEN have high profile jobs when the power is out. Consumers look to these specialized crews to venture out at all hours of the day and turn their electricity back on. However, a lineman's job doesn't only involve storm restoration jobs and working in harsh weather conditions. The daily work that linemen do when they punch the clock Monday through Friday is just as crucial to keeping the lights on for co-op members.

Every spring it's the little things that linemen look for throughout the system that can make a big difference down the road. When load limits go on in the spring linemen transition from construction mode to line survey work. Crews have a two-year schedule to drive all 2,600 miles of Northern Electric Cooperative distribution line during the annual line survey.

"It's important," Northern Electric Operations Manager Mike Kelly said. "Line survey involves looking for frayed strands, broken tie wires, and guy wires."

Guy wires are the lines that extend to the ground to support a power pole. The anchor that secures the guy wire to the

ground often corrodes over time because of soil conditions. While a broken anchor or loose guy wire may seem like a small problem it's important that it is fixed.

"They're very important. If you get some ice or wind it holds up that section of the line," Kelly said.

Broken tie wires that hold the line to the pole also need attention to ensure a safe system.

"It may just be a little thing like a loose bolt but that loose bolt leads to another loose bolt and bigger problems down the line," Northern Electric Journeyman Lineman Ben Peterson said.

Linemen also inspect meters and meter connections during line survey to ensure that all equipment is properly maintained. Crews keep a list of the problems they find and then go back and fix the issue. Those small repairs prevent major problems later.

"It's the little things that when a storm does roll through it is going to help," Kelly said.

Which is why the annual line survey focuses on going through the system with a fine-tooth comb in hopes of preventing problems down the line.

#ThankALineman

NATIONAL LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY.

APRIL 10, 2017



**Terry Lundberg
36 Years**



**Jerry Weber
34 Years**



**David Appel
34 Years**



**Darvin Dickhaut
35 Years**



**Kenny Swanson
30 Years**



**Tyler Marken
27 Years**



**Marty Newman
25 Years**



**Ben Peterson
11 Years**



**Chris Piehl
7 Years**



**Lance Dennert
5 Years**



**Shawn Evans
17 Years**



**Steve Beck
4 Years**



**Sean Schwartz
2 Years**



**Brian Hansen
1 Year**

Working with Wood

Co-op Board Member Makes Handcrafted Creations

NORTHERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE BOARD president Mike McHugh finds inspiration for his woodworking projects in many places. If you step into his Brown County home, you'll see some of those projects filling up many spaces.

"I like to see pictures of something and then go build it," McHugh said.

Like the first table, he built out of a piece of wood known as 'flame birch' that now sits in the living room of his house just eight miles north of the Northern Electric Cooperative headquarters. McHugh, who also sits on the South Dakota Rural Electric Association board, crafted the table after seeing a picture of a similar one about eight years

ago. His wonder for the world of woodworking has continued to grow ever since he finished the piece.

"After I quit farming, and semi-retired from farming, it was something to do,"

McHugh said.

McHugh took over the family farm after he graduated from college and cultivated crops and corralled cattle for several decades before he retired in 2000.

He went to work for Wells Fargo following his time on the farm until he retired for good in 2014, which is when he really started

kicking up dust in the woodshop he retrofit in the back of his old horse barn.

"Really when I got started was in 4-H," McHugh said.



Ben Dunsmoor



McHugh made a few projects during his 4-H days as a kid on the farm after his dad purchased a piece of equipment called a Shopsmith, but in the past few years, McHugh has made everything from tables to bowls to the gavel he now uses to preside over monthly meetings at Northern Electric.

“I’ll probably spend 15 to 18 hours a week (in the shop),” McHugh said about the time he spends on his various projects.

But McHugh points out that his woodworking is different than a full-time job because he can create the projects he wants to make when he wants to make them.

Two years ago, he built a large entertainment center that now sits in the middle of his living room. He was shopping online with his wife, Mary, for a piece that would hold their flat-screen TV when they found one they liked but sticker shock deterred them from adding it to their cyber shopping cart. McHugh said he would build one instead. The McHughs ended up with a handcrafted oak ensemble that now supports their 60-inch flat screen.

Woodworking in the Great Plains, however, can be difficult because there is often a lack of product to produce projects.

“Trying to find the wood can be a challenge,” McHugh said.

It’s why he keeps his eyes open as he travels for exotic slabs that he can craft. Last summer he built two coffee tables out of California redwood. He has two more unfinished pieces of redwood sitting in his shop ready to be turned into furniture.

“It’s relaxing and it’s still challenging,” McHugh said.

The fruits of most of McHugh’s labor have ended up in the homes of family and friends, but he’s running out of corners in his own home for new hand-crafted pieces. He said he may try selling a few items at festivals and ‘arts in the park’-type events this summer, but he cautions that it’s not going to be a job; just something he likes to do.

“It’s just the challenge of it that I enjoy.”

Which is why he will continue to search for inspiration anywhere he can find it as he makes plans for future creations.



Left: Two tables McHugh made from California Redwood trees last summer.

Opposite Page, Inset: Among McHugh’s creations are “crazy bowls.”

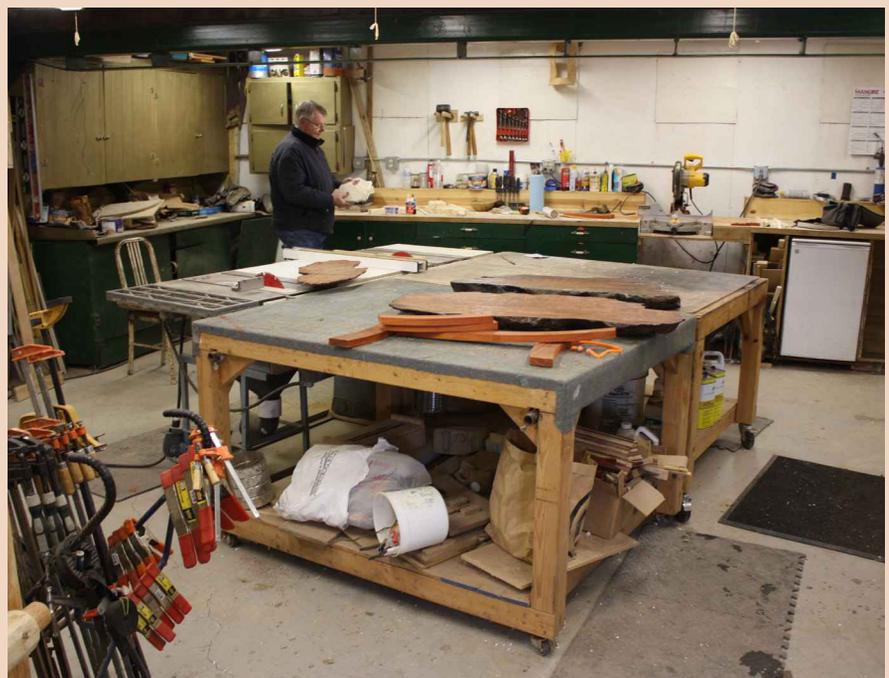
Below: The first table Mike McHugh made from wood known as ‘flaming birch.’

Below: McHugh’s creativity is not limited to just his wood projects. Here, a repurposed baby stroller serves as a portable clamp cart.



Left: A clock McHugh made out of a wood burl sits on a shelf of the hand-crafted entertainment center in McHugh’s living room.

Below: Mike McHugh works in his shop at his farm north of Bath, S.D. **Opposite Page:** An entertainment center McHugh built himself two years ago.



Watch Out For Power Poles During Controlled Burns This Spring



Poles that are burned can become a weak point in the cooperative system.

by **Ben Dunsmoor**

Above and opposite page: A power pole is charred following a controlled burn in Brown County last summer.

NORTHERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE would like landowners to be aware of co-op power poles and electrical equipment when they are conducting controlled burns this spring.

Controlled burns are an effective way to clear brush, debris, and weeds but controlled burns can also lead to costly damage to infrastructure.

“Poles that are burned can become a safety hazard and create a weak point in the cooperative system,” Northern Electric Operations Manager Mike Kelly said.

Burning a power pole could result in a widespread power outage and can be expensive for the individual responsible for the fire.

Before landowners begin a controlled burn, they should cut all grass and weeds near the poles to reduce

fire hazards. The U.S. Department of Agriculture advises the removal of all dead trees within 20 feet of the planned blaze. Property owners should also water the ground near the poles, however, they should be careful to keep water streams out of power lines.

If a power pole catches fire, landowners should call 911 and alert Northern Electric immediately to handle any possible electrical dangers. Water and electricity do not mix so landowners should never spray water on a pole to put out a fire. A pole that catches fire can create electrocution hazards to those who may be nearby. Even if the fire appears to burn out, landowners should still alert Northern Electric about the fire because the creosote, a preservative on the inside of the pole, could still be burning from the inside out.

Local Burning Regulations

Before beginning a controlled burn, it is also important to research laws and regulations. If a landowner is burning within three miles of the Aberdeen city limits a permit is required. Burn permits are free and can be picked up at the main Aberdeen fire station.

If property owners are burning in rural areas of Brown County they must call into the Brown County Communications Center to notify authorities before the fire is lit and after the controlled burn is extinguished. In Spink County, property owners are also asked to call into the sheriff’s office to notify officials about any planned fire.

Landowners also need to have natural or man-made fire breaks in place and are asked to watch the weather to ensure conditions are favorable for a fire.



“We always advise people to keep an eye on the weather the day of, and for the days to come, to make sure the wind won’t come up,” Brown County Emergency Manager Scott Meints said.

The Brown County Emergency Management Office suggests that the wind does not exceed 15 miles per hour during a controlled burn and that the temperature is below 75 degrees with a relative humidity under 20 percent. Monitoring the fire after it is lit is also crucial to a safe and successful controlled burn.

“Mainly keeping an eye on it is the big thing,” Meints said, “so if something does go haywire we can catch it now instead of 300 acres later.”

“Keeping an eye on it is the big thing so if something does go haywire we can catch it now instead of 300 acres later.”

Burning Safety Tips



Always follow local burning regulations and contact authorities before a fire is lit.



Only burn when the wind is less than 15 mph before, during, and after a fire.



Clear grass, weeds, and debris around power poles to reduce fire hazard.



NEVER USE WATER to put out a power pole that is on fire.



Call 911 and contact local co-op immediately if a power pole starts on fire.



BE PREPARED BEFORE A STORM STRIKES

In the event of a power outage, be prepared by keeping the following items in an easy-to-find emergency supply kit.



■ WATER

Three-day supply, one gallon per person per day.



■ TOOLS

Flashlight, extra batteries, manual can opener, battery-powered or hand-crank radio, NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert.



■ FIRST AID KIT AND PRESCRIPTIONS

First aid supplies, hand sanitizer and at least one week’s supply of prescriptions and medications for the family.

Learn more at www.ready.gov



Source: American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Private Generation

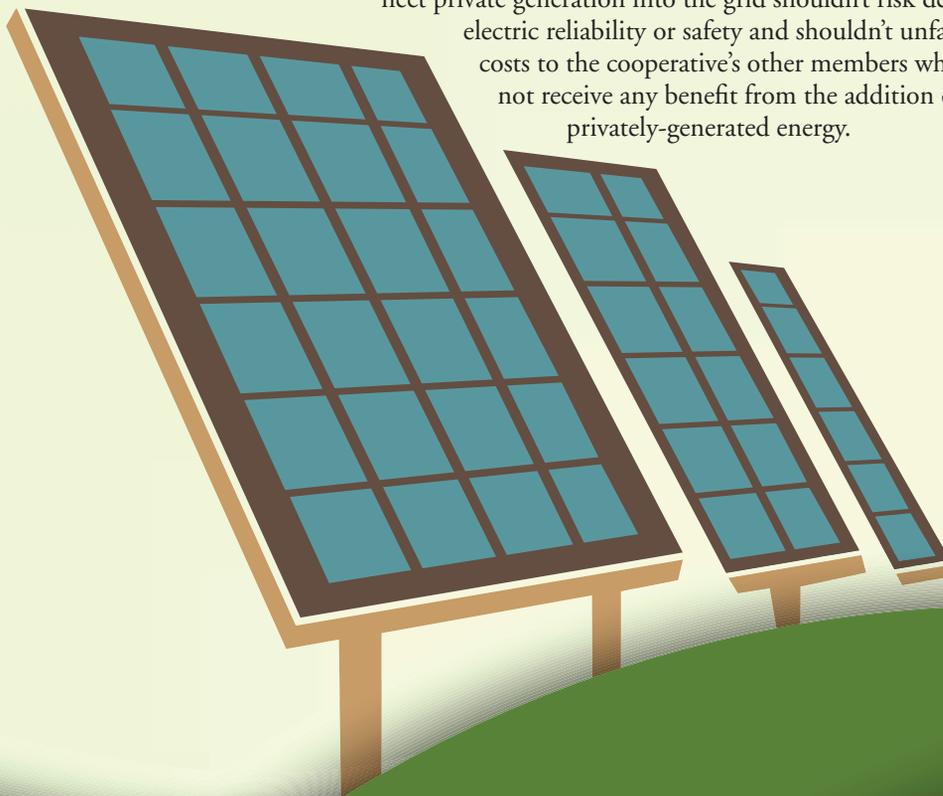
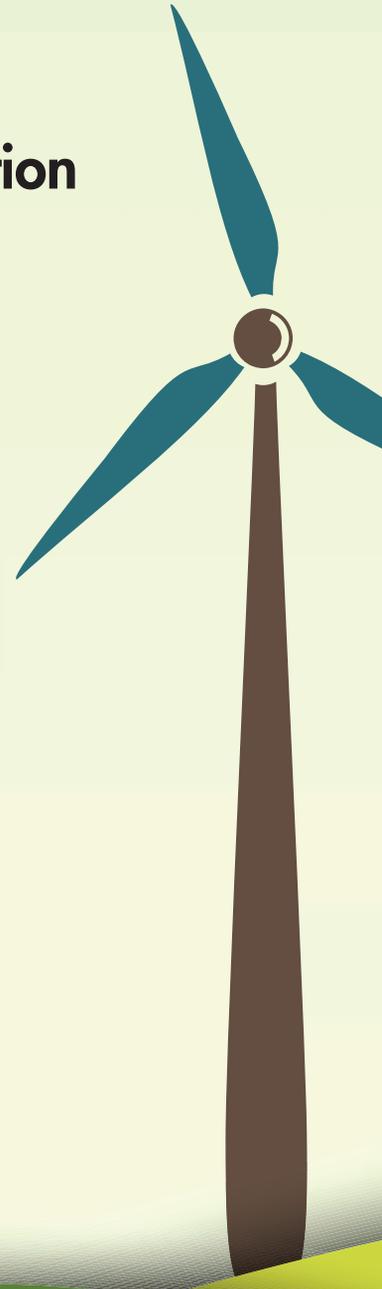
Supporting cooperative members through a responsible approach to distributed generation

What Is Private Generation?

Private generation (also known as distributed generation) is the generation of electric power from a energy source, such as wind or solar. Private generation systems are built at a member's location and are designed to offset or supplement electricity generated by the local utility.

A common form of private generation is the use of solar panels to generate electricity at a home. The electricity generated is typically used to satisfy a portion of a homeowner's energy needs. If generation exceeds a home's usage, the extra energy may be sold back to the electric cooperative at a pre-specified rate.

Adding private generation to the grid must be done in a responsible manner. In the view of electric cooperatives, regulatory requirements to interconnect private generation into the grid shouldn't risk degrading electric reliability or safety and shouldn't unfairly shift costs to the cooperative's other members who do not receive any benefit from the addition of the privately-generated energy.



As interest in private generation rises, cooperatives continue assessing their rate structure to ensure those rates match the changing grid.

For example, we must assess whether the rate the cooperative pays a member for excess privately-generated energy that flows back on the grid accurately reflects the value of that energy. If the rate paid for privately-generated energy is inflated, the cooperative's other members are the ones who ultimately pay the price, resulting in a cost shift.

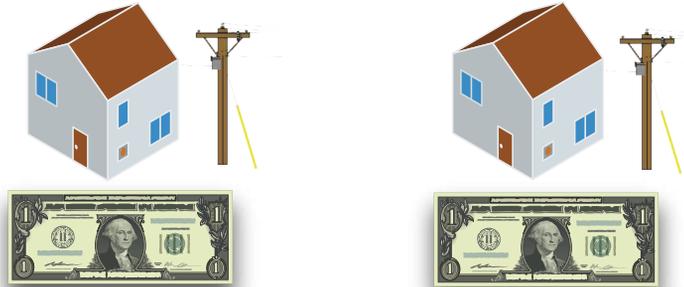
We must work together as a cooperative family to integrate private generation sources onto the grid in a manner that won't shift costs to members who won't stand to benefit from those private energy sources.

As a not-for-profit, member-owned cooperative, our primary focus remains providing the reliable, affordable and safe energy that you need to power your home. Any margins (profits) are invested into the electric system or allocated to our member-owners in the form of capital credits.

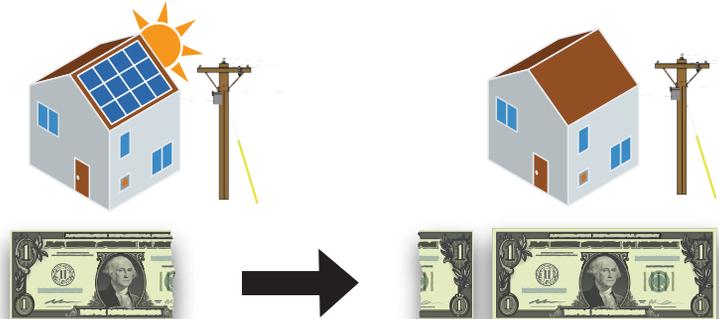
Co-ops Support Renewables

Electric cooperatives are committed to further diversifying their energy generation portfolio and are continuing to add more renewables to the mix. The amount of renewable energy added to the electric co-op power supply mix continues to rise.

Two member homes before private generation. Power costs are similar, fixed costs are shared equally.



Two member homes after private generation was installed in the form of solar panels. Power costs are reduced for the member with solar. Fixed costs are shifted unfairly to the member without private generation.



If you have questions about whether private generation is worth the investment, contact your local electric cooperative to find out more.

Cooperative Scholarships Awarded



Roman Orr



Lily Cutler

FIRST-YEAR BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY student Roman Orr has already accomplished a lot in his life. He is an Eagle Scout, was the captain of the football and basketball teams at Aberdeen Central High School, and went on a two-year mission trip to Guatemala after he graduated from high school. But, Orr has even bigger plans for the future. Orr is currently majoring in political science at BYU and wants to go to law school following the completion of his undergraduate degree. On March 1, Orr was named as the recipient of the \$1,000 Basin Electric Power Cooperative scholarship. He says it will go a long way in helping him achieve his goals.

“Hopefully it’s an investment in me that I’ll be able to put to good use,” Orr said.

Orr was one of 16 students who sent in applications in February for the scholarship program.

Lily Cutler, who is in her first year at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, was another applicant. Cutler

was awarded the \$500 scholarship from Northern Electric Cooperative.

“It will allow me to continue my education at Mines and allow me to be able to focus on my education without having to worry as much about how to finance it,” Cutler said.

Cutler is pursuing a double major in chemistry and chemical engineering at School of Mines with a Political Science minor. She currently has a 4.0-grade point average and wants to pursue her Ph.D. following graduation. She hopes to someday find cures for untreatable diseases and illnesses and has aspirations of becoming a state legislator.

Like Cutler, Orr also has a 4.0 GPA at BYU and says the \$1,000 scholarship will help him with his studies.

“I try to focus a lot on my grades so I don’t work a lot during the school year so I focus a lot on the scholarships,” Orr said.

Scholarships that will be used now so Orr and Cutler can continue to pursue their goals for the future.



2017 Youth Excursion Application Deadline April 26, 2017



WHO: High School students of Northern Electric members



WHAT: During this FREE trip, teens will tour power plants, wind farms, and participate in fun group activities



WHEN: July 24-27, 2017



HOW: Send in the application on this page to PO Box 457 Bath, SD 57427 or apply online at www.northernelectric.coop



2017 Youth Excursion Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

School: _____

Present Year In School: _____

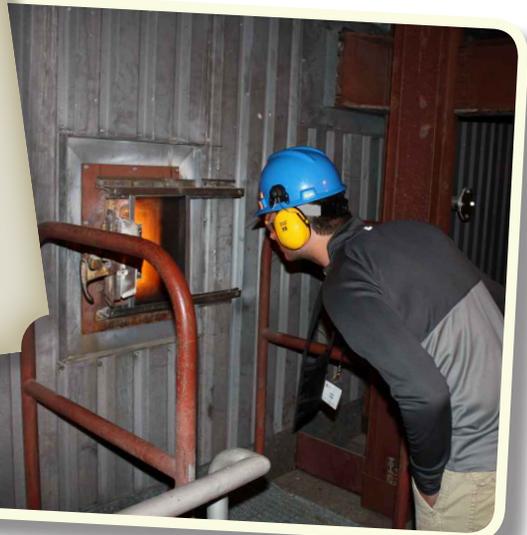
T-Shirt Size: _____





2017
BISMARCK, ND • BEULAH, ND
JUNE 27-28, 2017

NORTHERN ELECTRIC
VIP TOUR



2017 VIP TOUR

WHO: All Northern Electric Cooperative consumers can apply for the VIP Tour; even if they have gone on the tour before.

WHAT: Tour Basin Electric Power Cooperative headquarters, the Garrison Dam, a coal mine, the Antelope Valley Station power plant, and the Dakota Gasification plant in Beulah, North Dakota.

WHERE: Bismarck and Beulah, North Dakota

DATES: June 27-28, 2017

COST: FREE (bus, meals, and lodging are covered by the cooperative. Members must bring their own shopping/spending money)

APPLY: Mail in the completed form below or apply online at www.northernelectric.coop by **May 26, 2017**.

NORTHERN ELECTRIC VIP TOUR:

Name: _____
Address: _____
E-mail: _____
Phone: _____

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS MAY 26, 2017

Return form to: Northern Electric
Attn: Kay Albrecht
PO Box 457
Bath, SD 57427

Regional Dateline

December 15-March 31
South Dakota Snowmobile
Trails Season, Lead, SD
605-584-3896

March 24
Mother King In Concert
Spearfish, SD, 605-642-7973

March 24-25, March 31-April 1
59th Annual Schmeckfest
Freeman, SD, 605-925-4237

March 24-26
Black Hills Home Builders
Home Show, Rushmore Plaza
Civic Center, Rapid City, SD
blackhillshomebuilders.com

March 25
SD All-State Band Concert,
Lorang Theatre, Sioux Falls, SD

March 25-26
SD State AAU Wrestling
Tournament, Rushmore Plaza
Civic Center, Rapid City, SD
605-394-4115

March 28
Badlands Bad River Regional
Job Fair and Business Expo
School Fine Arts Building
Philip, SD, 605-441-2059

March 30
I Love The '90s Tour
Rushmore Plaza Civic Center
Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4115

March 31-April 1
Holiday Arts Spring Craft
Show, Friday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Masonic Temple, Mitchell, SD
605-248-2526



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHAD COPPERS, S.D. TOURISM

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

March 24
SPURS Spring Dance with
Dustin Evans & Good Times
Band, Dakota Event Center
8 to 11 p.m., Tickets at SPURS
and the Hitch 'N Post
Aberdeen, SD, 605-226-1099

April 26-29
Black Hills Film Festival
Hill City, SD, 605-574-9454

March 31-April 2
Professional Bull Riders
Built Ford Tough Series
Sioux Falls, SD
605-367-7288

April 1
Spring Fling Home & Garden
Show, Hot Springs, SD
605-745-4140

April 1
Lunafest Film Festival
Custer, SD, 605-517-1664

April 1-2
Art Show, Community Center
Faulkton, SD, 605-598-4160

April 3-9
American Indian Awareness
Week, Spearfish, SD
605-642-6578

April 7-8
Forks, Corks and Kegs
Food and Wine Festival
Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

April 8
Winefest Renaissance 2017
Aberdeen, SD, 605-225-8714

April 20
Peter Mawanga and the
Amaravi Movement
Spearfish, SD, 605-642-7973

April 22-23
Banff Mountain Film Festival
World Tour, Rapid City, SD
605-394-4101

April 28-May 7
The Last Five Years Community
Theater, Mitchell, SD
605-996-9137

April 30
Lorie Line in Concert at the
Abbey, Marvin, SD
605-398-9200

May 5-7
Naja Shrine Circus
Rushmore Plaza Civic Center
Rapid City, SD, 605-343-4076

May 6
Frühlingsfest and Spring
Market, Rapid City, SD
605-716-7979

May 6-7
23rd Annual Bike Show Dako-
ta Events Center
Aberdeen, SD, 605-216-2174

May 12-14
Siouxpercon, Sioux Falls, SD
www.siouxpercon.com

May 19
Tesla Car Rally, Custer, SD
605-673-2244

May 19-21
State Parks Open House and
Free Fishing Weekend
Pierre, SD, 605-773-3391

June 23
148th Annual Midsummer
Festival, Dalesburg Lutheran
Church, Vermillion, SD
605-253-2575