

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

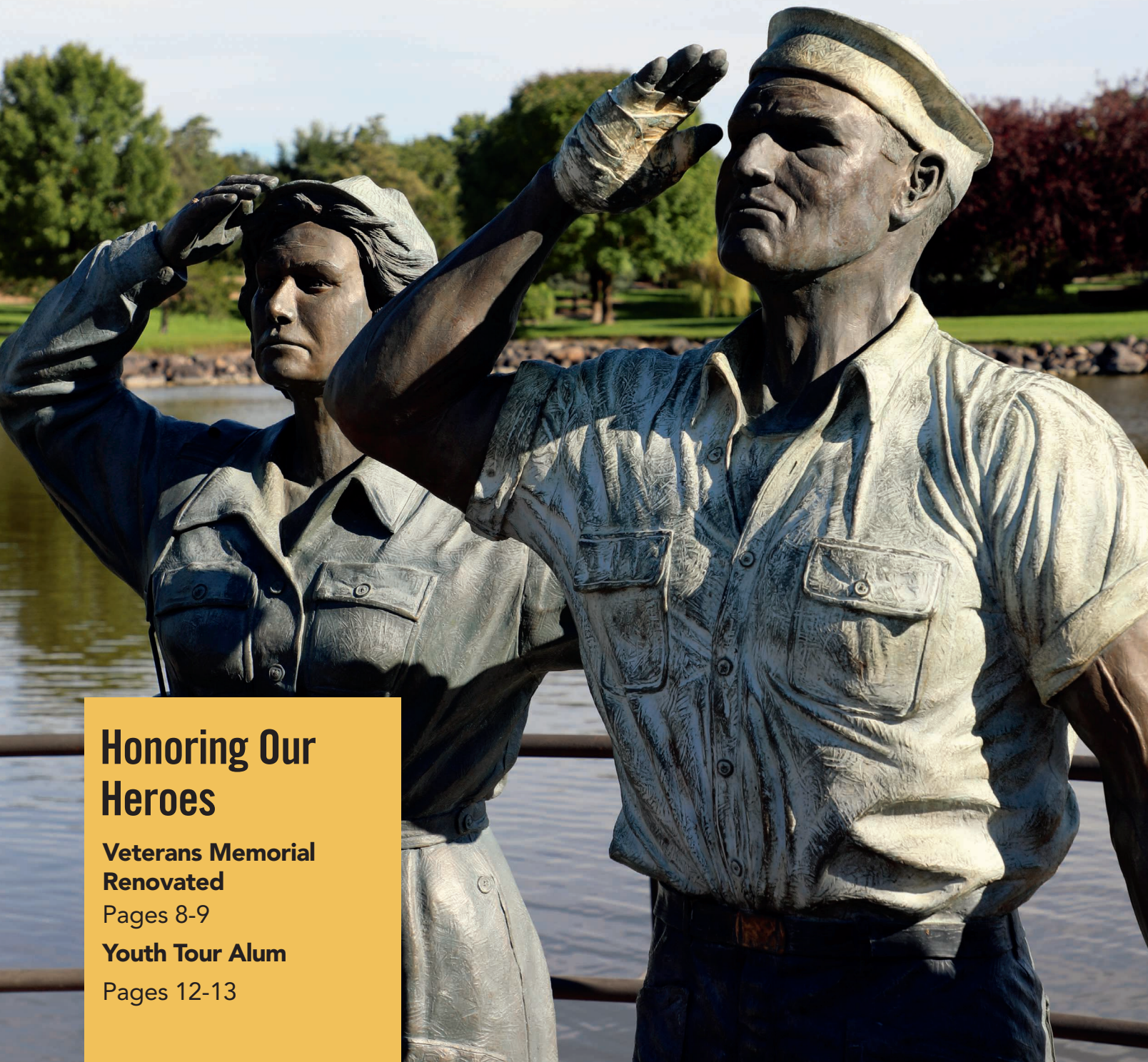
Honoring Our Heroes

**Veterans Memorial
Renovated**

Pages 8-9

Youth Tour Alum

Pages 12-13



Cooperative Month: Serving Our Members Through Transparency



Tim McCarthy
General Manager/
Chief Executive
Officer
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com



We encourage you to scan this code to watch a video to learn more about electrical demand and how it may impact your bill.

<https://www.siuoxvalleyenergy.com/electric-demand-charge>

Each October, we recognize National Cooperative Month. While it may not be a national holiday, it is an important opportunity to celebrate the cooperative advantage – a business model built around you, the member.

At Sioux Valley Energy, the cooperative advantage means more than providing electricity. It reflects our commitment to safe and reliable power, service excellence, concern for community, and transparency in all that we do. One of the ways we put that commitment into action is through clear and consistent member communication.

As we prepare for changes to the rate structure for residential, rural residential, and general service members, we know those changes may affect members differently depending on how they use electricity. Beginning in January 2027, demand will be broken out as a separate charge on electric bills. Demand is not a new cost, but it has historically been included within other billing components.

Because this is an important change, we began communicating with members about it in February during our district meetings. Over the past eight-plus months, we have worked to share information as openly and clearly as possible. Our goal has been to give members time to better understand their energy use and demand, review available resources, and make adjustments if they choose before the new rate structure takes effect.

To help make that easier, we created a dedicated webpage with demand-related resources: www.siuoxvalleyenergy.com/electric-demand-charge.

We know our members are busy, and there is a lot of information competing for your attention every day. That is why this webpage brings together the demand resources we have shared throughout the year by mail, email, social media, and other communications. There, members can find videos, articles, frequently asked questions, a demand rate comparison calculator, and more.

In addition to the in-person informational sessions being held throughout our service territory, we also plan to host an online webinar in November or December. More details will be shared once they are finalized.

As National Cooperative Month comes to a close, we want you to know that Sioux Valley Energy remains committed to our values of responsible preparation, steady leadership, and continued stewardship.

Through times of opportunity and times of challenge, our commitment remains the same: Serving Our Members. Always. It's what we do. It's how we live.

Beginning in
January 2027,
demand
will be broken out as a
separate charge on
electric bills.

SVE Advocates in Washington

Representing the interests of rural electric cooperatives in our nation's capital, Sioux Valley Energy's Vice President of Public Relations Carrie Vugteveen and Economic Development and Community Relations Executive Brandon Lane participated in Minnesota Rural Electric Association and South Dakota Rural Electric Association congressional visits at the end of September. Alongside representatives from other cooperatives, they met with lawmakers to communicate the issues that matter to cooperatives, their members and the rural communities they power. Here, Vugteveen leads the cooperative discussion with Sen. Tina Smith of Minnesota.



COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

SIoux VALLEY ENERGY

(USPS No. 497-440)

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- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov

**Sioux Valley Energy is an
equal opportunity provider and employer.**

Your Questions Answered

Question: Are other cooperatives moving toward a three-component rate structure which includes energy, demand, and a basic service charge?

Answer: Yes. There are several cooperatives in South Dakota and Minnesota that have already broken out demand charges for their members. More electric utilities are starting to consider this type of rate design for several reasons:

- Demand is a significant part of what the Co-op pays for power and it more closely reflects how we are billed by our power suppliers.
- The way consumers use electricity has changed over time; leading to varied electric use patterns.
- We now have better tools to understand how electricity is being used.
- Rates should more fairly reflect how members use the electric system.

While not all electric utilities structure rates the same, all costs need to be recovered through rates. This change isn't about creating a new cost. It's about accurately reflecting how members use the electric system and then allocating those costs appropriately and fairly.

Have a question about electricity or Sioux Valley Energy?

Mail it to P.O. Box 216, Colman, SD 57017 or e-mail info@siouxvalleyenergy.com. Your question may be selected as the 'Question of the Month' and answered in an upcoming edition of the newsletter.

Sioux Valley Energy's offices will be closed on the following dates for the holidays:



THANKSGIVING

Thursday, Nov. 26 &
Friday, Nov. 27



CHRISTMAS

Thursday, Dec. 24 &
Friday, Dec. 25



NEW YEARS

Friday, Jan. 1

Please report outages to our 24-hour dispatch center at
800-234-1960 or through the Smart Hub® app.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

Adjust your water heater settings to save energy. As cooler weather arrives, your water heater may be working harder to keep up with longer, hotter showers. Check its temperature setting and consider lowering it to 120°F, which the U.S. Department of Energy recommends for most households.

Lowering the temperature can reduce energy use while also helping prevent scalding. Always check the owner's manual before making adjustments. **Source:** U.S. Department of Energy



KEEP SAFETY AT THE HEART OF YOUR HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

The holiday season, stretching from late November through mid-January, is widely considered the most joyous time of the year. Families gather, festive parties fill our calendars, and a spirit of generosity warms our homes. However, alongside the cheer comes a significant spike in travel, home decorating, and large-scale cooking. Consequently, preventable accidents and injuries dramatically increase during these months. To ensure your family and friends remain safe and injury-free throughout the festivities, keeping safety top of mind is crucial. Below is a comprehensive guide of tried-and-true advice to help you navigate the season securely.

Traveling for the Holidays? Be Prepared and Alert

For millions of people, the holidays mean hitting the road to visit loved ones. Unfortunately, car travel during this busy period carries the highest fatality rate of any major transportation form. Hundreds tragically lose their lives in crashes on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day alone. Alarming, alcohol impairment contributes to approximately one-third of these fatal incidents.

To stay safe on the roads, follow these essential guidelines:

- Winterize your vehicle: Prepare for harsh weather and keep a well-stocked emergency kit in your trunk.
- Rest up: Get plenty of sleep before departing to avoid the severe dangers of drowsy driving.
- Plan ahead: Leave early and anticipate heavy traffic to eliminate the dangerous temptation to speed.
- Buckle up: Ensure every passenger is properly restrained, regardless of the trip's length.
- Eliminate distractions: Put your cell phone away; it remains the primary driving distraction today.
- Designate a driver: Always use a completely sober driver. Alcohol and medications cause severe impairment.

Decorate with Caution and Care

Decking the halls instantly puts families in a holiday mood, but hospital emergency departments treat thousands of decorating-related injuries annually. Remember these safety tips:

- Keep poisonous seasonal plants, like mistletoe and holly berries, strictly out of the reach of children.
- If utilizing an artificial tree, verify it is clearly labeled as "fire resistant."
- For live trees, cut two inches off the trunk for better water absorption. Water daily and remove it when dry.
- Place your tree at least three feet away from fireplaces, radiators, and space heaters.

- Discard and replace light sets featuring broken sockets, frayed wires, or loose electrical connections.
- Turn off all holiday lights before going to bed or leaving the house.

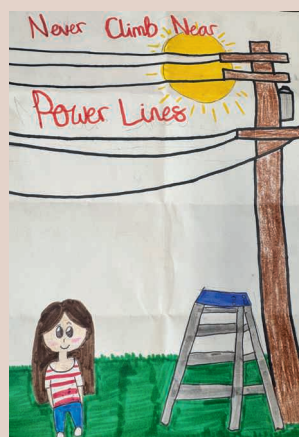
Watch Out for Holiday Fire-Starters

The glow of candles and fireplaces is a holiday staple, but combined with combustible decorations, house fire risks skyrocket. The National Fire Protection Association notes candles cause 46% of December home fires.

- Place candles in sturdy holders away from curtains and curious children.
- Store matches and lighters in a locked, high cabinet.
- Consider battery-operated flameless candles as a very safe alternative.
- Never burn pine branches or wrapping paper in fireplaces; they can cause flash fires.
- Use a protective screen for burning fires and never leave lit candles unattended.

Be highly alert to the extreme dangers of turkey fryers. Hundreds of fires and severe burns are linked to these devices. Consider using oil-less fryers or purchasing fried turkeys from professionals. If you must fry your own, strictly follow all U.S. Fire Administration guidelines.

By taking these simple, proactive steps, you can protect loved ones and ensure your holidays remain merry, bright, and safe.



"Never climb near power lines."

Penelope Poppen

Penelope warns readers to never climb near power lines. Thank you for sharing, Penelope! Penelope's parents are Brett and Megan Poppen, members of Black Hills Electric Cooperative.

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.



THE FAMILY TABLE

ENCHILADA CASSEROLE

Ingredients:

1 lb. hamburger
1 medium onion, chopped
1 green pepper, chopped
1 can (10 oz.) enchilada sauce
6 tortilla shells
1 cup shredded cheese
1 can pinto beans

Method

In a glass baking dish, put the browned hamburger, onion, pepper, beans and sauce in shells and roll up. Layer with shredded cheese on top. Bake 20 minutes in oven.

Optional: Use 1 cup of sliced black olives on top of cheese

Marla Gilbert
Southeastern Electric

PARTY IN A PAN

Ingredients:

1 1/2 lbs. hamburger, browned
1 can cream of celery soup
1 can cream of chicken soup
1 box Stove Top Stuffing Mix
1 can corn, drained
3 cups mozzarella cheese, shredded

Method

Combine the hamburger, celery soup and chicken soup in a bowl and set aside. Prepare the Stove Top Stuffing as directed on the box. Layer half the hamburger mixture, half the corn, half the stuffing, and half the cheese; repeat layers again. Bake 30-40 minutes at 350°F or until cheese is melted. Makes a 9x13-inch pan.

Kathy Zomer
Douglas Electric

BEEF TERIYAKI

Ingredients:

1lb. boneless beef sirloin steak
2 tbsp. cornstarch
14 oz. beef broth
2 tbsp soy sauce
1 tbsp. brown sugar
1/4 tsp. garlic powder
3 cups broccoli florets
1 1/2 cups rice
1 2/3 cups water

Method

Cook the rice in water according to the directions on the bag. Slice beef in very thin strips. In a large skillet, saute the beef strips until browned and the juices evaporate.

In a mixing bowl, combine cornstarch, beef broth, soy sauce, brown sugar and garlic powder. Mix thoroughly.

Add the liquid mixture and broccoli florets to the beef. Cook until mixture boils & thickens to a desired consistency, stirring frequently.

Serve over the cooked rice.

Karen Soulek
Charles-Mix Electric

Please send your favorite 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 2026. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

Information Is In Demand

Sioux Valley Energy held 10 meetings throughout its service territory to give members an opportunity to learn about upcoming demand rate changes. The meetings featured informational booths where members could receive an individualized consultation, a presentation about the demand rate, a question and answer session, and a meal. About 900 members attended these meetings. Information presented is available at <https://www.siouxvalleyenergy.com/electric-demand-charge>.



H-BC's Rheault Named Scholar of the Week

Hills-Beaver Creek High School (H-BC) student Riggins Rheault was selected as the Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week for the week of Sept. 21. He's known in the halls of H-BC for taking on challenges both in and out of the classroom. He is the H-BC Student Council president, plays football, basketball, and golf, and is a member of Knowledge Bowl and Math League. He is the son of Josh and Val Rheault of Beaver Creek, Minn.

See his story at <https://www.dakotane.wsnow.com/2026/09/21/touchstone-energy-scholar-week-role-model-hills-beaver-creek-high-school>. Pictured is Rheault and SVE's Karen Sherman.



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20701 Cooperative Way, Dulles, VA 20186
Colbank
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2026 JAY YORK SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Lydia Talsma of Edgerton was one of seven Jay A. York Scholarship recipients. She is the daughter of Sioux Valley Energy members Greg and Tanya Talsma. A graduate of Southwest MN Christian High School, she attends Dordt University in Sioux Center, Iowa.



Lydia Talsma
York Scholarship
Recipient

This year, eight distribution cooperatives and Great River Energy contributed to the scholarship fund in Jay's honor. The distribution cooperatives were Dakota Electric Association, Federated Rural Electric and Broadband, McLeod Cooperative Power, Nobles Cooperative Electric, Redwood Electric Cooperative, Renville-Sibley Cooperative Power Association, Sioux Valley Energy, and South Central Electric Association. The Jay A. York Scholarship was established to honor the first Minnesotan to lead the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Jay York was a respected leader in rural electric cooperative issues for nearly 30 years. In 1964, he was elected to the Nobles Cooperative Electric (NCE) Board. Mr. York was known for his strong leadership, dignity, deep understanding of complex issues, and unwavering dedication to rural Americans.

Earn \$500 for your community group!

Sioux Valley Energy is looking for groups to serve food at its 2027 district meetings in February and March. Groups need about 10 volunteers each to serve the catered meal. Contact amy.voelker@siouxvalleyenergy.com to register your group!





HONORING OUR HEROES

Veterans Memorial Undergoing Revamp

Jacob Boyko

jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop

Lee Leuning's father was about 80 when he sat in his son's sculpting studio to become the sailor at South Dakota's World War II memorial.

For three days, Leuning studied his face and shaped his features. His father slowly began talking about the war. After 50 years, the experience still weighed heavy.

Today, more than 25 years later, Leuning's father stands immortalized in bronze on the shore of Capitol Lake in Pierre, representing sailors like himself who served in World War II.

He stands among five other slightly larger-than-life statues representing members of the U.S. armed forces. The display, called "Why We Fought," depicts the service members in tattered uniforms saluting toward the American flag.

"It's soldiers in each individual moment stepping out of battle and recognizing the flag and what they fought for," Leuning said.

A member of Northern Electric Cooperative, Leuning created the figures

with fellow sculptor Sherri Treeby. Visitors to Pierre will find their work throughout the city, including statues along the Trail of Governors and a relief plaque commemorating the Lt. Cmdr. John C. Waldron Memorial Bridge. At Capitol Lake, their sculptures honor veterans of World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

Several of the World War II figures have family connections. Leuning used his mother's likeness for the army corps mechanic – she served as a plane mechanic in WWII – and his sons as models for the pilot and Marine. Treeby's father, an Army veteran, provided the face of the Coast Guardsman.

The WWII memorial was the first memorial unveiled, dedicated by Gov. Bill Janklow just four days after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Leuning recalls being amazed by the turnout – thousands of visitors were at the Capitol for the dedication.

He remembers one Navy veteran watching the dedication parade from a hospital bed with an attendant.

The WWII memorial on Capitol Lake shows soldiers saluting the American flag after battle.

Later, after the Korean and Vietnam soldier statues and walls were added beneath the flag, the WWII veterans appear to salute them too.

Photo by Jacob Boyko

"Every time a flag came by with an honor guard ... that guy would have his aide get him out of the bed, and he'd snap to attention," Leuning said. "That, to me, showed this really means something to them."



Recent renovation improved water drainage. Previously, water under the granite tiles caused loosening. The tiles have since been replaced with sod grass. The stream bed was also replaced.

Photo by Jacob Boyko

Subsequent dedications for the Korean and Vietnam memorials during Gov. Mike Rounds' administration attracted even more visitors. The state estimated 32,000 people attended the two-day Vietnam dedication in 2006. Some veterans watched the ceremony from pontoon bridges on Capitol Lake.

Unfortunately, years of exposure have taken a toll on the site. Trapped water beneath the granite tiles caused some to loosen and crumble, explained Leah Haugan, Special Projects Coordinator for the South Dakota Bureau of Human Resources and Administration.

"Try as we might to keep it in great shape, you can't keep up with deteriorating stone," Haugan said.

Over the summer, the state began work on a renovation project for the memorials, which will bring some changes to the site.

Sections of granite have been replaced with grass. The military seals embedded in the walkway were lifted out and placed on pedestals. The stream from the Artesian well remains, but it's now bordered by a concrete curb. The granite tiles around the fountain were upgraded from $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick tiles to 2 inch thick tiles, and the fountain enclosure was remade with concrete and granite tiles around the top.

Restoring the site is part of the state's commitment to honoring veterans and their service, Haugan said.

"Words are words, but when you build something like that that memorializes their efforts and their sacrifice, I think that shows them there's proof positive that we recognize and honor them," Haugan said.

The renovation does not bring back the Flaming Fountain's flame. Methane rising from the artesian well that feeds Capitol Lake kept the flame burning for decades, but it went out around 2015 when the flow could no longer sustain it. Haugan said a more ambitious fountain project is among the ideas for the site, depending on funding.

A separate proposal would honor Native American code talkers who served in World Wars I and II using their native languages to transmit messages that enemy forces were not able to translate. Funding for that memorial also remains unresolved.

Visiting the memorials, Leuning has seen what that recognition can mean to a family. The day after the Vietnam memorial dedication, he returned to take photos and was approached by a woman asking him to take her picture. He obliged,

and the lady went up to the bronze statue and hugged it.

"She said, 'That's my Davy. It looks just like my Davy.'"

Then she pointed to her husband's name on the wall.



Leuning's Vietnam War memorial.
Photo submitted by Lee Leuning



Sculptor Lee Leuning with his dad, Donald Leuning, at the World War II Veterans Memorial dedication Sept. 15, 2001, in Pierre.
Photo submitted by Lee Leuning



An estimated 32,000 people attended the Vietnam War Memorial dedication in 2006.
U.S. Airforce Photo by 1st Lt. Carrie L. Kessler

Which is right for you?

Beginning in 2027, Sioux Valley Energy will separate demand from the current blended rate and show it as its own charge for residential, rural residential, and general service members on the Standard Rate. Members who are able to shift much of their electricity use to certain blocks of time during the day may want to consider the optional Time-of-Use (TOU) Rate. The TOU Rate does not include a monthly demand charge. Instead, it has higher energy rates during on-peak hours and lower energy rates during off-peak hours. Members currently on the Standard Rate will remain on that rate unless they request to move to the TOU Rate. Likewise, members already on the TOU Rate will stay on it unless they request to go off that rate.

A SIDE-BY-SIDE COMPARISON

 Time of Use (TOU) Rate	 Rate Feature	 Demand Rate
Energy cost change by time of day (off-peak vs. on-peak). Off-Peak Hours: 10 a.m.–4 p.m. and 9 p.m.–7 a.m. On-Peak Hours: 7 a.m.–10 a.m. and 4 p.m.–9 p.m.	 How you're charged	Energy cost is low, but a separate demand charge is based on your highest usage spike.
Members who can shift laundry, dish washing, EV charging, and other flexible loads to off-peak hours.	 Best for...	Members with steady usage and few large appliances running at the same time can spread their demand.
When you use electricity.	 What affects your bill most?	How much electricity you use at once .
Run major appliances during off-peak hours.	 Ways to \$ave...	Avoid using multiple large appliances at the same time .
More predictable if your schedule is consistent .	 Bill stability	Very stable if you avoid high peaks ; can spike if you have one big usage event and stack demand.
Work during the day, have flexible appliance use, or want to take advantage of low, off-peak rates.	 Great fit if you...	Have energy-efficient appliances, programmable devices, or consistent routines .

Want more information? Learn more at www.siouxvalleyenergy.com or contact Member Services at 877-511-8062.



Learn more about
Electric Demand

Checkout our website for these online tools
<https://www.siouxvalleyenergy.com/electric-demand-charge>



 Calculator See how your usage and demand can affect your bill	 Videos • What is energy and demand • Demand and energy analogy • How to reduce demand	 Understanding Electric Demand Get the basics and why it matters	 FAQs Quick answers to common questions
 Demand 101 A simple guide to how electric demand works	 Manager's Message Insights into what's driving demand	 SmartHub Tips, tools, and resources for using energy wisely	




Sioux Valley Energy's Brandon Lane presented Humboldt Economic Development Corporation Director Isabel Hanisch with a REVIVE 2030 check to support her attendance at the Basic Economic Development Course in Rapid City. While there, she'll gain valuable education to further her growth in economic development and funding opportunities and strengthen her ability to support future development efforts in the Humboldt community.

Demand: What You Need to Know

Remember:

Your demand is based on **YOUR** household's highest level of electricity use during the month; not a specific time of day.



Need to talk to an expert?

Call us at
877-511-8062
or log on to **www.siouxvalleyenergy.com** for more info.

What is demand?

Demand is the amount of electricity your home or farm uses at one moment when appliances, lighting, heating, and other electric equipment are running at the same time.

When will I be charged for demand?

Starting with your January 2027 usage, demand will appear as a separate charge on your bill. There is a demand line on your bill, but there is currently no charge associated with it.

Is this a new charge?

No. Demand has always been part of the cost of providing electric service. It has been included in your current electric rates.

Why a demand charge?

Separating the demand charge better reflects how the Cooperative pays for power and helps cover the cost of building and maintaining an electric system that can meet each members' highest demand.

How can I lower my demand?

Spread. Don't stack. Run large energy users at different times instead of all at once, such as your dryer, oven, electric water heater, and electric heat.





YOUTH TOUR 1969

How a Youth Tour Friendship Changed Marty Larsen's Life

Frank Turner

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When Marty Larsen earned a spot on the 1969 Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., through Turner-Hutchinson Electric Cooperative, he had every reason to believe dairy farming would remain at the center of his life. Turner-

Hutchinson, a predecessor of today's Southeastern Electric Cooperative, served the area around his family's dairy farm seven miles west of Hurley.

Youth Tour gives high school students sponsored by their local electric cooperatives the chance to spend a week in Washington, D.C., visiting historic sites, learning about

government and electric cooperatives and meeting students from across the country. South Dakota began sending students on the trip in 1963. Larsen went just six years later.

Back then, Turner-Hutchinson Electric selected its Youth Tour delegates through 4-H, rewarding young people for their accomplishments. In 1969,

The 1969 South Dakota Youth Tour group. Marty Larsen is pictured in the top row, seventh from the right. John Nordlie is pictured in the top row, fifth from the left.

Photo courtesy from the SDREA Archives

Larsen placed eighth at the national 4-H dairy judging competition in Ohio. The accomplishment earned him the cooperative's Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C.

But before Larsen could make the trip, an Army recruiter threw a wrench in his plans, warning him that he was likely to be called for service soon. Rather than wait to be drafted, Larsen chose to enlist, expecting to head to basic training and then Vietnam.

Not long after, Larsen received an induction notice, but first he had to complete a military physical. Larsen, who is hard of hearing, failed the hearing test and was disqualified from service. Had he passed, he said he would have left for basic training about a week before the 1969 Youth Tour departed.

"Somebody upstairs was looking out for me," he said.

With the Army no longer standing in the way, Larsen was going on the trip. To prepare, his mother bought him new clothes and a new pair of shoes. Even still, he returned home with the soles nearly worn through. At the Washington Monument, he and a small group of students climbed 897 steps rather than wait in the long elevator line, then rode the elevator back down.

Near the end of the trip, the group ate at a seafood restaurant along the Potomac River. Larsen persuaded the chaperones that the students ought to try lobster, something many of them had never eaten before. When the waitress brought lobster bibs to the table, Larsen passed his around and asked everyone to sign it.

His mother later saved the bib in the scrapbook she kept of his childhood, alongside years of 4-H ribbons, judging cards and other keepsakes. Larsen still has the scrapbook today.

The students took an evening cruise on a multilevel paddlewheel-style boat on the Potomac, complete with live music. South Dakota Youth Tour students continue the tradition of a river cruise today aboard the Cherry Blossom.

For Larsen, though, the most important part of Youth Tour was the people he met. One of them was John Nordlie of Sioux Falls, a young photographer who worked with the Argus Leader and later attended Augustana College.

The two became friends during the trip and stayed in contact after returning home.

"We stayed friends after we got back," he said. "I was in his wedding party when he got married. He was in my wedding party when I got married."

For the next several years, Larsen stayed close to the life he knew, working in dairy and welding. Nordlie, meanwhile, developed an interest in pipe organs. In 1983, he called Larsen and asked if he wanted to come work for him building organs for cathedrals and music halls.

Larsen agreed, bringing his experience as a welder, machinist and mechanical problem-solver into a trade he had never expected to enter. He spent the next 20 years working with Nordlie and became deeply involved in the mechanics of organ construction.

His work eventually went far beyond basic fabrication. Larsen built components, developed specialty tools and designed machinery for organ builders. One machine he created transformed a wire-bending process that had taken workers several minutes per piece, allowing them to produce several pieces per minute. Other tools he built ended up with organ companies elsewhere in the United States and overseas.

The work also took Larsen far beyond southeastern South Dakota. Over the years, he traveled throughout the country and to Japan, worked

on historic instruments and helped construct and restore pipe organs in churches, museums and other settings. More than four decades after entering the trade, he is still involved in restoration work.

Looking back, Larsen can draw a direct line from the Youth Tour trip to the career that followed. Without the trip, he may never have met Nordlie. Without that friendship, the call inviting him into organ building may never have come.

"It meant a lot to me to be able to go on that trip," Larsen said. "It changed me from a dairy farmer to a pipe organ builder."

More than 50 years later, Larsen still has the scrapbook his mother kept from the trip, along with the signed lobster bib and other reminders of that week in Washington. But the most lasting thing he brought home was the friendship that, years later, opened the door to a life he never could have planned.



Marty Larsen and his wife, Barbara.
Photo by Frank Turner

Interested in attending Youth Tour?
Contact your local electric cooperative to
learn more about the application process.

Operation Round Up® Funding Totals More Than \$31,000

When Sioux Valley Energy members round up their bills to the nearest dollar, those spare cents add up fast. This quarter, that extra change resulted in grants totaling \$25,725 for 19 non-profits, schools, and communities, plus \$6,000 for scholarships through the Cooperative's Operation Round Up® program. The Sioux Valley Energy Customers' Trust Board of Directors awarded the grants during its quarterly meeting in September.

Recipients, by town, included:

Baltic, South Dakota

- Horsepower/Handi-Riders, Inc. – \$2,000 to support the scholarship fund assisting participants with cost of sessions and to support the Hope Reins program that serves veterans and active-duty military members

Brandon, South Dakota

- Service Leadership Academy – \$2,000 to cover the cost of seven students for a servant leadership experience

Brookings, South Dakota

- Brookings County 4-H – \$1,500 to provide shirts to 4-H members and leaders
- Project Joy – \$1,500 to purchase toys, gift cards, and supplies

Chester, South Dakota

- Chester Girls Basketball – \$1,000 to for team camps and to purchase gear

Flandreau, South Dakota



South Dakota Freedom Hunts

- Flandreau Elementary PBIS – \$1,250 to purchase prizes for SOAR days to help promote positive social skills within our youth
- South Dakota Freedom Hunts

– \$1,500 to cover costs of food, supplies, guides, and pheasants for events

Garretson, South Dakota

- Garretson School – \$1,250 to purchase shirts for students and staff for the SOAR program for the 2026-27 school year

Hills, Minnesota

- City of Hills – \$1,000 to help construct a shelter to provide shade and add a sandbox for children
- HBC Letter Club – \$1,000 to provide academic letters, sports letters, pins, and an interactive television display

Kenneth, Minnesota

- City of Kenneth – \$1,250 to help update and repair the community center and old fire department

Madison, South Dakota

- The Gathering Meal – \$1,500 to provide a meal for those in need in the Madison community

Rapid City, South Dakota

- South Dakota FFA Foundation – \$1,825 to provide FFA jackets and scholarships to attend the SD FFA Summer Leadership Retreat

Sioux Falls, South Dakota

- Catholic Community Foundation for Eastern South Dakota – \$1,500 to provide a meal before and cookie reception after the "Christmas at the Cathedral" event for guests from Bishop Dudley House, St. Francis House and the Banquet
- Glory House – \$1,800 to purchase iPads and stylus pens for intake paperwork, orientation documents, and treatment planning
- Rare by Design – \$1,000 funding to help provide American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters, accessible stages, ramps, and seating, and designed event spaces for yearly event
- Sioux Falls Catholic School Corp./St. Katharine Drexel – \$350 to provide "Ag Day" classroom learning sessions each month
- Sioux Falls School District – \$1,000 to support after school programs, such as ADAO basketball, Siouixer Skate, dance, and yoga

Valley Springs, South Dakota

- Beaver Creek Cemetery Association – \$1,500 to develop and implement a GPS-based cemetery mapping system

A list of recent grant recipients, as well as information on how local organizations can apply for funding, can be found at <https://www.siouxvalleyenergy.com/operation-round-up>

The next deadline to apply for funding is November 20 with grants being awarded in December.

Operation Round Up® is administered by a non-profit trust, the Sioux Valley Energy Customers' Trust, which was initiated in the fall of 2000. The purpose of the trust is to acquire, accumulate and disburse funds for charitable and educational purposes as permitted by Section 501 (c) (3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. Your community, your school, and/or your nonprofit organization may be eligible for funding. Each quarter, the Board of Directors, volunteer representatives of each county, meet to review grant applications and make awards based on criteria guidelines of the Trust. Not all proposals are funded, and not all applications are funded at the full funding request.



2027 DISTRICT MEETINGS SET

The Sioux Valley Energy Board of Directors approved the 2027 District Meeting schedule during their September meeting. Three elections will take place in Districts 1, 3, and 8.

Members interested in running for the Board must submit a Director Petition, Conflict of Interest Statement, and Qualification Certification 60 days prior to the meeting date. Petitions must be delivered to a Sioux Valley Energy office location or postmarked by the petition deadline. Sioux Valley Energy encourages members to gather extra member signatures and to deliver or mail completed petitions in advance of the petition deadline to ensure time for member verification.

PETITION DEADLINES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- District 8 – Sunday, December 27, 2026
- District 3 – Friday, January 8, 2027
- District 1 – Thursday, January 14, 2027

Petitions can be obtained at www.siuoxvalleyenergy.com or by calling 800-234-1960. The Cooperative Bylaws state the qualifications needed to be a director (see below). Interested members are encouraged to contact Brenda Schelhaas, Executive Assistant.

All Board seats elected in 2027 will serve three-year terms. Election meetings are noted at right.



SIoux VALLEY
ENERGY A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

2027 District Meeting Schedule

DISTRICT 1 Director Election	WHITE, SD McKnight Community Center MONDAY MARCH 15
DISTRICT 2	VOLGA, SD Sioux Valley High School MONDAY MARCH 22
DISTRICT 3 Director Election	FLANDREAU, SD William J. Janklow Center TUESDAY MARCH 9
DISTRICT 4	MADISON, SD Dakota Prairie Playhouse TUESDAY MARCH 30
DISTRICT 5	COLTON, SD Tri-Valley High School TUESDAY MARCH 16
DISTRICT 6	BRANDON, SD Brandon Valley High School MONDAY MARCH 1
DISTRICT 7	HARTFORD, SD West Central High School THURSDAY MARCH 25
DISTRICT 8 Director Election	LUVERNE, MN Generations Event Center THURSDAY FEBRUARY 25
DISTRICT 9	PIPESTONE, MN Pipestone Area School THURSDAY MARCH 11
DISTRICT 10	EDGERTON, MN Edgerton Public School THURSDAY FEBRUARY 18

SVE Bylaws: Director Qualifications

ARTICLE IV: SECTION 5. Qualifications. Any member shall be eligible to be nominated or elected or to remain a Director, provided that: (a) They are a natural person receiving electric service from the Cooperative at their primary residence or meet the qualifications for corporate representation; (b) They have the capacity to enter legally binding contracts; (c) They have been and shall remain a resident of the district for which they are or were nominated or elected for at least one (1) year prior to nomination, and continue to reside therein during their entire term as Director; (d) While a Director and during the five (5) years immediately prior to becoming a Director, they have not been convicted of a felony; (e) They or their spouse are not employed by, materially affiliated with or have a material financial interest in any individual or entity which either is: (i) Directly and substantially competing with the Cooperative, or any of its subsidiaries; or (ii) Selling goods and services in substantial quantity to the Cooperative or its subsidiaries; or having sold goods or services in substantial quantity to the Cooperative or its subsidiaries within three (3) years of seeking nomination. (iii) Possessing a substantial conflict of interest with the Cooperative or any of its subsidiaries; or (iv) They are not in any way employed by the Cooper-

ative or any of its subsidiaries nor have they been employed by the Cooperative or its subsidiaries within three (3) years of the directors nomination, and (v) They are not a close relative of any existing Director or existing employee of the Cooperative or its subsidiaries. For the purpose of this section only "close relative" shall mean a person who is either a child, grandchild, stepchild, parent, grandparent, stepparent, brother or sister, by blood or in-law, of the principal. (f) A designated representative of any non-human member such as a corporation, shall, notwithstanding that he or she does not receive service from the Cooperative at their primary residential abode, be eligible to become a Director, if: 1) He or she is an officer of said non-human member; and 2) He or she is in substantial permanent occupancy, direction or use of the premises served by the Cooperative; and 3) He or she is a permanent year round resident within the district for which the Corporation or non-human member is receiving service, and 4) Otherwise meets the qualifications set forth herein, provided, however, that no more than one (1) such person as the designated representative may serve on the Board at the same time and in the event that he or she should resign or is unwilling to so act, the directorship shall become vacant.



NOV. 7
Wine, Cheese & Chocolate Stroll
 Deadwood, SD
www.deadwood.com/events/

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.

OCT. 31
Mortimer's Monstrous Halloween
 2 p.m.-5 p.m.
 Oakwood Lakes State Park
 Bruce, SD
 605-627-5441

NOV. 6-8
Hill City Girlfriends' Weekend
 Hill City, SD

NOV. 7
Fall Fling Craft/Vendor Show
 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
 Dakota Christian School
 Corsica, SD

NOV. 7
Black Hills Meat Fest
 Free Admission
 Central States Fairgrounds
 Nerdy Nuts Expo Hall
 Rapid City, SD
[Facebook.com/BlackHillsMeatFest](https://facebook.com/BlackHillsMeatFest)

NOV. 7-15
Rustic Designs & More Christmas Country Show
 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
 41450 264th St.
 Ethan, SD
 605-770-2411

NOV. 8
32nd Annual Lutefisk, Meatball & Lefse Supper
 4-7 p.m.
 Trinity Lutheran Church
 Chamberlain, SD
 605-730-0553

NOV. 12
The Satin Dollz
 Patriotic Female Vocal & Dance Quintet
 7 p.m.
 Johnson Fine Arts Center
 Aberdeen, SD

NOV. 14
American Legion Bingo
 47410 258th St.
 Renner, SD
 605-310-5724

NOV. 14
Lake Campbell Lutheran Church Lutefisk Supper
 Seatings: 4:30, 5:45, 7 p.m.
 Volga, SD
 Reservations: 605-690-4868

NOV. 14
Club 14 Craft & Vendor Fair
 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
 Hendricks Public School
 Hendricks, MN
 605-690-5586

NOV. 16-21
Yelduz Shrine Festival of Trees
 Mon.-Fri. 4-7 p.m.
 Sat. 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
 802 S. Main St.
 Aberdeen, SD
 605-225-4841
Yelduz.com

NOV. 20
Aberdeen University Civic Symphony Concert
 7:30 p.m.
 Johnson Fine Arts Center
 Aberdeen, SD
aberneencommunityconcerts.org

NOV. 27-28
Sip, Shop & Stroll
 Viborg, SD

DEC. 3
City of Yankton Holiday Festival of Lights
 4 p.m. Family Activities
 6 p.m. Lighted Parade
 Yankton, SD
 605-665-5234
CityofYankton.com

DEC. 5
Viborg Appreciation Day
 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
 Viborg Community Center
 Viborg, SD

DEC. 5
Christmas in the Valley
 2-7 p.m.
 Santa, Community Scavenger Hunt, Silent Auction, Tree Lighting, Kids' Games
 Viborg, SD

DEC. 5
Holiday Jam with the Hegg Brothers
 4 p.m.
 Yankton, SD
 605-665-5234
CityofYankton.com

Note: We publish contact information as provided. If no phone number is given, none will be listed. Please call ahead to verify the event is still being held.