

# COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Barb Gross, Adele Enright and Jean Tehle have all worked hard to facilitate free and fair elections for registered voters in Dewey County

## Poll tenders rock the vote

Election workers are dedicated to the task  
Pages 8-9

## Freshman Impact teaches sound decision making

Pages 12-13

# Revive 2030 and REED Fund: Connecting with Community



**Tim McCarthy**  
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Officer

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com

One of Sioux Valley Energy's guiding principles is community service—it's the foundation of what many of our strategic objectives are built from. Strong communities—both economically and socially—improve the lives of those who live in and around those areas.

Think about it. Those who enjoy where they live are often more engaged and invested in their communities. When you are invested and engaged you are more likely to spend money and take part in social activities, leading to a more vibrant and active community. When you have a vibrant and active community, others want to be part of it—leading to growth. Growth can create economic opportunity and before you know it, the circle of community development is connected and continues for future generations.

That's what Sioux Valley Energy's REVIVE 2030 program is all about—providing guidance, resources, and “boots on the ground” assistance to areas that want to revive or sustain their communities. REVIVE 2030 is an initiative that is crafted to essentially help communities help themselves—it wasn't developed to be a financial program (although there are limited funds available to help with community-driven planning, projects, etc.).

Sioux Valley Energy's commitment to community development is long standing—this is not something new. However, the level of resources dedicated to community/economic development has increased over the last several years. The most recent investment on behalf of our communities is the hiring of an economic development professional, Brandon Lane. He joins Jay Buchholz to round out the community/economic development team at

Sioux Valley Energy.

One of the most recent events SVE's REVIVE 2030 program assisted with is Rock Strong! Building Rock Strong Communities. We partnered with the Rock County Economic Development Authority to bring together community leaders from all over Rock County Minnesota to discuss economic development opportunities. One of the topics featured was the Rural Electric Economic Development Fund (REED).

REED provides business and community project financing in partnership with commercial and other economic development lenders to leverage private investment and make a difference in the region it serves. Established in 1996 and governed by 25 electric cooperatives (including Sioux Valley Energy), REED assists projects that promote growth and contribute to job, business, and wealth creation, as well as improve the infrastructure, community facilities/services, and economic base of rural areas in South Dakota and Minnesota.

Since 1996, the REED Fund has invested nearly \$110 million in the region through more than 375 loans (several in SVE's service territory). The REED Fund and partner lenders have combined to distribute more than \$946 million in economic investment. In addition, nearly 10,000 jobs have been impacted and almost three million square feet of facilities have been constructed or renovated, mostly by non-profit development corporations committed to helping the region grow.

REED is just one of the funding mechanisms that is available for communities and businesses, and we are proud to be able to be part of it! If you want more information about the REED fund, you can learn more at [reedfund.coop](http://reedfund.coop). If you want to discuss community development in your area, call SVE's Brandon Lane or Jay Buchholz at 800-234-1960.

Have a safe and productive autumn season! Hope to see you soon at our winter district meetings (schedule can be found on Page 15).



**COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS**  
**SIoux VALLEY ENERGY**

(USPS No. 497-440)

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**JA AND KIDS**  
**Inspiring Entrepreneurial Dreams**

Junior Achievement of South Dakota (JA) envisions a world where young people have the skillset and mindset to build thriving communities. To do this, JA recruits volunteers to go into schools and provide students in 42 South Dakota communities with advice and information on financial decision-making, entrepreneurial mindset, career awareness, and ethics.



A Sioux Valley Energy Operation Round Up® grant in the amount of \$2,100 will be used to provide programming at Baltic, Tri-Valley, and Rosa Parks Elementary schools this school year. The funds help cover expenses associated with purchasing student materials, purchasing digital student-experience platforms, and recruiting/training volunteers.

During the 2021-22 school year, JA South Dakota impacted 54,129 students across the state. JA anticipates to exceed 55,000 students this school year.



# A heaping helping of holiday home safety

Nearly every household uses extra electricity during the holidays for cooking, decorating and heating.

Take extra care to use electricity safely and to ask family members and house-guests to do the same. Here are some helpful tips:

- Stay in the kitchen when broiling or doing any stovetop cooking.
- Keep children well away from cooking appliances while in use.
- Keep towels, potholders and curtains away from hot surfaces.
- One of the riskiest holiday behaviors is overloading your electrical outlets. You will overload your wall outlets if you string strand after strand of holiday lights together and plug them into an extension cord that you plug into an outlet. Plugging multiple strands of cords into a power strip does not add any juice to the electrical circuit that powers the outlet you plug the strip into.
- Check decorative lights for damaged cords, plugs and sockets. Replace anything that's frayed, cracked or broken. Buy cords that are certified by UL; look for the UL symbol on the package.
- Don't run extension cords under rugs, carpets or baseboards, or anywhere they can be a tripping hazard.
- Only use decorations and cords outdoors that are properly rated for outdoor use.
- When you put up outdoor decorations, do not string lights in trees near power lines. Fasten outdoor lights carefully and securely with clips, never nails or tacks.
- Keep electric lights away from decorative metal trees.
- Keep all light strings and other decorations away from pets so they don't get tangled in them or chew the wires.
- Keep all decorations - and everything else - at least 3 feet away from heat sources such as fireplaces and space heaters.
- Always turn off your decorations when you leave home and when you're sleeping.
- Make sure smoke detectors are present and working properly.
- Use space heaters properly and safely. Keep them out of high-traffic areas and at least 3 feet from anything that can burn.
- Do not leave a space heater running unattended. Turn off space heaters and unplug them when you leave the room or go to sleep.
- Never leave an open flame, including your fireplace or a candle, unattended.

## LINEMEN PARTICIPATE IN RUBBER GLOVING SCHOOL



Roughly 50 electric cooperative linemen from across the state recently participated in a Rubber Gloving School at the Mitchell Technical College training facility. The program included simulating maintenance and repair work on energized power lines, awareness of proper safety procedures, grounding and insulation of vehicles, operation of aerial lift devices and more.

To see a video of this event and learn more about how electric cooperatives serve our members, visit Cooperative Connections Plus by scanning the QR code at right.



## Don't play on transformer boxes

### Traci Tschetter

Traci, 11, warns readers to stay away from transformer boxes, which contain high-voltage underground electrical equipment inside. Traci is the child of Ryan and Elaine Tschetter and they are members of Whetstone Valley Electric.

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.



# CROCKPOT CREATIONS

## SLOW COOKER CHILI

### Ingredients:

- 2 lbs. lean ground beef
- 1 pkg. McCormick Slow Cookers Chili Seasoning
- 2 cans (14.4 ozs. each) diced tomatoes, undrained
- 2 cans (16 ozs. each) kidney beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 can (15.5 ozs.) tomato sauce

### METHOD

Brown ground beef or turkey in large skillet on medium-high heat. Drain fat. Place cooked beef, Slow Cookers Chili Seasoning Mix, tomatoes, beans and tomato sauce in slow cooker. Stir until well mixed. Cover. Cook 8 hours on low or 4 hours on high. Stir before serving. For best results, do not remove cover during cooking.

**McCormick.com**

## SLOW COOKER TURKEY BREAST

### Ingredients:

- 2 tsps. McCormick Garlic Powder
- 2 tsps. McCormick Paprika
- 2 tsps. McCormick Rubbed Sage
- 2 tsps. Sicilian Sea Salt
- 1 tsp. McCormick Pure Ground Black Pepper
- 1 tsp. McCormick Whole Thyme Leaves
- 1 turkey breast, (about 6 lbs.) fresh or frozen, thawed
- 3 tsps. butter, melted

### METHOD

Mix seasonings in small bowl; set aside. Rinse turkey and pat dry. Brush turkey with melted butter. Sprinkle seasoning mixture over entire surface and under skin of turkey. Place turkey breast in slow cooker. Cover. Cook 1 hour on high. Reduce heat to low; cook 7 hours longer or until turkey is cooked through (internal temperature reaches 165 degrees). Transfer to platter or carving board and slice.

**McCormick.com**

## SLOW COOKER MASHED POTATOES

### Ingredients:

- 5 lbs. Yukon gold potatoes, peeled and cut into cubes
- 1 c. chicken stock
- 2 McCormick Bay Leaves
- 1/2 c. (1 stick) butter, cut into chunks
- 1 tsp. salt
- 3/4 tsp. McCormick Pure Ground Black Pepper
- 1/2 tsp. McCormick Garlic Powder
- 1/2 -1 c. milk
- 1 tsp. McCormick Parsley Flakes

### METHOD

Spray inside of 6-quart slow cooker with no-stick cooking spray. Add potatoes, stock and bay leaves. Cover. Cook 4 hours on high or until potatoes are tender, stirring after each hour. Remove bay leaves. Stir in butter, salt, pepper and garlic powder. Cover. Let stand 5 minutes. Beat potatoes with electric mixer on medium-high speed or mash with potato masher, gradually adding milk, until smooth. Stir in parsley. Top with additional butter, if desired. Serve with McCormick Brown Gravy or Perfect Brown Gravy.

**McCormick.com**

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 2022. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

# Energy Use: It's Unique to You



**Sheila Gross**  
Energy Services  
Specialist

**Contact Sheila Gross at sheila.gross@siouxvalleyenergy.com to learn more.**



Scan this code to check out our rebates and incentives:

Many members are looking for ways to control their energy use and reduce their impact on the environment. The best way to do this is to be aware of how much energy you use each month and where it is being used. SmartHub, our online billing tool, helps you track your electricity use. You can also install third-party devices such as Sense (sense.com) to gain visibility on your household's biggest energy users. With that information, you can then make informed decisions to incorporate more energy-efficient habits into your daily routine.

If you still have questions, call us at Sioux Valley Energy. We're here to help.

### LIFESTYLE MAKES A DIFFERENCE

You have control over your electricity use by choosing the appliances and devices you use on a regular basis. The way you use these electric devices has a greater impact on your consumption of electricity than the number you own. There are other factors to consider when reviewing your monthly electricity use. Our Time of Use Rate may be a good option for you.

### FAMILY SIZE

There is a direct relationship between the number of people living in a home and the amount of energy used. If friends or relatives visit, you can expect to use more energy for hot water, charging and using electronics, cooking/baking, doing laundry, etc.

### SPACE HEATING AND COOLING

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, space heating, space cooling and water heating are some of the largest energy expenses in any home. To be comfortable, most of us prefer to be cool in summer and warm in winter. Humidity also plays an important role in our year-round comfort. If you operate dehumidifiers (and,

to a lesser degree, humidifiers in winter), this contributes to household energy consumption. Portable space heaters, air conditioners and fans also add kilowatt-hours (kWhs) to our electric bills. There are many ways to use energy wisely while maintaining a comfortable temperature and humidity level in your home. These range from adding insulation, weather-stripping and caulking around windows, to utilizing the settings on a programmable or "smart" thermostat.

### ELECTRIC WATER HEATERS

An electric water heater can comprise up to 40 percent of the electricity used in the average American home. Hot water plays an important role in everyone's lifestyle, but it's the quantity of water used and the temperature setting on your water heater that determine energy use.

Consider trying these tips to help save electricity and water in your home:

- Use water sparingly when taking a bath and keep showers brief.
- Have you ever put a container under a leaky faucet to realize how much water you can lose in a day? Take time to fix the leak.
- Wait to run clothes washers and dishwashers until you have a full load.

Contact us to purchase an energy efficient water heater and learn more about the load management program.

### APPLIANCE USE

Electricity powers many time and labor saving devices. These appliances work around the clock, whenever you need them. The wise use of appliances can reduce your electricity consumption.

Want to learn more? Download the "Use Energy Wisely" booklet at [www.siuoxvalleyenergy.com](http://www.siuoxvalleyenergy.com).

## TELL ME MORE!

Please contact me with more information about the topics indicated below.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Account #: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail this form to:** Sioux Valley Energy, PO Box 216, Colman, SD 57017

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|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heat Pump Rebate   | <input type="checkbox"/> Electric Vehicle Program      | <input type="checkbox"/> Smart Thermostat Rebate   | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Saving Tips         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electric Heat Rate | <input type="checkbox"/> Time of Use Rate              | <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial/Ag LED Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Interlock Kit/Generator    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Audit       | <input type="checkbox"/> Third-Party Irrigation Rebate | <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Heat Rebates   | <input type="checkbox"/> Marathon/HTP Water Heaters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Loan Program       | <input type="checkbox"/> SmartHub Account Tool         | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewable Energy Credits  | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Solar Project    |





**SAFETY CULTURE RECOGNIZED**

Members of Sioux Valley Energy's Safety Steering Committee attended the South Dakota Safety Council's 30th annual South Dakota Safety and Health Conference in Sioux Falls. During the luncheon and Governor's Workplace Safety Awards, the Co-op was one of 41 businesses to receive a Meritorious Achievement Award for their safety culture. The Co-op was also a conference sponsor. Committee members, from left, are: Jake Dybedahl, Amy Voelker, Craig Namken, Jeremy Rollag, Tim Durst, Kyle Thomson, Mike Uhing, Daren Hoffer, Terry Ebright, Mike Oines, and Debra Bieber. Not pictured are Kim Brendsel and Josh Bjorklund.



**SEPTEMBER ENERGY MAKEOVER WINNER**

Ben Pierson, SVE Beneficial Electrification Manager, congratulates Brad Harmon of Madison, winner of the Energy Makeover Contest which concluded September 30. More than 530 Sioux Valley Energy members entered to win the EGO 24-inch battery-powered snow blower. Look for future contests on the pages of your monthly *Sioux Valley Energy Cooperative Connections* magazine.

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 CoBank: 6340 S Fiddlers Green Circle, Greenwood Village, CO 80111

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Jamalia Franzen, auditor deputy in Dewey County, encourages all eligible citizens to register to vote. *Photos by Billy Gibson*

## Poll workers urge voters to stay active in the election process

**Billy Gibson**

[billy.gibson@sdrea.coop](mailto:billy.gibson@sdrea.coop)

About 10 years ago, Michele Moore was newly retired and looking for something interesting to occupy her time. Out of the blue, she received a call from the Clay County elections auditor.

“She wanted to know if I was interested in working the elections and I told her I’d do it. It’s been very rewarding and it feels like I’m doing something important and worthwhile,” Moore said.

When she’s not facilitating the election process, Moore takes care of the bookkeeping for the family’s welding and manufacturing business operated by her husband, David.

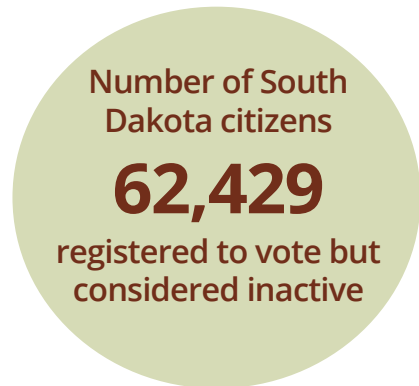
While election work isn’t a full-time gig, poll tenders put in long hours on voting day. They typically report to the local precinct at 6 a.m. before the polls open an hour later. The shift goes straight through to 7 p.m. when the polls close, although any voters still

standing in line at that time are allowed to cast their ballots. Workers have to stay on duty the entire time and often pack their own lunch and dinner.

After the last voter is done, all the sealed ballots and accompanying paperwork are brought to the auditor’s office for verification and certification to ensure the election is “free and fair.”

Moore said all the workers at her precinct located at the National Guard Armory in Vermillion are diligent, dependable, thorough and conscientious. She said they take their jobs very seriously and are careful not to be “political” in any way, a guideline contained in the orientation and training process that workers go through before each election regardless of one’s years of service.

The training material requires that workers be professional, punctual, respectful to voters, team-oriented and “leave partisan leanings at the door.” Anyone concerned about the validity of the election process can appear at



the precinct as a “poll watcher” or “poll observer,” however, those individuals must adhere to a separate set of guidelines as set forth by the Secretary of State’s Office.

“We’re not here to change anyone’s mind or influence how anyone votes,” Moore said. “We’re just here to do anything we can to help them vote as quickly and smoothly as possible and make sure the process goes well. We try to make it easy for them.”

That doesn’t mean everything always goes according to plan. As the political passions and divisions have grown more intense over recent years, Moore said she’s encountered some fairly tense situations. But she said she generally





Poll workers are on the job from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. local time. If the polls close while you are in line, you will still be permitted to vote.

Here is a breakdown of party identification as of Sept. 1, 2022:

- Republican - 291,956
- Democrat - 150,760
- No party/Ind. - 142,538
- Libertarian - 2,733
- Other - 1,376

**Total - 589,363**

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Election poll workers see themselves as doing something helpful to support and facilitate the democratic process.

feels safe while doing her work inside the armory.

Some voters can get upset when they try to make requests that violate the voting rules, such as attempting to change their party affiliation on voting day or not providing the proper identification. She said tensions can run high during contentious presidential or mid-term elections.

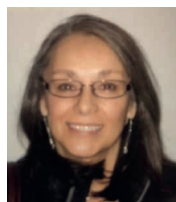


“Sometimes people get angry and you just try to calm them down. They don’t know how things work and what’s required because they’re not paying attention,” she said. “Social media and TV stirs up their passion and they don’t always know how to control that.”

She recalled one particular fellow who insisted on voting without presenting the proper identification. When he was

told he would have to use a provisional ballot, he became agitated and stormed out of the precinct. Moore was “a little nervous” about the man returning and what he might do, but she took comfort in the fact that the National Guard soldiers were right there in the building.

Cris Sichmeller, a resident of Webster, signed on to join her local precinct in Roslyn six years ago and enjoys the



Michele Moore

social aspects of the assignment. A self-described “farm wife,” Sichmeller said she doesn’t often have an opportunity to sit down and visit with friends, but being at the polling place means visiting with folks and catching up on current events.

“People used to spend time just visiting with one another, going to houses and having coffee and playing cards, but that doesn’t happen a lot these days,” she said. “There’s a lot of camaraderie that comes with being around people you know in the community that you have something in common with.”

She said at her precinct things normally proceed “without a lot of drama,” but she remembers that the Covid pandemic did cause a few wrinkles. Several workers contracted the virus, along with the precinct deputy.

The workers had to wear face shields, and Plexiglas was set up in the voting area and at the registration tables.

“I remember a man who had just retired from the military and he came in and saw the face shields and just laughed,” Sichmeller recalled. “He said that wasn’t going to keep us from getting the virus or passing it on to others. He said we needed a hazmat suit for that. I guess he was right.”

Barb Gross recently retired after tending the polls in Dewey County since the 1980s. She describes herself as a stickler for adhering to the rules and buttoning everything down.

“We always made sure everything tallied up because we knew we were going to be audited and we invited that because it was a challenge to see if we could pull it off without a hitch and without anything slipping through the cracks,” she said.

Secretary of State Steve Barnett emphasized the fact that poll workers serve a very valuable role in society.

“They’re on the front lines of the election process. You couldn’t run an election without them,” he said.

Barnett stressed importance of voters meeting their obligation to stay actively involved and make sure they are familiar with the rules and regulations. To find out more about voting rights and responsibilities, visit [www.sdsos.gov](http://www.sdsos.gov).





# ELECTRIC RIDES

## Drivers and the curious headed to the W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds in September to check out electric vehicle technologies.

The second annual Sioux Falls Area Ride and Drive and Electric Vehicle show was held September 29 at the W. H. Lyon Fairgrounds. This year's event was sponsored by Sioux Valley Energy, Southeastern Electric, East River Electric, Xcel Energy, and the City of Sioux Falls.

More than 80 attendees signed up to test drive nearly a dozen electric vehicles including: an Audi eTron, Audi Q4, and Volvo XC90, all from Graham Auto; a Ford Lightning and Ford Mustang Mach E from Sioux Falls Ford, a Mercedes EQ from Luxury Automall, a Ford Mustang Mach E from East River Electric Power Cooperative; Nissan Leafs from Sioux Valley Energy and Southeastern Electric Cooperative, and a Tesla Model 3 from H-D Electric Cooperative.

Additionally, attendees were able to check out recreational vehicles like e-bikes from Spoke-N-Sport and electric lawn equipment from Ace Hardware and Interstate Sales, a LiveWire electric motorcycle from

J&L Harley-Davidson and electric golf carts from NB Golf Cars.

Xcel Energy had their Chevy Bolt on display at their informational booth and the City of Sioux Falls had a booth to answer questions about its sustainability programs. Representatives from the South Dakota Department of Transportation fielded questions about South Dakota's EV charger plan.

Dozens of area EV owners came out for the EV car show which included several EVs:

- Chevy Bolt
- Ford Focus Hybrid, Lightning, and Mustang Mach E
- Hyundai Ioniq 5
- Jeep Wrangler 4xe Plug In Hybrid
- Kia Nero and Kia EV6
- Nissan Leaf
- Porsche Taycan
- Tesla Model 3, Model S Plaid, Model X, and Model Y
- Toyota Rav 4 Plug In







**SECOND ANNUAL EVENT**

This was the second EV Ride and Drive event sponsored by Sioux Valley Energy. The first event was held in 2021 at the Cooperative's Brandon Service Center. To learn more about beneficial electrification and electric vehicles, log on to [siouxvalleyenergy.com](http://siouxvalleyenergy.com).





# SOUND DECISIONS

Central Electric lineman Cody Riggs uses a hot stick to simulate de-energizing a power line during a Freshman Impact emergency exercise at Hanson High School in Alexandria. *Photo by Billy Gibson*

## Freshman Impact program promotes sound safety practices for students

**Billy Gibson**

[billy.gibson@sdrea.coop](mailto:billy.gibson@sdrea.coop)

The students at Hanson High School were stunned and aghast at the horrific scene unfolding right before their eyes.

There were two wrecked sedans, a downed utility pole and tangled wires strewn across the road. Emergency responders were swarming everywhere as a fire truck barreled onto the scene with its sirens blaring. And the most unsettling sight of all: four of their fellow students lying in the crumpled cars with massive wounds and barely clinging to life.

Fortunately, it turns out the accident scene was just a drill staged by a group known as Freshman Impact: Caught in the Moment, and coordinated as part of Cornbelt Program Day at the school located in Alexandria.

Nearly 200 students came from surrounding schools for a full slate of

learning opportunities centered around vehicle safety, first aid, emergency response, drug abuse awareness and much more. Participating schools were Hanson High School, Armour, Bridgewater-Emery, Ethan, Marion, McCook Central, Plankinton and Wessington Springs.

Local organizers Yolanda Price and Don Huber worked with Freshman Impact Executive Director Rick McPherson, local school officials and emergency response agencies to plan the event.

The morning session included seven separate stations scattered throughout the school's parking lot and in the gymnasium. The learning stations focused on the following subjects: teen mental health; healthy relationships; jaws of life and ambulance demonstration; seatbelt awareness; drug dog; social media dangers; and a distracted driving course where the



West River Electric is one of several electric cooperatives that support the Freshman Impact program.

students wore goggles simulating drug and alcohol impaired vision and attempted to navigate a short course behind the wheel of an ATV.

Taking part in the program was Central Electric Cooperative, which provided the downed power pole and wires. Once the emergency exercise was set into motion, two co-op linemen promptly arrived on the scene to de-energize the lines and worked with other responders to secure the area and form a safe perimeter.

Central Electric's Manager of Communications Tara Miller helped





A Hanson High School student takes on the role of an accident victim during a recent mock emergency scenario. *Photo by Billy Gibson*

facilitate the partnership while working alongside local organizers.

“This is an incredible opportunity for area students to learn about good decision-making, safety and the real dangers that are out there,” Miller said. “Concern for community is one of our guiding principles as a cooperative. This experience serves to educate first responders and students. It aligns with our values, and we are pleased to support it.”

The day’s program covered just about all the bases. The schedule included a poignant perspective of loss and grief from LeAnn Moe, who lost her teenage daughter to an automobile accident. During the mock accident response, one of the crash victims was carried away in a hearse furnished by a local funeral

home. And after all the activity settled down outside, the students returned to the gymnasium to observe a mock legal trial and sentencing hearing over the car accident they had witnessed.

The day ended with the distribution of educational materials by CORE (Community Organized Resources for Educating), the parent organization of Freshman Impact.

McPherson said he has found that the teaching method employed by Freshman Impact is successful in driving the message home to students, and they also develop a rapport with local

agencies and emergency responders.

“The students see up close and learn through hands-on activities the possible consequences of wrong choices and the lasting effects physically and emotionally on their bodies, their families and friends and their community,” he said, noting that West River Electric based in Wall is also an event sponsor. “It’s all about making safe choices and preventing destructive behaviors, and it’s important our teens learn the life-long skills and values to help them make the best possible decisions.”

Visit [www.freshmanimpact.com](http://www.freshmanimpact.com).

Central Electric Cooperative of Mitchell presented CORE with a \$2,500 Operation Round Up grant to help fund the local program. Pictured left to right are Freshman Impact founder Rick McPherson, CORE Coordinator Yolanda Price, CORE Coordinator Don Huber, Operation Round-Up Trustee LeAnn Moe, Central Electric Director Merl Bechen and Hanson County Chief Deputy Mike Brown. *Photo by Tara Miller*



# HOW TO READ YOUR BILL


**Member name and billing address is printed here.**

**The location, service address description, rate class and meter information is provided here.**

**A monthly usage graph shows up to 24 months of history for each service.**

**Payment Remittance Stub- This stub (the bottom third of the bill) should be sent in with your payment.**

**Payments should be mailed to the address indicated on the stub. Please make sure the address is visible through the window on the return envelope. To learn about all the ways you can pay, log on to siouxvalley-energy.com.**




**SIoux VALLEY ENERGY**  
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

PO Box 216  
Colman, SD 57017-0216  
1-800-234-1960

Pay By Phone 877-779-7476  
Billing Inquiries 877-511-8062  
www.sioxvalleyenergy.com  
Office Hours: 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Friday

SVE COOP MEMBER  
COOP STREET  
COLMAN, SD 57017



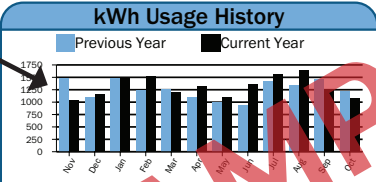
Account Number	0000000001
Statement Date	10/07/2022
Payment Due	10/19/2022

Billing Summary	
Previous Balance	199.00
Payment	-199.00
Balance Forward	0.00
Current Charges	178.00
<b>Total Amount Due 10/19/2022</b>	<b>178.00</b>

Service Address: COOP STREET Map Location: 000-0-000-00-1

Meter Number	Rate	Services	From	To	Readings	Difference	Meter Multiplier	kWh Usage	Demand Usage
00001	RURAL RESIDENT SERVICE		09/01/22	10/01/22	Previous: 25649	Present: 26734	1085	1085	7.490

**kWh Usage History**



COMPARISONS	DAYS	KWH	AVE TEMP	Avg kWh
Current Month	30	1035	64	38
Previous Month	30	1270	69	43
Same Month Last Year	30	1215	65	41
Avg Cost Per Day: 5.93				

**Current Service Detail**

ENERGY CHARGE 1,085 kWh @ 0.10260 111.32

BASIC SERVICE 55.00

**SUB TOTAL 166.32**

TAXES 11.43

OPERATION ROUND-UP 0.25

**TOTAL CURRENT CHARGES DUE 178.00**

PRIOR BALANCE AS OF BILLING DATE 0.00

ELECTRIC MONTHLY BILLING 178.00

**TOTAL AMOUNT DUE 178.00**

SAMPLE BILL

RETURN BOTTOM PORTION WITH YOUR PAYMENT. PLEASE DO NOT FOLD, STAPLE, TAPE, OR PAPERCLIP.

MEMBER NAME: SVE MEMBER

Primary Phone:  
Secondary Phone:  
Map Location: 000-0-000-00-1

Please notify us of any changes to your personal information below:


Address/Box Number


City State Zip

Primary Phone Number Secondary Phone Number

Account Number	0000000001
<b>Total Due 10/19/2022</b>	<b>\$178.00</b>

Amount Paid





We Accept: 

Pay-By-Phone 877-779-7476

Pay-Online at [www.sioxvalleyenergy.com](http://www.sioxvalleyenergy.com)

**SIoux VALLEY ENERGY**  
PO BOX 5512  
SIOUX FALLS, SD 57117-5512

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**The account number is listed at top, followed by the statement date.**

**This section contains the beginning balance, payments, adjustments, current charges, and the account balance.**

**The detail of the charges for this meter is shown here, along with the total electric charge. \*NOTE the basic service charge varies depending on the type of services you have.**

**The total billed amount due for all services is printed here. Bills are due upon receipt and are considered delinquent after the due date.**

\*Your electric bill may look different compared to this sample depending on the rate you are on; if you take part in other programs such as budget billing, RECs, etc; or have more than one meter or submeter at your location.

## Explanation of terms and abbreviations on your bill

**Energy Charge (kWh)** - A charge based on the amount of energy used during the billing period. It is calculated by multiplying the number of kWh used by the rate per kWh.

**Meter Multiplier** - The factor by which the difference between the previous reading and present reading must be multiplied to determine the actual usage on a meter.

**Budget Billing** - A flat monthly payment based on the average cost at the location

from the previous budget billing cycle. The budget billing cycle runs June through May.

**Operation Round Up® Contribution** - A charitable program that provides funding to non-profit organizations throughout the Sioux Valley Energy service territory.

**Basic Service** - A monthly charge that covers the fixed costs associated with providing electricity to the location. Fixed costs include items such as meters, transformers, electric

lines and billing. These costs are independent of your electric usage. Basic Service applies to both active and disconnected accounts. The Basic Service charge will be different, depending on your rate classification.

**Auto Payment** - Payments are automatically deducted from your checking account, savings account or credit/debit card on the first business day after the due date.



# 2023 DISTRICT MEETINGS SET

The Sioux Valley Energy Board of Directors approved the 2023 District Meeting schedule during their September meeting. Four elections will take place in Districts 5, 6, 7, and 9. In District 6, only one at large seat (Rogen) is up for election this year.

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 9 – Sunday, December 25, 2023**

(It is recommended that petitions be turned in by Thursday, Dec. 22)

**□ District 7 – Friday, January 13, 2023**

**□ District 5 – Thursday, January 19, 2023**

**□ District 6 – Sunday, January 22, 2023**

(It is recommended that petitions be turned in by Friday, Jan. 20)

Petitions can be obtained at [www.siouxvalleyenergy.com](http://www.siouxvalleyenergy.com) or by calling 800-234-1960. The Cooperative Bylaws state the qualifications needed to be a director

Date	District	Director	Location
Thursday, February 23*	9	Johnson*	Pipestone Area High School Pipestone, MN
Monday, February 27	8	Leuthold	Generations (Grand Prairie Event Center) Luverne, MN
Tuesday, February 28	1	DeGreef	McKnight Hall White, SD
Thursday, March 2	4	Daniel	Dakota Prairie Playhouse Madison, SD
Thursday, March 9	2	Vostad	Sioux Valley School Volga, SD
Monday, March 13	3	Heinemann	William J Janklow Comm. Center Flandreau, SD
Tuesday, March 14*	7	DeMent*	West Central School Hartford, SD
Monday, March 20*	5	Weinacht*	Taopi Hall Colton, SD
Tuesday, March 21	10	Roskamp	Edgerton Public School Edgerton, MN
Thursday, March 23*	6	Fish & Rogen*	Brandon Valley High School Brandon, SD

(see below). Interested members are encouraged to contact Brenda Schelhaas, Executive Assistant. All Board seats elected in 2023 will serve three-year terms. \*Denotes election meetings.

## 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. 3-5**  
**Huron Ringneck Festival**  
**& Bird Dog Challenge**  
 Huron, SD

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.

To view the publication's master event calendar, scan the QR code below:



Or visit <https://sdrea.coop/cooperative-connections-event-calendar> to view more upcoming events.

**OCT. 28-30**

**ZooBoo**  
 Great Plains Zoo  
 Sioux Falls, SD  
 605-367-7003

**OCT. 31**  
**Halloween Parade**  
 Belle Fourche, SD

**NOV. 3-5**  
**Yankton's Harvest Halloween**  
 Downtown, Yankton, SD

**NOV. 3-5**  
**Huron Ringneck Festival & Bird Dog Challenge**  
 100 4th Street SW, Huron, SD  
 605-352-0000

**NOV. 4-6**  
**Girlfriends' Weekend**  
 Hill City, SD

**NOV. 5-20**  
**Rustic Designs & More Christmas Show**  
 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily  
 Ethan, SD  
 605-770-2411

**NOV. 5**  
**Fairburn Community Center Bazaar**  
 Fairburn, SD

**NOV. 11-13**  
**Christmas at the Barn**  
 Front Porch 605  
 Groton, SD  
 605-216-4202

**NOV. 12**  
**Black Hills Meat Festival**  
 Black Hills Harley Davidson  
 2820 Harley Dr.  
 Rapid City, SD  
 605-390-7917

**NOV. 12**  
**Holiday Extravaganza**  
 Sisseton, SD  
 605-698-7425

**NOV. 12**  
**PCC Holiday Craft Show**  
 1003 8th Ave SE  
 Pipestone, MN  
 507-920-2820

**NOV. 12**  
**PCC Holiday Craft Show**  
 1401 7th St SW  
 Pipestone, MN  
 507-825-3681

**NOV. 13**  
**Lutefisk, Lefse, Meatball Supper**  
 Chamberlain, SD  
 605-234-6698

**NOV. 18-20**  
**Deadwood's Big Whiskey Festival**  
 Deadwood, SD  
 605-578-1876

**NOV. 19**  
**Fall Craft Show**  
 Minneluzahan Senior Center  
 Rapid City, SD  
 605-394-1887

**NOV. 19**  
**Lille Norge Fest**  
 Canyon Lake Activity Center  
 Rapid City, SD  
 605-342-4226

**NOV. 25**  
**Olde Tyme Christmas Kick-off and Parade**  
 Hill City, SD

**NOV. 25**  
**Trap Shoot**  
 Izaak Walton League  
 Sioux Falls, SD  
 605-332-9527

**NOV. 25**  
**"Light up the Night" Parade and Fireworks**  
 Belle Fourche, SD

**NOV. 25-26**  
**Kris Kringle Kraft Fair**  
 Hill City, SD

**DEC. 2-3**  
**Gregory Mid-Winter Fair**  
 Gregory Auditorium  
 Gregory, SD  
 605-830-9778

**DEC. 2-3**  
**Christmas in the Hills**  
 Mueller Center  
 Hot Springs, SD  
 605-745-4140

**DEC. 3**  
**Santa's Thrift Village**  
 Minneluzahan Senior Center  
 Rapid City, SD  
 605-394-1887

**Note: Please make sure to call ahead to verify the event is still being held.**