

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Power on Wheels

**Solar Power
Education**

Pages 8-9

Flipping the Switch

Pages 12-13

Members of Sioux Valley Energy's Beneficial Electrification Department install panels on a 50 kW community solar array at the Sioux Valley Energy Colman office.

Annual Meeting Highlights



Tim McCarthy
General Manager/
Chief Executive
Officer

Tim.McCarthy@
siouxvalleyenergy.
com

Thanks to our members who were able to attend this year's Annual Meeting. We tried something new this year -- we held our meeting in three different locations (Hartford, Volga and Luverne) to allow more members to take part in the event. It worked! More than 1,400 of you joined us in one of the three locations. Each year at the meeting, I provide a short report to the membership. For those of you who couldn't make it, here is the condensed version:

The coming years for Sioux Valley Energy will be defined by growth – we are projecting significant increases both in membership and electric load and are making plans now to address it. We have to be prepared to serve a growing membership with additional labor, more equipment, and new and updated facilities.

In fact, over the next two decades, just in Minnehaha County, we expect to add membership and electric load equal to the size of Brookings. Again, that is just in Minnehaha County—that doesn't even take into consideration all the growth around the Lake Madison area or additional electric load from farms and other businesses located in other counties.

We have to be in front of the growth—we cannot wait until it hits. To do that, we have been working on a long-range strategic facility plan to ensure continuity of top-notch service well into the future for our membership, while doing so in a responsible manner. The first step was to secure a member-facing presence in Hartford, an area where we are experiencing high growth rates. We were able to do that this past year; however, as many of you know, we needed to have some work done on the facility but hope to be up and running again in Hartford in the coming months. The second step of that plan was to expand our Brandon service center. This is currently in progress. The expansion will feature a new training center, expanded warehouse facilities, and additional office space. The office space

will likely not be used right away, but again, we are building for the future. The long-range facility plan may also eventually include additional cooperative-owned facilities in western Minnehaha County.

As we announced during this year's district meetings, the Co-op plans to keep rates steady throughout this year with the help of deferred revenue. The Brandon expansion project is anticipated to add less than half of one percent to the rate base, so the impact will be minimal for that project. Having said that, we do anticipate rate adjustments in the future, most of which can be attributed to higher costs for financing, labor, materials, and equipment.

I also wanted to mention a few other initiatives our employees have been working on that are helping this cooperative and its members move forward into the future:

Our lineworkers and contractors plan to replace or upgrade over 100 miles of line this year throughout the entire service territory. This is a bit less than what we have done in the past, but given the cost of materials and supply chain issues, the reduction was necessary this year. We believe this to be temporary and hope to get back up to our goal of 125 miles of line per year soon. We've made great progress in replacing an aging electric system which will ensure reliability long into the future.

In a few weeks you will see a brand-new look on your electric bill. One thing I do want to point out is an additional line-item tracking members' demand use each month. Currently residential and general service members are not charged based on demand, but you will see the line item on your bill now. The reason we added that line item is to help members understand that demand matters. About half of the Cooperative's power supply costs are based on demand. Sioux Valley Energy believes that knowledge is power and we want to give you more information on how your electric demand impacts the system, in turn affecting the cost for all members.

And since we are talking demand, I wanted to highlight our coincidental demand rate pilot

Continued on top of page 3

On the Cover:
Members of Sioux Valley Energy's Beneficial Electrification Department install panels on a 50 kW community solar array at the Sioux Valley Energy Colman office.

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

SIoux VALLEY ENERGY

(USPS No. 497-440)

Board President: Gary Fish

Board of Directors

Dan Leuthold - Vice

President

Don DeGreef - Secretary

Dave Daniel - Treasurer

Rodney DeMent

Dr. Leslie Heinemann

Gregg Johnson

Mark Rogen

Lucas Roskamp

Ann Vostad

Allan Weinacht

CEO/General Manager: Tim McCarthy

Chief Financial Officer: Jason Maxwell

V.P. of Engineering & Operations: Ted Smith

V.P. of Human Resources

& Member Services: Kimberlee Hansen

V.P. of Public Relations: Carrie Vugteveen, Editor

V.P. of Technology: Justin Moose

Executive Assistant: Brenda Schelhaas

Sioux Valley Energy Cooperative Connections is the monthly publication for the members of Sioux Valley Energy, PO Box 216, Colman, SD 57017. Families subscribe to *Sioux Valley Energy Cooperative Connections* as part of their electric cooperative membership. The purpose of *Sioux Valley Energy Cooperative Connections* is to provide reliable, helpful information to Sioux Valley Energy members on electric cooperative matters and better living.

Subscription information: Sioux Valley Energy members devote 50 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Non-member subscriptions are available for \$12 annually. Periodicals Postage Paid at Colman, SD 57017 and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to *Sioux Valley Energy Cooperative Connections*, PO Box 216, Colman, SD 57017; telephone 605-534-3535; toll free 800-234-1960.

How to contact us: Phone: 1-800-234-1960
e-mail: sve@siouxvalleyenergy.com
Website: www.siouxvalleyenergy.com

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or disability. Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found on-line at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed complaint form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov

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

that will be based on signals notifying members when the Co-op is entering into a peak demand period. This pilot is designed to determine how much members will actually respond to rate signals based on demand. Once we have that pilot complete, we will make sure to let you know how it turned out.

Finally, the Cooperative would like to honor four employees for hitting a milestone for their years of service -- Leann Nelson (25 years), Chad Williams (25 years), Jim Kuyper (30 years), and Kimberlee Hansen (30 years).

As I close out my column for this month, please remember to stay safe this summer--call 811 before you dig and look around for overhead power lines!



Pictured from left to right: Kimberlee Hansen and Debra Bieber.

Biever retires; Hansen promoted

Debra Bieber recently retired after 27 years of service to Sioux Valley Energy. Bieber began her co-op career as a Customer Service Representative, moved into the role of Manager of Customer Service and for the last 16 years served as Vice President of Human Resources and Member Services. Bieber was recognized by the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting with a resolution thanking her for her dedication to SVE members and employees. After her retirement, she took a position with the Minnesota Department of Health.

Kimberlee Hansen was promoted to fill the Vice President of Human Resources and Member Services position left vacant by Bieber. Hansen served most recently as the Manager of Human Resources and has dedicated the last 30 years of her career to Sioux Valley Energy.

Fireworks Safety Tips

Summer is synonymous with barbecues, parades and fireworks. The National Safety Council advises everyone to enjoy fireworks at public displays conducted by professionals, and not to use any fireworks at home. They may be legal but they are not safe.

In 2017, eight people died and over 12,000 were injured badly enough to require medical treatment after fireworks-related incidents. Of these, 50% of the injuries were to children and young adults under age 20. Over two-thirds (67%) of injuries took place from June 16 to July 16. And while the majority of these incidents were due to amateurs attempting to use professional-grade, homemade or other illegal fireworks or explosives, an estimated 1,200 injuries were from less powerful devices like small firecrackers and sparklers.

Additionally, fireworks start an average of 18,500 fires each year, including 1,300 structure fires, 300 vehicle fires and nearly 17,000 other fires.

Fireworks Safety Tips: If You Choose to Use Legal Fireworks

If consumer fireworks are legal to buy where you live and you choose to use them, be sure to follow the following safety tips:

- Never allow young children to handle fireworks
- Older children should use them only under close adult supervision
- Never use fireworks while impaired by drugs or alcohol
- Anyone using fireworks or standing nearby should wear protective eyewear
- Never hold lighted fireworks in your hands
- Never light them indoors
- Only use them away from people, houses and flammable material
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person
- Only light one device at a time and maintain a safe distance after lighting
- Never ignite devices in a container
- Do not try to re-light or handle malfunctioning fireworks
- Soak both spent and unused fireworks in water for a few hours before discarding

- Keep a bucket of water nearby to fully extinguish fireworks that don't go off or in case of fire
- Never use illegal fireworks

Sparklers Are Dangerous

Every year, young children can be found along parade routes and at festivals with sparklers in hand, but sparklers are a lot more dangerous than most people think.

Sparklers burn at about 2,000 degrees – hot enough to melt some metals. Sparklers can quickly ignite clothing, and children have received severe burns from dropping sparklers on their feet. According to the National Fire Protection Association, sparklers alone account for more than 25% of emergency room visits for fireworks injuries. For children under five years of age, sparklers accounted for nearly half of the total estimated injuries. Consider using safer alternatives, such as glow sticks, confetti poppers or colored streamers.



Call Before You Dig!

Dixie Koistinen

Dixie Koistinen advises diggers to call 811 before digging. This is a great tip for anyone doing construction or yard work this summer. Dixie is the daughter of Jerome and Lisa Koistinen from Lake Norden, S.D., members of H-D 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.



Summer DESSERTS

VICKY'S RHUBARB CAKE

Ingredients:

- 1 egg
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup cream (sweet or sour)
- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 1 tsp. soda
- 1/4 tsp. cinnamon
- 2 cups rhubarb (slice thin)

METHOD

Mix in order. Grease and flour pan. Pour batter into pan and sprinkle 1 cup brown sugar, 1/2 cup nuts, and 1/2 cup chocolate chips over the top. Bake at 350°F for 50 minutes.

Vicky Hoffman
South Dakota

CHERRY CLOUD 9 DESSERT

Ingredients:

- 1 white cake mix
- 1 (3 oz.) pkg. cherry jello
- 1 (8 oz.) carton of Cool Whip
- 1 (24 oz.) can cherry pie filling

METHOD

Bake 1 white cake mix in 9x13" pan according to directions. Poke holes in cake and pour in 1 (3 oz.) pkg. cherry jello made with only 1 1/2 cups water. Refrigerate.

When this is cool, cover with 1 (8 oz.) carton of Cool Whip. Gently spoon on 1 (24 oz.) can of cherry pie filling. Refrigerate and serve.

This is a pretty red and white dessert to serve during holiday gatherings.

Jane Ham
Rapid City, S.D.

EASY RASPBERRY MOLTEN CAKES

Ingredients:

- 4 oz. semi sweet chocolate
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter
- 4 tsps. raspberry extract
- 1 cup confectioners' sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 egg yolk
- 6 tbsp. flour
- Raspberry Sauce (recipe follows)

Raspberry Sauce:

- 1 package (10 ounces) frozen raspberries in juice, thawed
- 1/2 teaspoon raspberry extract

METHOD

Preheat oven to 425°F. Butter 6 (6 oz.) custard cups or soufflé dishes. Place on baking sheet.

Microwave chocolate and butter in large microwavable bowl on HIGH 1 minute or until butter is melted. Stir with wire whisk until chocolate is completely melted. Stir in raspberry flavor and vanilla. Stir in sugar until well blended. Whisk in eggs and yolk. Stir in flour. Pour batter into prepared custard cups.

Bake 10 to 14 minutes or until sides are firm but centers are soft. Let stand 1 minute. Carefully loosen edges with small knife. Invert cakes onto serving plates.

For the Raspberry Sauce, mix raspberries and raspberry extract until well blended. Serve with cakes.

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 2023. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

Cool Down with a Heat Pump



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:

Summer is here! Is your home's air conditioning system ready? Now may be a great time to consider installing a heat pump.

If your system is 15 to 20 years old, requiring more service, and just not keeping up anymore, it may be time to replace it. Should you replace the whole system at the same time if your furnace is still working? Yes, it is a good idea to replace your whole system. Replacing only part of the system may appear to save you money, but it can contribute to service problems later. A mismatched system can also lead to poor performance, and it may not deliver the expected comfort and efficiency.

What system should you buy? Consider using variable speed equipment that will deliver year-round comfort and efficiency to lower your heating and cooling bills. The size, construction, and layout of your home affects the size of your HVAC system. Your local contractor will help you determine the right size. A heat pump is a great choice – it's tough to beat the efficiency of an electric heat pump that not only cools your home in the summer, but also heats it in the winter. You can choose the

type of backup system it's paired with – electric, LP, or natural gas. Heat pumps – geothermal or air-to-air systems, including ductless solutions – are designed to be used in any home whether it's new construction, a renovation project, or replacing your existing system. Sioux Valley Energy offers rebates, special rates, and low interest loans to make choosing electric an even better value.

- \$600 for an air-to-air heat pump (2 ton and larger) with a propane/natural gas backup furnace
- \$1,200 for air-to-air heat pump (2 ton and

larger) with electric backup or geothermal heat pump

- \$300 rebate/structure for mini-split ductless heat pump
- Heat pump loans available upon approved credit up \$15,000, 5% interest, 7-year term
- Electric heat rate of 6.35 cents/kWh compared to regular rate of 10.26 cents/kWh given October through April billing cycles – submeter installation required.
- Federal tax incentives may be available, for more information on qualifications visit: https://www.energystar.gov/about/federal_tax_credits

A heat pump will cost you more money upfront to purchase than a central air

2023 HEAT PUMP COMPARISONS				
SVE's 6.35¢ heat rate <i>(October-April billing cycles)</i>	96% efficient propane furnace	96% efficient natural gas furnace	90% efficient propane furnace	90% efficient natural gas furnace
Air-Source Heat Pump <i>(Based on rating of 8.2 HSPF, utilized most in October, November, March & April)</i>	68¢ per gallon	74¢ per therm	64¢ per gallon	70¢ per therm
Geothermal Heat Pump <i>(Based on COP rating of 3.8)</i>	43¢ per gallon	47¢ per therm	40¢ per gallon	43¢ per therm
Electric Resistance <i>(Based on 100% efficient)</i>	\$1.63 per gallon	\$1.79 per therm	\$1.53 per gallon	\$1.67 per therm

How does a heat pump compare to other energy sources? For example, if you have a 96% efficient propane furnace, you would need to be able purchase propane at 68 cents per gallon or less to be cheaper than operating an air-source heat pump with SVE's electric heat rate.

conditioner, but you'll be able to use it year-round to take advantage of the efficiency and energy savings. With trends of increased rates for fossil fuels, pairing your system with a heat pump also gives you another energy choice for heating. A base model air-source heat pump has a heating seasonal performance factor (HSPF) of 8.2 and will typically be set to operate in the mid-20 degrees and above for heating before the backup system is needed. Units with higher ratings (9s and 10s) are considered cold climate heat pumps that can operate in much colder temperatures – requiring less of backup systems.

NEW BILL DESIGN = MORE INFO

The design of your monthly electric bill has been updated with a new look. The new design will help you monitor your electric demand each month, view usage comparisons and receive important messages from SVE.

Residential and general service members are not currently charged for electric demand, but about half of the Cooperative's power supply costs are based on demand. Knowledge is power and SVE wants to give you more information

on how your electric demand impacts the system, in turn affecting the cost for all members. The newly designed bills will now list your electric demand as a line item.

1. Member Information: Member name(s), bill date, account number, service address, and map location.

2. Total Amount Due: The total amount owed for the account.

3. Sioux Valley Energy Contact Information: Phone and website information.

4. Monthly Energy Use Comparison: Usage comparison for this month, last month, and this month last year.

5. Billing Period Averages: Average daily use and cost for current billing period.

6. Message Center: Sioux Valley Energy will post important messages to our members here.

7. Autopay: This is an optional program. Your payment will be automatically deducted from your checking/savings account or credit/debit card on the first business day after the due date. You can sign up for autopay by signing in to SmartHub.

8. Billing Address: Address bills will be mailed to.

9. Payment Address: Payments should be mailed to the address indicated on the stub.

10. Meter Detail: Rate description, billing period, and meter information.

11. Account Activity: Previous balance, payments, and adjustments.

12. Current Charges: Information on all charges associated with the account.

13. Energy Charge: the amount of usage (kWh) billed.

14. Demand Charge: The highest average kW measured in half hour intervals during the billing period. Demand measures a member's individual impact on the grid. Two members can use the same amount of energy (kWh) in a billing period but their demand (kW) can vary drastically. Running things such as appliances separately rather than simultaneously helps your demand.

15. Basic Service Charge: 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 (energized) and disconnected (de energized) accounts.

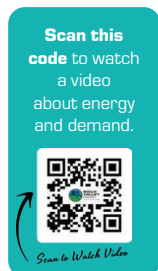
16. Operation Round Up®: ORU is a charitable program that provides funding to non profit organizations throughout our service territory.

17. Usage Graph: Monthly comparison graph with average temperatures.

18. Other Ways to Pay Your Bill: A listing of other options on how to pay your bill.

19. Banner Ad: Sioux Valley Energy will post important member information here.

20. SmartHub: Information on what SmartHub can do and how to sign up.



1. Member Information: Member name(s), bill date, account number, service address, and map location.

2. Total Amount Due: The total amount owed for the account.

3. Sioux Valley Energy Contact Information: Phone and website information.

4. Monthly Energy Use Comparison: Usage comparison for this month, last month, and this month last year.

5. Billing Period Averages: Average daily use and cost for current billing period.

6. Message Center: Sioux Valley Energy will post important messages to our members here.

7. Autopay: This is an optional program. Your payment will be automatically deducted from your checking/savings account or credit/debit card on the first business day after the due date. You can sign up for autopay by signing in to SmartHub.

8. Billing Address: Address bills will be mailed to.

9. Payment Address: Payments should be mailed to the address indicated on the stub.

10. Meter Detail: Rate description, billing period, and meter information.

11. Account Activity: Previous balance, payments, and adjustments.

12. Current Charges: Information on all charges associated with the account.

13. Energy Charge: the amount of usage (kWh) billed.

14. Demand Charge: The highest average kW measured in half hour intervals during the billing period. Demand measures a member's individual impact on the grid. Two members can use the same amount of energy (kWh) in a billing period but their demand (kW) can vary drastically. Running things such as appliances separately rather than simultaneously helps your demand.

15. Basic Service Charge: 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 (energized) and disconnected (de energized) accounts.

16. Operation Round Up®: ORU is a charitable program that provides funding to non profit organizations throughout our service territory.

17. Usage Graph: Monthly comparison graph with average temperatures.

18. Other Ways to Pay Your Bill: A listing of other options on how to pay your bill.

19. Banner Ad: Sioux Valley Energy will post important member information here.

20. SmartHub: Information on what SmartHub can do and how to sign up.



POWER ON WHEELS

West Central Electric Cooperative's solar trailer serves as an interactive exhibit showcasing solar power generation in action for members. Equipped with a built-in generator, battery storage unit, inverter, and six rooftop solar arrays, the trailer is a great resource for public outreach and education efforts in South Dakota.

Solar trailer takes renewable education on the road

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdra.coop

Solar panels are creating a buzz in the energy industry. Every day, co-op employees around the state answer an ever-growing list of questions, such as “Can solar save me money on my energy bill?” and “Are solar panels a reliable source of energy?”

Addressing increasing public interest, West Central Electric Co-op, serving towns such as Murdo and Kennebec, has developed an innovative approach to public outreach regarding solar panels. Their solution: a solar trailer — a portable structure designed to inform the public about the efficiency, pros and cons of solar panels.

“West Central Electric has approxi-

mately 3,700 members and I get two or three calls a month from our members asking about solar power,” said Jessie Tucker, the co-op’s member services manager.

Tucker noted that the recent surge in solar power interest isn’t limited to West Central. Co-ops throughout the state have been fielding similar inquiries. So, when the concept of a solar trailer was introduced in 2021, several nearby co-ops, including Rushmore Electric Power, were quick to get on board.

“We thought, wouldn’t it be great if we had something that we could show to the membership and explain how solar panels work and go from there,” said Tucker. “We envisioned the trailer as a resource that could be utilized throughout western South Dakota, if not the entire state.”

With support from surrounding co-ops, the trailer was completed in June 2022. Although the trailer is a work in progress, it has already been showcased at several co-op outreach events over the past year, including Black Hills Electric’s Co-op Day and more.

The solar trailer serves as an interactive exhibit where members can step inside for a first-hand experience. Upon pressing a button, the six rooftop solar arrays activate and start generating a total of 1.92 kilowatts of energy directly from the trailer’s roof. Apart from solar panels, the trailer is equipped with a built-in generator, a battery storage unit, and an inverter that converts power from direct current (DC) to alternating current (AC).

The trailer, according to Tucker, highlights the benefits of a diversified approach to South Dakota’s energy mix. For a reliable and dependable energy grid, renewable sources such as solar need to be paired with other forms of power generation.

“What we are really trying to com-

municate is that you can't fully rely on distributed generation, whether it's solar or wind," Tucker explained. "For reliability and safety, it's important to consider all available energy sources. Solar power has its limitations, especially when the sun isn't shining or during the night."

The introduction of a solar trailer comes as co-ops across the state are in the midst of their own solar initiatives. Just last month, Sioux Valley Energy completed its own solar project that permits its members to purchase a 20-year subscription to the power output from a newly constructed 140-panel solar array located in Colman, S.D. The project allows members who are passionate about renewable energy a direct route to purchase solar power through their local co-op.

"A lot of people are very interested in solar power, but they don't want to go through the process of using up land and roof space," said Ben Pierson, manager of beneficial electrification for Sioux Valley. "Members aren't interested in constructing these projects themselves, so our solar

project offers those members an alternative way to get involved in solar."

More than 30 members participate in the subscription program, and because the project was entirely financed by the participating members, it won't impact other members of the co-op.

"This project was one hundred percent funded by the members that are purchasing the output of those panels," said Pierson. "This project allows these members to see a local, physical solar asset in their community that is working for them and is credited on their bill each. So really



The solar trailer has been featured at several co-op public outreach events.

our focus with renewable is really about member choice."

The landscape of renewable energy is vast and ever-changing and every co-op is planning their own approach, but with resources like the solar trailer, tools for education and engagement are within reach for members wanting to learn more.



The interior of the solar trailer is equipped with battery storage and outlets – powering everyday electrical appliances, such as a hairdryer.



THREE LOCATIONS ONE GREAT MEETING

2023 SVE Annual Meeting held in three locations simultaneously

Sioux Valley Energy members attended their Annual Meeting in three different locations this year. More than 1,400 people took part in the meeting at the various venues which included West Central School in Hartford, Sioux Valley School in Volga, and Generations Event Center in Luverne.

Biever dedicated 27 years of her career to Sioux Valley Energy.

Manager McCarthy also announced the EmPOWER Youth Leadership scholarship recipients.

Each location provided attending members a meal, bingo, children's activities, and musical entertainment. The meeting was live-streamed from Hartford to the other locations.

Manager Tim McCarthy provided participants an update on the Cooperative and as part of the management report, he recognized four Sioux Valley Energy employees for their years of service.

Board President Gary Fish presented a Resolution of Appreciation to Debra Biever who recently retired from the Cooperative. Debra



Above: The Barn Flies performed for members in Hartford. **Next page:** Bingo with prizes and children's activities also entertained meeting attendees.

MEMBERS' DEMOCRATIC CONTROL



Top Right: SVE honored four employees for their years of service -- Leann Nelson (25 years), Chad Williams (25 years), and Kimberlee Hansen (30 years). Jim Kuyper (30 years) is not pictured.
Left: EmPOWER scholarship recipients were introduced at the Annual Meeting.



MEMBERS WIN!

Those attending the Annual Meeting June 6 were registered to win prizes from the Co op's Beneficial Electrification Department. During the meeting, one winner was selected at each location to receive a Nest Programmable Thermostat. Nest winners by location were Hartford: St. Jacobs Church of Colton; Luverne: Steven Lange of Pipestone; and Volga: Dan and Valerie Foster of Brookings.

The following day, a winner was drawn from the registrations from all three locations. Neil Winterton of Sherman was the winner of the LECTRIC e bike.



FLIPPING THE SWITCH

Third generation ranchers Ken and Kathleen Meier stand by one of the first electric utility pole installed on their ranch.

The Meier Family and Illuminating Rural South Dakota

Frank Turner
frank.turner@sdrea.coop

In the rural heartland of Firesteel, S.D., a transformational moment still echoes in the minds of third-generation ranchers Ken and Kathleen Meier. Over a span of 56 years on their farmstead, they have run cattle, reared horses, and even raised two children. After all

of those years, however, they still vividly remember the moment when electricity illuminated their rural community for the first time in the early 50s.

It's safe to say, their memories go back a long way. And yet, their bond with their home extends even further, reaching back a century to when their families were still

establishing roots in the frontier of the rural prairie.

Ken recalls the unlikely story which brought his grandpa, Anton Meier, from Iowa to the captivating, rolling landscape near Timber Lake, S.D., in 1923.

“Well, my grandpa was ornery when he had a bit too much to drink,” said Ken. “Anyway, after a night of drinking, they threw him out of a bar in Iowa, so he crawled into a train car for a nap. When he woke up, he was in South Dakota.”

According to Meier, his grandpa Anton quickly fell in love with the state and decided to relocate his

family to a new frontier near Timber Lake. In a coincidental twist of fate, Kathleen's family also settled in the same area around the same time. Unlike Anton's serendipitous journey,

Kathleen's grandfather, Frank Holzer, had a more traditional approach.

"My grandpa didn't get a free ride," laughed Kathleen. "He came down with our family from North Dakota with a horse and a milk cow tied to the back of the family's covered wagon."

When their families first settled the area, it was the era of kerosene lamps, horses and hard work. Yet in their childhood, both Ken and Kathleen witnessed the transition from kerosene lamps to electric light bulbs, a change that would propel their families and their communities forward.

"I must have been 9 or 10, but I remember when Moreau-Grand put our line up," Ken reminisced. "The memory of those first poles being driven into the ground by a couple of guys with an old International Truck has stuck with me. It was just something you don't forget."

Today, those original poles placed in the ground more than 70 years ago still stand tall on their ranch. Kathleen, too, recalls the transformative impact they had.

"I was about the same age when we first wired our house," said

Kathleen. "I remember how fun it was to just turn the lights on and have bright lights."

However, the electrification of their neighborhood brought more than just the novelty of flipping a switch. Kathleen's family promptly modernized their home. Their stove and fridge transitioned from kerosene to electric, and they even invested in a milking machine. The arrival of electricity didn't just bring about change; it revolutionized daily life on the ranch, making it cleaner and more efficient.

"Our old washing machine ran on a gas engine," said Kathleen. "You had to stomp on a pedal to get that motor started. It smoked up the entire house. Once we had electricity all we had to do was plug it in."

Progress didn't stop at the washing machine. "It didn't take long for things to change," added Ken. "I remember when I was about thirteen, my neighbor purchased the first television in the neighborhood, so everything happened fast. We would all go to watch whatever was on."

The transition has continued to benefit the Meier family. Today, their son, Kent Meier, works in the power industry with Border States Electric, a company that sells electrical equipment, tools and appliances. Their daughter, Cindy Lindskov has carried on the family tradition as a fourth-generation rancher in Isabelle, S.D., a town conveniently located just a stone's throw away from her parents.

It's amazing how much has changed over the years," said Ken. "Since the day we first got electricity, Moreau-Grand has done a great job of keeping our light on and burning bright."



One of the original utility poles on Ken and Kathleen Meier's land was created in 1950, yet it still functions to this day.

SHIFT GARAGE

Joe Smith Nominated for 'Who Powers You' Contest

Joe Smith, Shift Garage in Sioux Falls, was nominated for the Who Powers You contest and Sioux Valley Energy celebrates his good work for the community.



The nomination for Smith said, "Joe is by definition the hands and feet serving his community. Joe founded and runs the SHIFT Garage, which is a local free labor garage in both Rapid City and Sioux Falls. Because of Joe, thousands of families have reliable transportation which means they can get to work, get their kids to daycare, and gain some desperately needed financial stability in their lives. You won't find Joe flooding all the social media platforms with his good deeds, he is too busy getting his hands dirty fixing vehicles for people in need. You will not find someone who exemplifies a servant more nor will you find someone who so quietly impacts a community than Joe. Joe is exactly what you'd hope for in a neighbor, friendly, loving, and willing to lend a hand. I am honored to call Joe a co-worker and friend."

Joe and the Shift Garage were featured on Keloland Living as part of the 'Who Powers You' contest.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- Hefty AgPhd Field Day:
Thursday, July 27
- Sioux Empire Fair Ag Day:
Wednesday, August 9

Operation Round Up



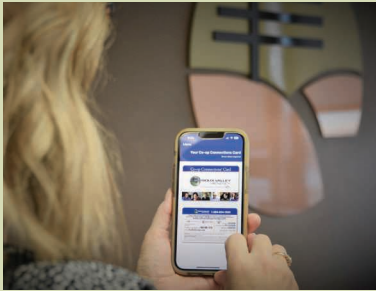
The Sioux Valley Energy Operation Round Up Board of Trustees recently met and approved \$36,000 to the following organizations:

- Sioux Valley Energy Scholarships
- Blue Dragon Foundation
- Brookings Area Camp Adventure
- Brookings County 4 H Leaders
- City of Colton
- City of Pipestone, Recreation Department
- Dynamic Booster Club
- ELC Pipestone
- Flandreau Elementary School
- Garretson Community Ambulance Corp.
- Habitat for Humanity
- Junior Achievement
- Luverne Child Guide Program
- Luverne Elementary School
- McCrossan Boys Ranch
- Moody County 4 H Robotics Club
- Moody County Shooting Sports Dell Rapids
- Pipestone Area Softball and Baseball Assn.
- Pipestone Senior Citizens Center
- Pipestone Sportmen's Club
- Ramona Community Club
- South Dakota Youth Foundation
- Tri Valley School District



WHEN ARE ORU APPLICATIONS DUE?

The Operation Round Up Board meets quarterly and all applications must be received by the 20th of the month preceding a Board meeting. Due dates are February 20, May 20, August 20, and November 20.



CO-OP CONNECTIONS® CARD CORNER

The Co-op Connections Card is a partnership between Sioux Valley Energy and local businesses! Each member received the Co-op Connections Card free in their January magazine. You get your Co-op Connections Card simply because you're a member of Sioux Valley Energy. Each month, we'll include a listing of businesses participating in the program. Below are businesses located in Madison:

Madison

- Community Center
- Dairy Queen
- Encore Family Store
- EXIT Realty Advantage-Adam Foland
- Lake Herman Auto Sales, Inc.
- Leader Printing
- Madison Chiropractic Center
- Madison Family Dental, LLC
- Madison Vision Clinic
- Nicky's
- Pizza Ranch
- Prairie Village
- Sparkle & Sass Boutique
- The Shepherd Shop
- We Care Dental
- Wireless World
- Your Peace of Mind Home Inspections

Scan this code to access the Sioux Valley Energy website where you can download the Cooperative Connections Card app for mobile devices.



EmPOWER Scholarships Awarded

Fourteen members of the 2022-23 EmPOWER Youth Leadership program received scholarships totaling \$10,000 at the Annual Meeting June 6.

\$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Elizabeth Aaseng
Brandon Valley High School



Meron Hunde
Brandon Valley High School



Ashirvad Sharma
Brandon Valley High School



Nadia Wipf
Brandon Valley High School

\$750 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Chantel Bickler
Brandon Valley High School



Drew Pederson
Garretson High School



Taylor Post
Pipestone Area High School



Karissa Williams
Colman-Egan High School

\$500 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



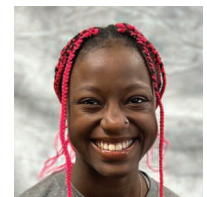
Krista Burkman
Brandon Valley High School



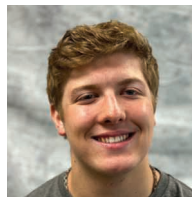
Davina Darveaux
Pipestone Area High School



Lily Fods
Chester Area High School



Daniela Lee
Colman-Egan High School



Thomas Risty
Brandon Valley High School



Naomi Wallace
Pipestone Area High School



REGISTER TO WIN!

Bring this coupon and mailing label to the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives booth at Dakotafest or the South Dakota State Fair to win a prize!

Your Phone Number: _____

Your E-mail Address: _____



July 14-16
Badlands Astronomy Festival
25216 Ben Reifel Road
Interior, SD
605-433-5243

JUNE 23-25
46th Annual Main Street Arts & Crafts Festival
Centennial Park
Hot Springs, SD

JULY 1
Nature's Fireflies
9 p.m.
Palisades State Park
Sioux Falls, SD

JULY 2
Bike Parade
9 p.m.
Big Sioux Recreation Area
Sioux Falls, SD

JULY 6
Hartford Farmer's Market
5 p.m.
Hartford, SD

JULY 8-9
Prairie Village Opera House
**Concert Series: Sean Watson/
Chanelle Munroe - Illusionists**
Sioux Falls, SD

JULY 12
Tracy Area Gardens & Quilts Tour
2 p.m.
Tracy, MN

JULY 13-16
Pioneer Days
White, SD
605-690-4458

JULY 15
Huron MS Walk/Run
8 a.m.
Lake Byron
Huron, SD
605-350-5922

JULY 22
Prairie Village Opera House
Concert Series: Highway 96
Sioux Falls, SD
JULY 28-29
Farley Fest
Lake Farley Park
Milbank, SD
www.farleyfest.com

AUG 3
Hartford Farmer's Market
5 p.m.
Hartford, SD

AUG 5
George Daniels Documentary
Showing
7 p.m.
McKnight Hall
White, SD

AUG 6
White Area Historical
Museum and Society 40th
Anniversary with music by
Fiddlers of SD
White, SD

AUG 12
Perseid Meteor Shower
9:30 p.m.
Palisades State Park
Sioux Falls, SD

AUG 21
30th Annual Bishop's Cup
Golf Tournament
Minnehaha Country Club and
The Country Club of Sioux Falls
Sioux Falls, SD

AUG 26
McCrossan Boys Ranch
Xtreme Event Challenge
4 p.m.
Sioux Falls, SD

AUG 26
Hartford Area Fire & Rescue's
5th Annual Public Safety Day
10:30 a.m.
Hartford Fire Station
Hartford, SD

SEPT 29-30
Junkin' Market Days
Ramkota Exhibit Hall
Sioux Falls, SD
605-941-4958

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.

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