

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



SOUTH DAKOTA STAR QUILTS

**Honoring Cooperative
Legacy With
Time-honored Tradition**
Pages 8-9

Rescuing Animals
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Photo by Frank Turner

Meeting Increasing Demand



Tim McCarthy
General Manager/
Chief Executive
Officer

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com

Sioux Valley Energy's Annual Meeting took place on June 10, and we were pleased to be able to welcome 1,175 members and guests to our three locations in Hartford, Volga, and Luverne. This year's theme centered around the Cooperative being your partner in progress. We recognize that progress looks different for each individual, but collectively as a Co-op, we define it as providing the necessary foundational support to maintain and build strong communities. That includes powering your businesses and homes reliably, safely, and at cost-based rates; it means supporting community initiatives that enhance our members' lives; it is also defined as successfully working through challenges together; and in the end, for us--it encompasses living out our mission of: Serving Our Members. Always.

I want to touch on the concept of facing our challenges together. The utility industry, as a whole, is entering uncharted territory – with consumers and businesses alike using record breaking amounts of electricity. The demand is unlike anything we have yet experienced – even through the second industrial revolution when electricity helped skyrocket the production industry in this country. Today, what we are seeing is an energy evolution which centers around all things digital – artificial intelligence, cryptocurrency, data mining, etc. Soon, this

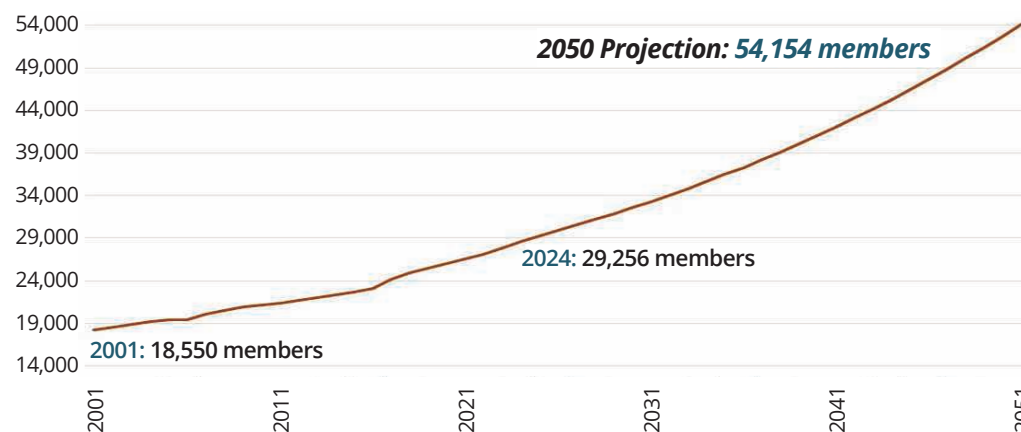
will expand further as technologies under development today are introduced into our society.

Sioux Valley Energy is forecasting that both our membership and electric load will nearly double in the next 25 years and those numbers may actually be conservative.

We are routinely getting electric service inquiries from businesses that are considered mega loads. These businesses are 100, 500, 1000-plus megawatts. To give you some perspective, a city the size of Brandon with all its residential, commercial, and industrial loads is somewhere in the 20-megawatt vicinity. As we plan for potential mega loads, we are cognizant of the investment that is necessary to serve them and are working to ensure infrastructure investments specific to those loads are not placed on the back of our existing members. The key will be to avoid cross-subsidization between our existing members and any new mega loads.

So that brings us to the question of how to balance all the considerations of providing electricity to our members. Those considerations are in the realms of reliability, cost, future demand, rate making, and service excellence. Sioux Valley Energy's Board of Directors and Strategic Leadership Team are working to strike that delicate balance.

Sioux Valley Energy Number of Members



COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

SIoux VALLEY ENERGY

(USPS No. 497-440)

Board President: Dan Leuthold

Board of Directors

Dave Daniel - Vice President	Dr. Leslie Heinemann
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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.

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

Manager's Column *Continued from Page 2*

We recognize the importance of ensuring that our existing members have the reliable power they need while simultaneously planning for future growth. We also know that what sets Sioux Valley Energy apart from other utilities is the service we provide for our members. The service that frankly, our members expect and deserve. Each one of those considerations comes with some form of investment.

Sioux Valley Energy is spending approximately \$22 million each year to fund the construction of its electric workplan, including rebuilding 125 miles of line on our system annually to maintain top-quartile reliability. This investment is not specific to any new electric loads but is focused on our existing members' needs while simultaneously planning for future growth.

Our power suppliers are essential partners in this process with Basin Electric Power Cooperative planning to invest over \$12 billion in additional generation and transmission assets over the next decade. Our transmission provider in South Dakota, East River Electric, is expected to make investments of over \$432 million in just the next three years. In Minnesota, L&O Power plans to invest \$5 million each year towards electric infrastructure. The impact of these investments will likely result in upward pressure on electric rates for several years. We know that isn't what our members want to hear but our commitment to you

is to be transparent about the upcoming rate challenges and to reasonably mitigate the impact of those pressures as much as possible, all while still maintaining reliability and service excellence.

The challenging aspect of rate pressure mitigation is that there is only a small percentage of costs that we can control without negatively impacting the high-quality service you have come to expect from your electric cooperative. On the bright side,

We
promise to be your
**partner in
progress**
and to use our guiding
principles as the
foundation of every
decision we
make.

Sioux Valley Energy is in the unique position of benefiting from substantial growth, which yes, does result in some costs, but ultimately is a net positive because as the membership grows, we are able to spread costs to a larger base which helps to hold rates down over the long run.

As we address these various challenges, we promise to be your partner in progress and to use our guiding principles as the foundation of every decision we make. Those principles include:

- Commitment to Safety
- Community Service
- Member Focus
- Dedication to Quality
- Value-Based Products and Services
- Responsible Growth

These principles are present in every mile of line we construct; every phone call we make; every community engagement we take part in; every technology we implement; and every employee interaction that we have. "Serving Our Members. Always." isn't just a tag line – it's who we are and how we live at Sioux Valley Energy.

Playground Safety

Source: National Safety Council

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, each year, more than 200,000 children go to U.S. hospital emergency departments with injuries associated with playground equipment.

As the weather warms up and trips to the park become frequent, take a moment to familiarize yourself with the risks on playgrounds and how you can prevent injuries.

Check for Playground Hazards

Nearly 80% of playground injuries are caused by falls. Watch out for these potential hazards when taking kids to the playground, and report any hazards observed.

Improper ground surfaces: Surfaces around playground equipment should have at least 12 inches of wood chips, mulch, sand or pea gravel, or mats made of safety-tested rubber or rubber-like materials. Playgrounds should be free of exposed concrete footings, rocks or tree stumps.

Overcrowded play areas: The area under and around play equipment should be a minimum of 6 feet in all directions while swing set areas should be twice the height of the suspending bar both in back and front of the swings. Structures more than 30 inches high should be at least 9 feet apart.

Unprotected elevated areas: Platforms higher than 30 inches should have guardrails or barriers.

Head entrapment spaces: Openings between rails, bars, rungs and even ropes of cargo nets should be less than 3 1/2 inches or more than 9 inches.

Sharp points and edges: Playground equipment should be free of protruding bolt ends, “S” hooks, and other sharp points and edges.

Visit the American Academy of Pediatrics webpage on playground safety to learn more.

Avoid Strangulation Hazards

The American Academy of Pediatrics cautions that children should not wear or play with anything that could get caught on equipment and become a strangulation hazard.

- Never attach or allow children to attach ropes, jump ropes, clotheslines or pet leashes to play equipment.
- Leave sweatshirts with drawstrings and necklaces at home.
- Remove bike helmets when playing on the playground.

Be Cautious of Too Much Sun Exposure

Playgrounds should have full or partial sun protection between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., peak exposure time.

- Limit playtime at peak sun exposure time and know the signs of heat illnesses.
- Avoid burns; if playground equipment is hot to the touch, it is too hot for your child’s bare skin.

Allow Only Age-Appropriate Activities

The Consumer Product Safety commission lists age-appropriate equipment in the Public Playground Safety Handbook. There is no substitute for parental supervision, especially for young children.



"Don't go outside during lightning storms!"

Marah Kinnunen, Age 8

Marah warns readers about the dangers of going outside during a lightning storm. Thank you for your picture, Marah! Marah's parents are Reuben and Sarine Kinnunen from Hayti, S.D.

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.

Delectable CHICKEN

CHICKEN MILANESE

Ingredients:

1 pkg. McCormick® Chicken Parmesan One Sheet Pan Seasoning Mix
1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
1 lb. thin-sliced boneless skinless chicken breasts
1 tbsp. oil

Method

Preheat oven to 400°F. Empty Seasoning Mix into shallow dish. Add Parmesan cheese. Brush chicken with oil. Coat evenly on both sides with Seasoning Mix. Discard any remaining Seasoning Mix.

Place chicken in single layer on foil-lined shallow baking pan sprayed with no stick cooking spray.

Bake 15 minutes or until cooked through, turn chicken halfway through cook time.

Mccormick.com

SWEET AND SOUR CHICKEN

Ingredients:

3 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
2 tbsps. fat or oil
1/4 cup water
2 tbsps. cornstarch
1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 cup brown sugar
1/4 cup vinegar
20 oz. can pineapple chunks (drained, reserving juice)
3 tbsps. soy sauce
3/4 cup green pepper strips
1/4 cup onion (thinly sliced)

Method

Cube chicken into one inch squares; brown in fat. Add water. Cook in water until tender. In another pan combine cornstarch, salt, brown sugar, vinegar, pineapple juice and soy sauce.

Cook until slightly thick, stirring constantly. Pour sauce over hot chicken. Let stand at least 10 minutes. Add green pepper, onion, and pineapple chunks. Cook two to seven minutes until warmed through. Serve over hot rice. *Makes 4 servings.

Jan Grage
Clay-Union Electric Member

CHICKEN POT PIE

Ingredients:

1 pkg. prepared pie crust (top and bottom)
1/3 cup butter or margarine
1/3 cup chopped onion
1/3 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. pepper
1 3/4 cup Progresso™ chicken broth (from 32 oz. carton)
1/2 cup milk
2 1/2 cup chicken/turkey (shredded, cooked)
2 cups frozen mixed vegetables (thawed)

Method

Heat oven to 425°F. Prepare pie crusts as directed on box for two-crust pie using nine inch glass pie pan. In two quart saucepan, melt butter over medium heat. Add onion; cook two minutes, stirring frequently, until tender. Stir in flour, salt and pepper until well blended.

Gradually stir in broth and milk, cooking and stirring until bubbly and thickened. Stir in chicken and mixed vegetables. Remove from heat. Spoon chicken mixture into crust-lined pan. Top with second crust; seal edge and flute. Cut slits in several places in top crust. Bake 30 to 40 minutes or until crust is golden brown. During last 15 to 20 minutes of baking, cover crust edge with strips of foil to prevent excessive browning. Let stand five minutes before serving.

Cindy Foster
Codington-Clark Electric Member

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 2025. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

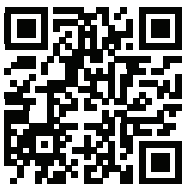
Save Money this Summer and Win



Sheila Gross
Energy Services
Specialist

For info on beneficial electrification programs, contact Sheila Gross at sheila.gross@siouxvalleyenergy.com to learn more.

For more information on the Time of Use Rate, scan the code below or call 1-877-511-8062.



Take some small steps this summer towards saving money and increasing your home's energy efficiency with a few tweaks to your habits and a little DIY. Sign up for a three-month risk-free trial of the Time of Use Rate (TOU) and be entered for a chance to win \$100 in this month's Energy Makeover Contest, which runs until July 31, 2025. Five winners will be drawn. The TOU rate can lower your energy bills when you shift electric use to off-peak times (16 hours/day) when energy charges are at a very reduced rate.

Program	7 a.m. to 10 a.m.	10 a.m. to 4 p.m.	4 p.m. to 9 p.m.	9 p.m. to 7 a.m.
Time of Use Rate	17.01¢	6.62¢	17.01¢	6.62¢
Standard Rate	11.25¢	11.25¢	11.25¢	11.25¢

Watch the clock to lock in energy savings! Here are a few recommendations to beat the heat while keeping more money in your wallet using the TOU rate:

- Plan energy-intensive chores like laundry and dishwashing during off-peak hours. Some appliances can be programmed to run at a certain time or remotely controlled from a smartphone.
- Set your thermostat a few degrees higher during on-peak times. Sync a programmable thermostat up with TOU. Strategize by pre-cooling before an on-peak period begins, then turn up the thermostat during the on-peak period. According to the Department of Energy, adjusting a thermostat one degree for an eight-hour period can save up to 3% on energy bills.
- Ceiling fans can help you feel cooler but remember to turn them off when you leave the room. Raise the thermostat temperature while fans are running for maximum energy savings. Fan blades should rotate

counterclockwise in the summer.

- Close blinds and curtains to block unnecessary heat from sunlight.
- Use automatic timers to run recirculating pumps, hot tubs, pool pumps, battery chargers, and other appliances. Water heaters controlled through SVE's load management program are not consistently controlled during on-peak periods but will occasionally line up to provide savings.
- Practice conservation. Use power strips to plug in electronics and appliances that are used frequently. Unplug other devices when not in use. Turn lights off in unoccupied rooms.
- Fire up the grill instead of cooking indoors this summer to reduce the workload on your air conditioner from added heat in the kitchen. Cooking appliances such as air fryers, pizza ovens, and slow cookers use less energy than a traditional stove.
- Set your water heater temperature to 120 degrees. This will save energy and prevent scalding from hot water. Large capacity energy efficient Marathon water heaters are available for purchase at SVE for \$600 plus applicable tax.
- If you own an electric vehicle, schedule charging to take place during off-peak hours.
- A professional tune up of your home's heating and cooling system will ensure your system runs as efficiently as possible. Replace air filters regularly. Shopping for a new system? Consider an energy efficient heat pump. SVE offers heat pump rebates, low interest loans, and a reduced electric heat rate.
- Maximize summer energy savings through weatherization improvements such as sealing air leaks and adding insulation. SVE offers energy audits.

Sign Up by July 31 for the Time of Use Rate and a chance to WIN \$100!

Sign up for the Time of Use Rate on your account for a chance to win one of five \$100 cash prizes. Members **must** sign up to request the TOU rate option to enter. You can also register through the QR code above. **By entering the contest, you are signing up for the Time of Use Rate.**

Name: _____
Account Number: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
E-Mail: _____

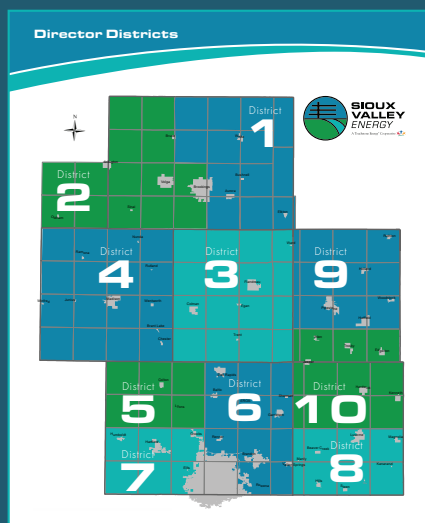


C.L.A.S.S. GRANT DEADLINE AUG. 15

Program established for area teachers' classrooms

Teachers from across the region are finished with the school year and to give them a head start for 2025-2026 Sioux Valley Energy will bring back its C.L.A.S.S. Grant program. Many teachers purchase classroom supplies on their own. To help, the Co-op will provide 10 area teachers a \$350 grant to purchase supplies for their classroom. Teachers can submit an online entry to Sioux Valley Energy at SVEClassGrants.com. All entries must be submitted by 10 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 15. The grant recipients will be selected through a drawing which will be held at noon on Aug. 19 via Facebook. One teacher from each of the Cooperative's 10 districts will be selected from the drawing. District boundaries are pictured.

Enter online: www.SVEClassGrants.com



EmPOWER Youth Leadership Scholarships Awarded

Twelve members of the 2024-25 EmPOWER Youth Leadership program received scholarships totaling \$9,000 at the Annual Meeting June 10.



\$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS: Carter Peterson and Morgan Dathe, Brandon Valley High School; Sadie McCorkle, Colman-Egan High School; and Olyvia Weber, Pipestone Area High School.

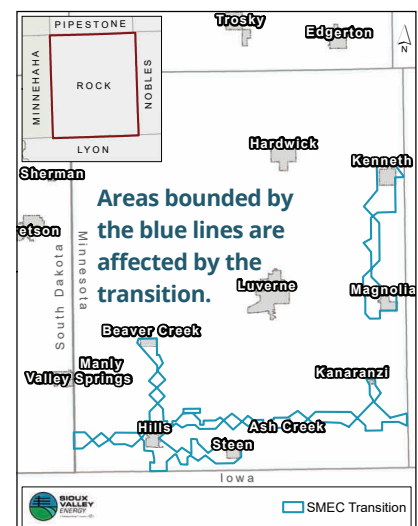
\$750 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS: Meg Bebensee, Brandon Valley High School; Brielle Smetana, Brookings High School; Hannah Brown, Howard High School; and Samantha Stokesbary, Pipestone Area High School.

\$500 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS: Blake DeVries, Elkton High School; Hasset Fitsum and Jack Nelson, Brandon Valley High School; and Avery Jurgenson, West Central High School.

Alliant Energy Power Supply Arrangement Ends Aug. 1

In 2015, Sioux Valley Energy joined nine other cooperatives to purchase Alliant Energy's electrical system in Minnesota. As part of that purchase agreement, Alliant Energy served as Sioux Valley Energy's power supplier within the service territory that was purchased. That power supply arrangement ends Aug. 1, 2025, meaning that all of Sioux Valley Energy's Minnesota members will receive wholesale power from L&O Power Cooperative, which will provide more options for improved reliability.

Necessary electrical work for this transition will occur on Aug. 1 and will require power outages for every member living within the Sioux Valley Energy service area that was purchased from Alliant Energy (indicated in blue on the map).





SOUTH DAKOTA STAR QUILTS

Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative directors present retiring manager Melissa Maher (left) with a star quilt.
Photo by JJ Martin

Honoring Cooperative Legacy With Time-honored Tradition

Frank Turner

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Across the prairie, few gifts carry as much meaning as a star quilt. For many, these quilts are more than just blankets – they are acts of honor. Rooted in Native American culture, particularly among Lakota, Dakota and other tribes of South Dakota, star quilts have long been used to mark some of life’s largest milestones, including graduations, marriages, memorials and moments of deep community respect.

Electric cooperative leaders Donovan Young Man, a former director of Lacreek Electric who was honored shortly before his passing earlier this year, and Melissa Maher, the former manager of Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative, recently accepted star quilts from their cooperatives in recognition of their many years of service to their member-owners.

So what makes the star quilt such an honor? According to International Quilt Museum Collections Manager Jamie Swartz, the quilts are special because they take an incredible amount of skill and experience to assemble.

Many star quilts are block quilts, constructed from dozens or even hundreds of small fabric pieces carefully cut and stitched together. At the heart of the design is an eight-pointed star, a

shape that demands near-perfect precision.

“There are so many small pieces that make up a star quilt,” Swartz said. “When you are combining so many small pieces together to make a large, over-all design, there is more room for error. A small mismeasurement can create bumps, ripples or puckers in the patchwork.”

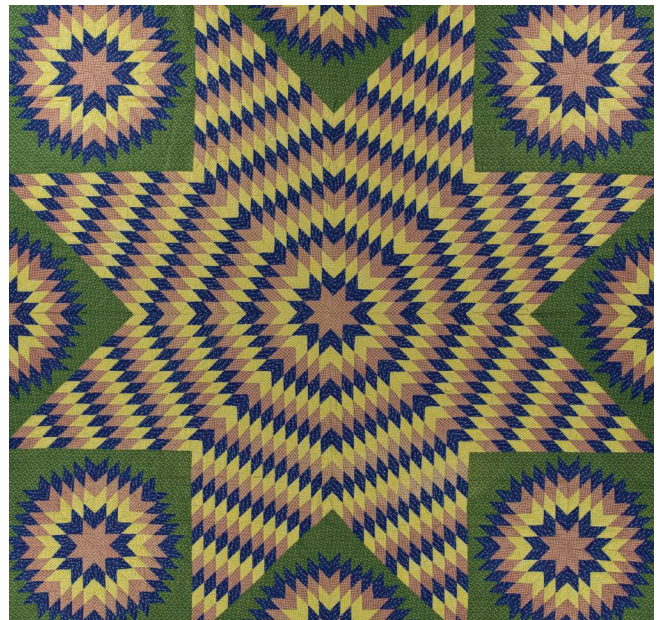


Photo Courtesy of the International Quilt Museum, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 1997.007.0123

That level of precision, care and time-honored tradition a star quilt represents is a part of what makes it such a meaningful gift. In recent years, the practice of gifting star quilts has been embraced by some electric cooperatives as a way to express a deep appreciation for their employees who have dedicated a lifetime of work to their cooperatives and communities.

Remembering Donovan Young Man

Before his passing earlier this year, Donovan Young Man was honored by his cooperative at the Lacreek Electric annual meeting with a star quilt for his 31 years of service to Lacreek Electric, serving as a director for both his cooperative and the South Dakota Rural Electric Association. Specifically, the cooperative honored Donovan's commitment to both his cooperative and community.

Lacreek Electric CEO Josh Fanning said Young Man was known for both his calm and steady presence, and his exceptional ability to bridge tribal relations, fostering understanding and unity within the community.

In his community, Donovan was known for his profound impact on his community's youth. For 41 years, he devoted himself to the Oglala Lakota County School District, leaving a lasting legacy of dedication, education, and empowerment for the youth. Beyond education, Donovan served his community in many other ways, including as a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribal Council.

"Donovan had a lasting impact on our cooperative," Fanning said. "His wisdom, leadership, and steady guidance helped shape its direction and strengthen its foundation. His contributions will be remembered and felt for years to come."

"We chose a star quilt because gifting one is a deeply meaningful gesture in our area – an expression of profound respect, honor and the warmth of community," Fanning continued. "In many Indigenous cultures, the star quilt represents the highest form of recognition, symbolizing heartfelt gratitude for the recipient's enduring contributions. It also serves as a guiding light, reflecting the inspiration and direction they provide for future generations."

Honoring Melissa Maher

Moreau-Grand Electric honored Melissa Maher with a star quilt at the co-ops annual meeting in October for her 40 years of service at the cooperative. In addition to Maher, the cooperative also presented Larry Hieb with a quilt for his 55 combined years of service as both an employee and director.

Maher joined the cooperative in 1984 as manager's secretary. Through the years, Maher remained with the cooperative, serving as the member service director and later Moreau-Grand Electric's manager, the first woman to hold this title.

"I've always loved star quilts, what they stand for – the celebration and honoring of someone with an heirloom that they can enjoy for hopefully generations to come," she said.

Maher first experienced the star quilt tradition through her



Lacreek Electric employees gift director Donovan Young Man a star quilt to celebrate his 31 years of service to the electric cooperative.

Photos by Mandy Scherer



mother, who taught kindergarten at Cheyenne-Eagle Butte School. As a teacher in the Eagle Butte community, her mother received star quilts from several of her students' families.

Seeing the joy it brought her mother, Maher continued the star quilt tradition into her years at the cooperative, gifting quilts to retirees of the cooperative, gifting dozens of star quilts made by quilt maker Bonnie LeBeaux to employees of the co-op, honoring retirements, directors, and even key members of the construction crew that helped build the new Moreau-Grand Electric office.

"It's hard to guess how many star quilts I have gifted over the years," Maher said. "Probably dozens if I had to guess."

The tradition came full circle at her retirement party when Moreau-Grand Electric presented Mellisa a star quilt of her own.

"We wanted to honor her 40 years of service and highlight abilities as a manager," said Paul Lawrence, a director of Moreau-Grand Electric. "It's a way of conveying that she led with honor and integrity, and she did exactly that."



Partner in Progress

Sioux Valley Energy Annual Meeting Held June 10

Serving Our Members. Always: Your Partner in Progress was the theme of this year's Sioux Valley Energy Annual Meeting. More than 1,175 people took part in the event at the various venues which included West Central High School in Hartford as the main site and Sioux Valley School in Volga, and Generations in Luverne as satellite sites.

The evening started off with hamburgers and hotdogs along with bingo for attendees. Once the meal and activities concluded, members took part in an essential part of the cooperative business model—the Annual Meeting. The meeting was live-streamed from Hartford to the other locations. Members who were unable to attend could join via live-stream on the Cooperative's website.

CEO Tim McCarthy provided an update on the Cooperative's work to meet future demand for electricity and recognized seven Sioux Valley Energy employees for their years of service (featured on Page 11).

Board President Dan Leuthold presided over the meeting, Secretary Don DeGreef confirmed the meeting quorum and notice requirements and Treasurer, Ann Vostad, provided members with the 2024 financial report.





ABOVE: Bucket trucks formed an arch at meeting entrances.

OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP: Molly Newman is all smiles in her plastic construction hat as she eats a burger and plays bingo with Mindy Newman and Jim Nuese.



READY TO SERVE! Area groups served the meals: Luverne High School girls' hockey team (above left), Sioux Valley High School girls' basketball team (above right), West Central High School FCCLA and BSA Troop 711 (below).



SERVING OUR MEMBERS!

Sioux Valley Energy employees helped register members at the meeting.

MEMBERS WIN! Hundreds of bingo prizes were given out at all three locations. Below, journey lineworker Matt Determan delivers prizes to a member with a winning card at the Luverne location.

ABOVE LEFT:

American Legion members called bingo in Hartford.

BOTTOM LEFT:

Sioux Valley Energy board president Dan Leuthold calls the meeting to order.



Years of Service Recognized

During the annual meeting June 10, seven Sioux Valley Energy employees were recognized for their years of service to the Cooperative.

40 Years



Joan Wangberg
Member Services Representative

35 Years



Paul Anderson
Journey Lineworker

30 Years



Tony Remund
Lead Journey Lineworker

25 Years



Terry Ebright
Manager of Safety



Dana Foster
Customer Electrical Services Technician



Reggie Gassman
Beneficial Electrification Specialist



Gwen Larsen
Receptionist



Cam Wal Electric member Tami Schanzenbach with her dogs Mac, Cash and Blu. *Submitted Photo.*

RESCUING ANIMALS

Co-op Members Foster and Support Pets In Need

Jacob Boyko

jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop

Tami Schanzenbach has always wanted to help animals.

From her earliest days in Aberdeen where she worked as a veterinary technician and helped start the Aberdeen Area Humane Society, to her later Pets N Stuff store in Mobridge, Tami's focus has always been on humans' furry companions and getting them into loving homes.

And even after a long career and a so-called retirement, she still finds ways to help. Through the Wamakaskan Onisca Humane Society, she opens her home to animals in need.

"I'm a foster failure," Tami laughed, admitting three of her own beloved pet dogs were originally supposed to be adopted out.

Served by Cam Wal Electric, Tami's home near Selby is the halfway point for countless animals on their journey from neglect, abuse and homelessness to their forever homes.

"If I have a person that calls me, if someone has found a dog, I ask initially

if they're able to help me with taking care of that dog for a little bit until we can determine whether it belongs to somebody," she explained.

The pets will go to a foster home for the time being — Tami credits volunteers like her friend Annie Walker, a member of Moreau-Grand Electric from the McIntosh area, for stepping up and opening her home to foster animals.

"One day, Tami had a picture of a litter of puppies that needed to be bottle fed," Walker said about her first fostering experience.



Annie Walker with rescue, Layla. *Submitted Photo.*

I keep taking some animals from time to time."

If the dog isn't claimed, the rehoming process begins, starting with veterinary care.

"We go through and we vaccinate and treat the animal and do what's needed to be able to make that puppy or dog available for adoption," Tami continued.

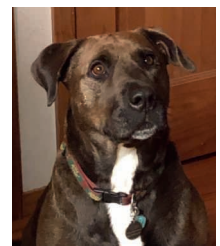
Sadly, the circumstances in which she receives them usually aren't pleasant.

The pets come from around Selby, many from the Standing Rock and Cheyenne River reservations, where they're often found abandoned. Tami recalls coming upon shocking discoveries, like "bait dogs" used to train fighting dogs in the Bismarck area.

"People will steal puppies and kitties and train their pitbulls for fights, and they have a dog that's called a bait dog," she explained. "And that you see in our area as well ... days where [multiple] people are missing their dogs. People are coming in and stealing them and using them as bait dogs."

That's what Tami suspects happened to Cash, a 7-year-old pitbull/lab cross found "in the middle of nowhere" covered in pellet shots and bite marks.

"It took a long time for him to trust and know he's going to be okay here," Tami said. "And I don't



Cash, who was used as a "bait dog," was adopted by Tami. *Submitted Photo*

blame him, because he's never been taken care of.

Tami has made it her mission to end the cycle of animal neglect and abuse where she's able by sterilizing the pets coming into her care before they're adopted out. She also sponsors sterilizations for other peoples' pets.

"We just had about 12 dogs that we sponsored to be spayed at the local vet," she said. "We had a lady that helped me with a donation and wanted it geared toward people that couldn't afford to have their animals spayed and neutered ... We have so many people that always have two litters per year."

Stopping the cycle also means barriers to adoption – if someone isn't a good fit, there's a chance that animal will be surrendered back to the rescue and the process will start from the beginning.

Tami conducts interviews with potential pet owners with hopes of finding a perfect match.

She added that she sometimes steers people with busy and demanding schedules away from getting dogs. A cat – famously independent – is often a better fit, she said.

Tami also employs sustainable adoption practices she says make for better-behaved dogs – eight weeks is generally the earliest age when she'll allow adoptions to occur.

"We have puppy socialization that occurs" when the puppies are little, she explained. "They wrestle and play with their siblings, and they create a lot of socialization that way. And there's a lot of research that has proven that if you keep them with their siblings during that period of time, they make a heck of a lot better dog going forth, because they've been through that socialization."

Jen Uecker, Board President of the Pierre/Fort Pierre Area Humane Society, also known as Paws Animal Rescue, says without volunteers like Tami and Annie, shelters like hers would be overrun and rescuing animals from abandonment wouldn't be possible.

"We rely heavily on volunteers to help ease the burden of our limited staff and resources," Uecker said. "The foster volunteers open their home to these animals not really knowing a whole lot

about them, their demeanor, where they came from, or anything, and they open their homes to help them feel comfortable and confident until they're ready for their new forever family."

Tami encourages people to volunteer, support their local rescues, adopt if they're able and above all, love their pets.

"There are a lot of dogs and cats and it's just not their fault – they get the bad end of things," Walker said. "Tami is super dedicated ... She's always willing to step in and help these animals find a better life."

For Tami, it all comes down to giving that love back.

"They provide unconditional love to humans, and sometimes we forget that," she said. "We work all day ... When you come home, you need to spend some time with your pets."

HUMANE SOCIETY & SANCTUARY DIRECTORY

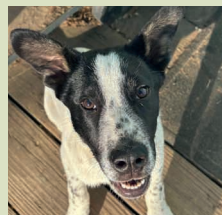
Wamakaskan Onsica (Mobridge).....	(605) 850-8430
Paws Animal Rescue (Pierre).....	(605) 223-2287
Sioux Falls Area Humane Society.....	(605) 338-4441
Humane Society of the Black Hills (Rapid City)....	(605) 394-4170
Battle Mountain Humane Society (Hot Springs)....	(605) 745-7283
Beadle County Humane Society (Huron).....	(605) 352-8955
Aberdeen Area Humane Society.....	(605) 226-1200
Glacial Lakes Humane Society (Watertown).....	(605) 882-2247
Brookings Regional Humane Society.....	(605) 697-7387
Western Hills Humane Society (Spearfish).....	(605) 642-1576
Heartland Humane Society (Yankton).....	(605) 664-4244
Siouxland Humane Society (Sioux City).....	(712) 252-2614
Mitchell Animal Rescue.....	(605) 770-2170
Oglala Pet Project (Kyle).....	(605) 455-1518
Wakpá Wašté Animal Shelter (Eagle Butte).....	(605) 964-7387
Fur and Purr Cat Shelter (Milbank).....	(605) 432-4505
Lake Traverse Animal Rescue (Sisseton).....	(605) 742-0219

Tami says her most rewarding rescue was Fez, an 8-week-old shepherd/collie cross found with mange, a skin disease caused by mites. She said she refused to give on Fez, who is now a healthy dog with a full coat of hair.
Submitted Photo.

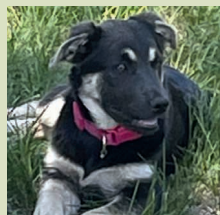


Looking for a new home...

(plus many more)



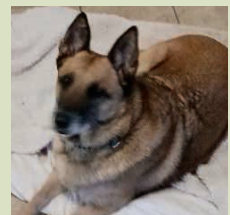
Buddy



Margot



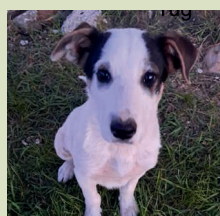
Chopper



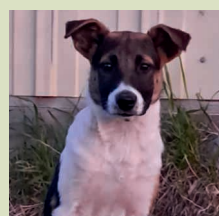
Eliza



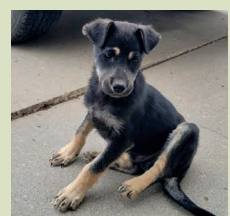
Agnes



Tug



Scooter



Leo



Bring the Family!

Safety Day returns to Brandon Service Center Saturday, Aug. 9

From sirens blaring to pancakes flying through the air, there's something in store for the entire family at the 2025 Sioux Valley Energy Safety Day scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 9, 2025, at SVE's Brandon Service Center.

Start the day off by catching a pancake as it soars through the air off of the Chris Cakes griddles. After eating, visit one of several kids' activity booths and get up close with emergency responders who will be on hand to demonstrate their equipment and vehicles.

Visit the South Dakota Farmers Union Safety Trailer to try out interactive ATV/UTV safety training.

Sioux Valley Energy employees will conduct interactive electrical safety demonstrations and review important safety tips with attendees.

Previous events were held in 2019 and 2022.

Tours of the newly expanded Brandon Service Center will take place during the event as well. Construction on the center began in 2023 and finished in 2024.

The event runs from 9 a.m. to noon at the Brandon Service Center, 108 N. Heritage Road in Brandon, S.D.



2022 Safety Day photos give a glimpse of what's in store for 2025.



BONUS:

Tours of the expanded Brandon Service Center will be offered from 9 a.m.-noon.

SAFETY DAY

at
the



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

BRANDON SERVICE CENTER

SATURDAY **AUGUST 9, 2025** 9 A.M. - NOON
108 N HERITAGE RD **BRANDON, SD**

ELECTRIC SAFETY DEMONSTRATIONS

BY SVE SAFETY STEERING COMMITTEE

INTERACTIVE SAFETY DEMOS

FOR KIDS & FAMILIES

FREE BIKE HELMETS

100 FREE HELMETS AVAILABLE - SOME LIMITATIONS APPLY
HELMETS PROVIDED BY SOUTH DAKOTA EMS FOR CHILDREN

ADULT BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS

FIRE SAFETY BY BRANDON FIRE DEPARTMENT

INTERACTIVE ATV/UTV SAFETY TRAINING

BY S.D. FARMERS UNION SAFETY TRAILER

MEET AN OFFICER BY BRANDON POLICE DEPARTMENT

ROLL-OVER SIMULATOR BY SOUTH DAKOTA HIGHWAY PATROL

SAFE DIGGING AND 8-1-1

KIDS' CARNIVAL GAMES, PRIZES FOR KIDS & MORE...

BALLOON ANIMALS • CUPCAKE WALK • PRIZE FISHING POND • FACE PAINTING • RING TOSS • ELECTRIC CIRCUITS • PHOTO BOOTH

PLUS TOURS OF SIOUX VALLEY ENERGY'S RECENTLY
EXPANDED BRANDON SERVICE CENTER

FREE
**PANCAKE
FEED**
9 A.M. -
NOON

**PANCAKES BY
CHRIS CAKES**



Get a behind-the-scenes glimpse of the 32,500-foot expansion of the Brandon Service Center which added training space, offices, and warehouse areas to the facility which serves Sioux Valley Energy's growing membership.

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 16-20

Danish Days

Dancing, food, parade, etc.
Viborg, SD

Photo courtesy of Travel South Dakota

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.

JUNE 25-28
Crystal Springs Rodeo
Clear Lake, SD
605-874-2996

JUNE 27-29
Leola Rhubarb Festival
Leola, SD

JUNE 27-28
Madison Interlakes Senior Games
605-270-3327

JUNE 30
Ice Cream Social
4-6 p.m.
Free Music, Ice Cream,
Kids Games & Fun
Lake County Museum Lawn
Madison, SD

JULY 4
Community Fireworks Show
Prairie Village
Madison, SD

JULY 9-12
Aberdeen Senior Games
605-626-7015

JULY 12
Fireworks
Hills, MN

JULY 12
**Fedora Fire Department
Annual Appreciation Day**
5 p.m.
Meal, Pie Auction & Bingo
Fedora, SD

JULY 12
Friendship Days Vendor Market
BBQ Cook Off, Prize Raffle
10 a.m.-4 p.m.
White Lake, SD

JULY 17-20
Danish Days
Daneville Heritage Museum
Viborg, SD
danevilleheritage.com

JULY 17-20
Corn Palace Stampede Rodeo
Stampede Park
Mitchell, SD

SAVE THE DATE
1-800-234-1960

AUG. 9

Safety Day

9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Sioux Valley Energy
Brandon Service Center
108 N Heritage Rd.
Brandon, SD

JULY 25

Wine & Field Dinner

St. Peter on the Prairie
5 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
Lake County, SD
605-270-2665

JULY 25-27

Clear Lake Days

Clear Lake, SD
ClearLakeDays.com

JULY 26

Planes, Trains, & Automobiles

Car Show, Train Rides, Flyovers
10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Prairie Village
Madison, SD

JULY 26

South Dakota Chislic Festival

10 a.m.-9 p.m.
Freeman, SD
www.sdchislicfestival.com

JULY 27

The Everly Set

Concert in Opera House
Prairie Village
Madison, SD

AUG. 1-3

Beaver Days

Beaver Creek, MN

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.