



Cooperative Connections



Ione Fejfar welcomes veterans to Operation Black Hills Cabin in Custer as a place of healing and restoration

**A Healing Place
for Veterans**

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**Co-ops and the
S.D. National
Guard**

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Special Meeting of SVE Membership Set for Nov. 12



Tim McCarthy, GM/CEO

tim.mccarthy@siouxvalleyenergy.com

I've written a few times about the challenges that Sioux Valley Energy has faced as an organization during the COVID-19 Pandemic. I've also talked about how we faced those challenges head-on. We have done that through operational changes, working remotely, increased use of electronic communications, and much more.

Some of the challenges extend even beyond the day-to-day operations, reaching all the way into the governance side of the Cooperative. Because of COVID, we had to cancel several of our district meetings which, typically, is a time when we come together to talk more in-depth about what is happening at the Cooperative and hold director elections on a rotating basis. Albeit not ideal, we did hold four director elections this past spring through a Zoom phone conference. The phone conference was sufficient, but it posed several challenges. Unfortunately, the Sioux Valley Energy bylaws lack the flexibility this organization needs to deal with governance issues during a public health crisis.

This is why the Board undertook a bylaw review process several months back. They have completed the review and developed proposed bylaw amendments for the membership to consider. You can find more detail on these proposed amendments on pages 6, 7 and 10. The proposed bylaw amendments would address several cursory changes along with the following issues:

- Allow SVE to postpone director elections during times of emergency or public health risk until it is safe to meet in person.
- Ensure that each district has representation if a director election is not able to be held in case of emergency or public health risk.
- Provide future flexibility for the Cooperative to conduct director elections via mail in accordance with state law.
- Allow greater use of electronic means of communication, notices, signatures, voting and nominating petitions.
- Allow members' spousal signatures to be considered valid for nominating petitions.
- Expressly confirm that remote or electronic meetings of the membership may be held.
- Adjust the required quorum for a special or annual meeting in compliance with state law.

The key to the bylaw amendment process is the membership. The Board of Directors approved a resolution setting a date and time for a "Special Meeting" of the members. This meeting is very important because it will be the time for members to consider the proposed bylaw amendments, beginning the process for a vote. Please consider joining us on Thursday, November 12, at 7 p.m. for this "Special Meeting" which will be held via Zoom. You can take part through the Internet (computer) or through the phone. Each member will receive a notice in the mail with the log-in information. In that notice, there will also be a ballot and a business reply envelope to return the ballot. If you prefer, you can also drop the ballot off at one of our service center locations and place it in the locked box located within the entryway of each facility. In order to approve the proposed bylaw amendments, a minimum of 200 members in total need to take part in the "Special Meeting" on November 12 and/or the voting process that follows via ballot. Thank you for taking an active role in YOUR electric cooperative. Your voice AND vote counts—make sure to use them!

Special Meeting of the Members

Thursday, November 12, 2020

7:00 p.m.

This will be a "virtual" meeting to consider proposed bylaws.

Details of the process can be found on Pages 6, 7 and 10. Members will receive log-in/call-in information in the mail, along with an explanation of the proposed bylaws and a ballot.

Sioux Valley Energy Cooperative Connections

(USPS No. 497-440)

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Sioux Valley Energy is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

SVE Board Approves Special Meeting Resolution

Below is the resolution the SVE Board of Directors approved at their monthly meeting held on September 28, 2020. The resolution calls for a Special Meeting of the membership to consider proposed bylaw amendments being recommended by the Board of Directors.

Sioux Valley-Southwestern Electric Cooperative Inc Colman, SD 57017

2020 Special Meeting of the Members Resolution

WHEREAS, Sioux Valley Southwestern Electric Cooperative Inc. has faced various challenges while attempting to hold meetings of the members and director elections during the COVID-19 pandemic due to public health concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Cooperative's bylaws do not allow for flexibility during public health emergency situations such as a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of Sioux Valley Southwestern Electric Cooperative Inc. has reviewed the bylaws and recommend several amendments to allow for alternatives during the COVID-19 pandemic along with other cursory amendments;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of Sioux Valley Southwestern Electric Cooperative Inc. does hereby sanction a special meeting of the members to be called to order on November 12, 2020 at 7 p.m. The purpose of said meeting is to allow the membership consideration of recommended bylaw amendments. The special meeting of the members will continue with voting via paper ballot deposited into a locked drop box located at one of the Cooperative service centers in Brandon, Pipestone or Colman or through the United States Postal Service. The meeting will recess, and voting will end on November 25, 2020. All ballots must be received in the locked drop box or postmarked by November 25, 2020. Any ballots received or postmarked after that date will not be counted.

And that the action taken and /or resolutions adopted as above set out have never been rescinded, altered, amended, modified or repealed, and are of the date hereof in full force and effect.

Certificate of Secretary

I, Allan Kooima, Secretary of Sioux Valley Southwestern Electric Cooperative Inc. do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct excerpt from the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of Sioux Valley Southwestern Electric Cooperative Inc. held on September 28th, 2020, at which a quorum was present.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of Sioux Valley Southwestern Electric Cooperative Inc. this 28th day of September 2020.



Allan Kooima, Secretary

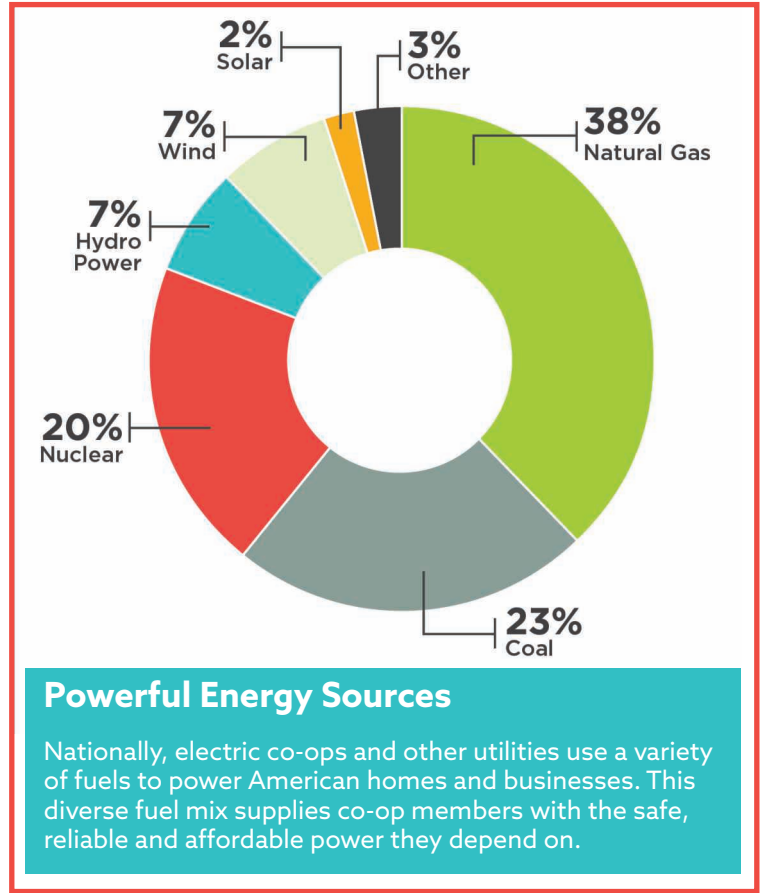
Enjoy an energy-efficient feast this Thanksgiving

New electrical appliances use far less energy in your home than older ones, but that doesn't mean you should skimp on energy-efficient behavior in the kitchen.

During the frantic holiday season, making the simplest changes while cooking can save plenty of energy and money.

- There's usually no need to preheat the oven, especially if the food you're cooking - like a turkey or a ham - will be in it for a long time.
- Avoid opening the oven door to check on food. Instead, turn on the oven light and peer through the window to make sure your pumpkin pie or turkey isn't burning to a crisp. Opening the oven door - even for just a second or two - can drop the temperature inside the oven by 25 degrees.
- Place several items in the oven at once. All food will cook thoroughly if you leave enough room around pies or casseroles for air to flow.
- Electric ovens retain heat even after you turn them off, so it's safe to turn them off several minutes before a recipe's time is up. Electric stovetops work the same way: The metal element will keep cooking for several minutes after you turn it off.
- Choose glass or ceramic pans for the oven. They let you set the temperature 25 degrees lower than metal pans do.
- Match the pan size to the size of the stovetop burner so you don't waste heat. Just a 2-inch difference between pan and burner can waste 40 percent of the generated heat.
- Zap baked potatoes and vegetables in the microwave instead of simmering them on the stovetop. Microwaves use significantly less electricity than a stove or oven.
- Involve everyone in cooking. Leave the electric mixer in the cupboard and let the kids stir the cake batter by hand and recruit someone to chop the veggies instead of tossing them into a food processor. The experience might save some electricity and make everyone proud of contributing to the meal.

Keep these handy and helpful tips in mind as you prepare to entertain family and friends in your home this holiday season.



KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



"Keep Indoors!"

Grace Austin, 7 years old

Grace is a member of West River Electric Association based in Rapid City. She encourages readers, "During a storm, all kids and pets should be inside. So, don't go outside. It's dangerous."

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.

Savory Slow-Cook Selections

Slow-Cooker Zucchini Soup

1 ½ lbs. sweet Italian sausage	2 tsp. salt
2 c. ½-inch celery pieces	1 tsp. white sugar
2 lbs. zucchini, cut into ½-inch slices	1 tsp. dried oregano
2 (28 oz.) cans diced tomatoes (or fresh)	1 tsp. Italian seasoning
2 green peppers, cut into ½-inch slices	1 tsp. dried basil
1 c. chopped onion	¼ tsp. garlic powder
	6 T. grated Parmesan cheese, or to taste

Heat a large skillet over medium-high heat. Cook and stir sausage in the hot skillet until browned and crumbly, 5-7 minutes; drain and discard grease. Mix celery into cooked sausage; cook and stir until celery is softened, about 10 minutes. Combine sausage mixture, zucchini, tomatoes, bell peppers, onion, salt, sugar, oregano, Italian seasoning, basil and garlic powder in a slow cooker. Cook on low for 4-6 hours. Garnish each serving with 1 T. Parmesan cheese. Note: Water is not needed in this recipe.

Shelly Goetz, Sioux Falls, SD

Crock Pot Corn

2 (16 oz.) bags frozen corn	6 T. sugar
8 oz. cream cheese (but in chunks)	6 T. water
	½ cup butter or margarine

Put in crockpot on high for two hours or low for four. Stir every once in a while. Salt and pepper to taste.

Helen Gregory, Lemmon, SD

Spaghetti Corn

1 can cream style corn	1 onion, diced
1 can whole corn	1 cup shredded cheddar
2 cups spaghetti, broken	1 stick butter, melted

Break spaghetti into 2-inch pieces. Do not drain whole corn. Combine all ingredients. Pour into buttered casserole dish. Bake uncovered for 30 mins. at 350. Cover and put back in oven for 20 mins. OR place in crock pot for 2 hours. OR Cook on stove for 50 mins. on lowest heat, removing for 10 minute intervals.

Jane Ham, Rapid City, SD

BBQ Steakhouse Chili

2 T. oil	beans, rinsed
1 lb. beef top round steak, cut into 1/2-inch pieces	2-1/2 cups undrained canned no-salt-added diced tomatoes
1 lb. extra-lean ground beef	1 bottle (18 oz.) KRAFT Hickory Smoke Barbecue Sauce
1 onion, finely chopped	¾ cup KRAFT Shredded Cheddar Cheese
¼ cup A1 Dry Rub Bold Original	
3 cloves garlic, minced	
2 cans (16 oz. each) kidney	

Heat oil in large skillet on medium. Add next five ingredients; stir. Cook 10 min. or until meat is evenly browned, stirring frequently. Spoon into slow cooker sprayed with cooking spray. Add all remaining ingredients except cheese; stir. Cover with lid. Cook on low 7 to 8 hours (or on high 4 to 5 hours). Serve topped with cheese.

Provided by Kraft Heinz

Chicken Cacciatore

1/2 cup KRAFT Zesty Italian	1 green pepper, cut in strips
1 tsp. dried oregano leaves	1/2 lb. sliced mushrooms
2 lbs. mixed boneless skinless chicken breasts and thighs	1-1/2 c. CLASSICO Tomato and Basil Pasta Sauce
	3 c. rotini pasta, uncooked

Mix dressing/oregano in pot sprayed with cooking spray. Add chicken; coat both sides of each piece with dressing mixture. Top with vegetables and pasta sauce; cover with lid. Cook on low 6-8 hours (or high 4-6 hours). About 15 min. before serving, cook pasta, no salt. Drain. Serve topped with chicken and vegetables.

Provided by Kraft Heinz

Please send your favorite holiday 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 2020. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.



The Sioux Valley Energy (SVE) Board of Directors, in close consultation with the Cooperative's legal counsel, recently approved proposed bylaw amendments for consideration by the membership and has called for a special meeting to consider the proposals. There are several recommended changes which address issues that have come to light during the challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic. The proposed bylaw amendments would address several cursory changes along with the following issues:

- Allow SVE to postpone director elections during times of emergency or public health risk until it is safe to meet in person.
- Ensure that each district has representation if a director election is not able to be held in case of emergency or public health risk.
- Provide future flexibility for the Cooperative to conduct director elections via mail in accordance with state law.
- Allow greater use of electronic means of communication, notices, signatures, voting and nominating petitions.
- Allow members' spousal signatures to be considered valid for nominating petitions.
- Expressly confirm that remote or electronic meetings of the membership may be held.
- Adjust the required quorum for a special or annual meeting in compliance with state law.

The specific proposed amendments are included on pages 7 and 10 of this newsletter. The full version of the current bylaws can be found at: <https://www.siouxvalleyenergy.com/my-cooperative/bylaws> or by requesting a printed version at 800-234-1960. The Board will be proposing these amendments to the membership at a "Special Meeting" which will be called to order on **Thursday, Nov. 12 at 7 p.m. via Zoom/Teleconference**. In order to move the amendments forward to a ballot vote, a motion must be made and seconded by SVE members at the Special Meeting. If the membership so chooses to consider the proposed amendments, they will be able to do so through a ballot which is included in the mailing (along with a business reply/postage paid envelope).

There are two ways members can vote after the initial Nov. 12 "Special Meeting":

1. **Members can hand deliver their completed ballot to one of the Cooperative's service centers in Brandon, Pipestone or Colman. Hand delivered ballots must be placed into the locked box located in the entry-way of each service center by 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 25 when the Special Meeting is recessed. Hand delivered ballots received after this time and date will not be counted.**
2. **Members can also mail their completed ballot. A business reply mail envelope is provided and must be mailed through the United States Postal Service. Mailed ballots are required to be postmarked by 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 25, when the special meeting is recessed. Ballots received after this time and date will not be counted.**

Please take part in the "Special Meeting" of the Members:

- Thursday, Nov. 12, 7 p.m.
- Members will receive log-in/call-in information in a mailing.
- Use either your computer or your phone. Do not use both of them at the same time to log in or call into the meeting.
- If the membership amends the proposed amendments on Nov. 12, a second mailing will need to be sent to each member with an updated overview along with a different colored ballot.

- Address of each service center:

COLMAN HEADQUARTERS
47092 SD Hwy 34,
Colman, SD 57017

BRANDON OFFICE
108 N. Heritage Rd.,
Brandon, SD 57005

PIESTONE OFFICE
1102 7th St. SE
Pipestone, MN 56164

ARTICLE I. MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 3. Joint Membership and the Effect of Death, Legal Separation or Divorce Upon Same.

A legally married couple may apply for a joint membership and, subject to their compliance with the requirements set forth in Section 1 of this Article, may be accepted for such membership. The term "member" as used in these Bylaws shall be deemed to include a legally married couple holding a joint membership and any provisions relating to the rights and liabilities of membership shall apply equally with respect to the holders of a joint membership. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the effect of the hereinafter specified actions by or in respect of the holders of a joint membership shall be as follows: (a) The presence at a meeting of either or both shall be regarded as the presence of one member, and of constituting a joint waiver of notice of the meeting; (b) The vote of either separately or both jointly shall constitute one joint vote; (c) A waiver of notice signed by either or both shall constitute a joint waiver; (d) Notice to either shall constitute notice of both; (e) Expulsion of either shall terminate the joint membership; (f) Withdrawal of either shall terminate the joint membership; (g) Either but not both may be elected or appointed as an officer or director, provided that the one being elected or appointed as an officer or director meet the qualifications for such office as set forth in Article IV, Section 5, which shall apply only to the candidate; (h) The signature of either separately or both jointly on a director petition shall constitute one joint signature.

SECTION 7. Electronic Notice, Documents and Actions.

With the consent of a member, notice, dissemination of documents and actions may be completed by electronic means as determined by the Board and as allowed by Law. A document electronically sent or transmitted to a Member or former Member at the Member or former Member's last known electronic address is considered sent, received, transmitted, and effective on the date sent by the Cooperative. A document electronically received or transmitted from a Member or former Member is considered sent, received, transmitted, and effective on the date received by the Cooperative. If electronically delivered, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when sent to the last known electronic address of the member for which no non-delivery notice is returned.

If addressed to an address shown in the Membership List, then a written or electronic notice, communication, or report delivered or transmitted as part of a newsletter, magazine, or other publication regularly sent to Members constitutes a

notice, communication, or report to all Members: (1) residing at the address; or (2) having the same address shown in the Cooperative records. If a Member has reasonable access to appropriate hardware and software, then under such terms and conditions as the Board, acting under policies of general application determines, and as allowed by law, the Member consents and agrees to (A) use, accept, send, receive, and transmit an electronic signature, contract, record, notice, vote, communication, comment, and other document regarding an action, transaction, business, meeting, or activity with, for, or involving the Cooperative; (B) electronically conduct an action, transaction, business, meeting, or activity with, for, or involving the Cooperative; and (C) electronically give or confirm this consent and agreement.

ARTICLE III. MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

SECTION 1. Annual Meeting.

An Annual Meeting of the members of this Cooperative may be held at the principal place of business of this Cooperative, or such other place conveniently located in the general service area served by it, and at such date and hour as may be determined by the Board and designated in the notice of the meeting. It shall be the responsibility of the Board to make adequate plans and preparations for the Annual Meeting. Failure to hold the Annual Meeting at the designated time shall not work a forfeiture or dissolution of the Cooperative. Meetings of the members are permitted to be held through remote or electronic communication. In case of emergency, meetings of the members may be cancelled or postponed.

SECTION 2. Special Meetings.

Special Meetings of the members may be called by Resolution of the Board or upon the written request signed by any three (3) Directors, by the President or by ten (10%) percent or more of the members and it shall thereupon be the duty of the Secretary to cause Notice of such meeting to be given as hereinafter provided. Special meetings shall be held at the principal place of business of this Cooperative or such other place conveniently located in the general service area at such date and hour as may be determined by the Board. Meetings of the members are permitted to be held through remote or electronic communication. In case of emergency, meetings of the members may be cancelled or postponed.

SECTION 4. Quorum.

A quorum necessary to the transaction of business at any meeting of the members shall be at least ~~two hundred (200) members~~ fifty (50), except for the election of directors at district meetings. In determining a quorum on a question submitted to a vote by mail, members present in person, or represented by

mail votes, shall be counted. ~~The quorum shall be established by a registration of the members present at such meetings, which r~~Registration shall be verified by the President and Secretary and shall be reported in the Minutes of the meeting.

SECTION 5. Voting.

Each member of the Cooperative shall be entitled to one (1) vote on each matter submitted to a vote at each meeting of the members. The spouse of a member may vote on behalf of the member unless the member has indicated otherwise. All questions shall be decided by a vote of a majority of the members voting thereon in person, except as otherwise provided by law, the Articles of Conversion or these Bylaws. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted. Any member who is absent from any Annual or Special Meeting of the members may vote by mail at such meeting upon any motion or resolution ~~pertaining to the borrowing of funds or the mortgage, lease or other encumbrance of property as allowed by state law.~~ The Secretary shall enclose with the notice of such meeting an exact copy of such motion or resolution to be acted upon and such absent member shall express his/her vote thereon by placing a cross (x) in the space provided therefore opposite each such motion or resolution. Such absent member shall enclose each such copy so marked in a sealed envelope bearing his/her name and address to the Secretary at Colman, South Dakota. When such written vote so enclosed is received by mail from any absent member, it shall be counted as a vote of such member at such meeting. ~~If a husband and wife spouses~~ hold a joint membership and are absent from any ~~Annual or Special~~ meeting of the members, they shall jointly be entitled to vote by mail as ~~provided in this section~~ allowed by state law. The failure of any absent member to receive a copy of any such motion or resolution shall not invalidate any action which may be taken by the members at any such meeting. Voting by members other than members who are natural persons shall be allowed upon the presentation to the Cooperative, prior to or upon registration at each member meeting, of satisfactory evidence, entitling the person presenting the same to vote.

Continued on Page 10



Operation Black Hills Cabin is a healing place for U.S. military veterans in Custer.

HEALING PLACES

Organizations cater to military veterans in need

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

“After 21 years of learning to live with the scars, the limitations, the tremors and the nightmares...I can honestly say this experience has filled my heart with fresh hope.” - Veteran Jason Cooper

U.S. military veteran Jason Cooper needed some peace. He needed some quiet. He needed a reprieve from the rigors and stress of everyday life. So, Cooper gathered up his family and made the trip from his home in Kentucky to the Black Hills where he would find rest, relaxation and time for thoughtful contemplation.

Cooper and his crew spent a week-long vacation in a comfortable, cozy cabin in Custer as part of a project called Operation Black Hills Cabin (OBHC). Over the past 10 years, he and dozens of other wounded veterans have discovered a tranquil site to unwind and to enjoy the wide range of outdoor activities available in the area – all free of charge.

The program began as a service to provide veterans and their families with a free getaway and also as a means for organizers to express gratitude for the sacrifices made to protect freedom.

One of those founding organizers is Col. Marty Mahrt, a former Air Force pilot who joined the military in 1955 and flew 88 missions through two tours of duty in Vietnam. During his first tour, Mahrt was assigned to attack a munitions arsenal at Yen Bai Province. After releasing his ordnance and pulling away, Mahrt's F105 Thunderchief was hit in the right wing by enemy fire. The



Air Force veteran Col. Marty Mahrt is a founding board member of OBHC.

aircraft began a downward spiral, but Mahrt was able to eject and was soon rescued by a helicopter squadron and flown back to the U.S. for surgical treatment of a severe shoulder wound.

While Mahrt and his wife Colleen are usually on hand to greet the veteran visitors to OBHC, the guests rarely get to hear of Mahrt's combat experience. As he puts it, “They don't need to hear anything from me. They have their own problems. I just listen to them and let them know that we're here to help them.”

Mahrt said that he was eager to join Pat and Jeff Baird when they began gathering local support for OBHC back in 2011.

“Just knowing a lot of people who didn't make it back, and seeing the wounded warriors coming back from Iraq, that was something that motivated us to get involved. You see these families, the whole structure of the family changes when a soldier

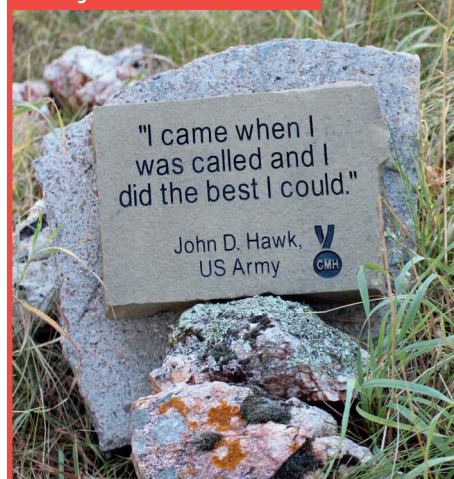


The Ranch Ministries in Blunt gives veterans an opportunity to hunt in one of the country's most prized pheasant harvesting territories.

and breadwinner is wounded and the wife has to take over," he said.

Mahrt points out that while the project isn't necessarily about providing psychological therapy for the veterans, there are emotional connections made in the process. He said a significant part of the program is the local community's participation. Business leaders and individuals provide free services or deep discounts for meals, entertainment, local tourist attractions and outdoor activities. The veterans also receive a gift card loaded with "Custer Cash" to help offset travel costs.

The Trail of Healing at Operation Black Hills Cabin has a series of messages etched in stone.



"We meet the families and welcome them," Mahrt said. "Sometimes the emotions get the best of me when I present them with their Visa card and they start crying and give me a hug. Sometimes you get emotional."

OBHC Board Secretary Ione Fejfar said the support of the community and way the residents of Custer treat the veterans and their families is part of the strength of the program.

"The people of Custer are absolutely wonderful," she said. "They really roll out the red carpet for them and everywhere our veterans go, they are treated with respect and honor and friendship. Between the cabin and the town, this is a very healing place."

She said every veteran who visits the cabin is asked to compose a brief letter of gratitude to the community that's published in the local newspaper.

Oahe Electric Lends a Hand

The Ranch Ministries was founded by Marine veteran Ken Korkow on 540 acres in Blunt, roughly 20 miles east of Pierre. It's a faith-based retreat center he created to offer military veterans an open space to take part in team-building exercises, outdoor hunting and shooting sports, dirt track racing, firearms safety training, horseback riding and more.

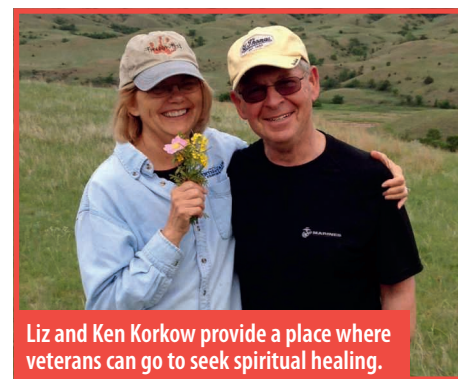
According to Korkow, there's also a lot of bonding among brothers and spiritual growth that takes place along with all of the fun and games.

"We share the story of Christ, the one who heals and gives us purpose," said Korkow, who received citations for the Navy Cross and the Purple Heart.

Korkow explained the center is not only

open to veterans but to surrounding communities as well. Youth groups and adults have visited to participate in firearm safety and team-building exercises.

"A lot of people come here to get away from their everyday lives," he said. "We take care of the needs of our veterans, but we also depend on support and volunteers from the community for our success and we open our doors to those who want to come here and find fulfillment."



Liz and Ken Korkow provide a place where veterans can go to seek spiritual healing.

One of those supporting organizations is Oahe Electric, which has responded to requests to provide material and manpower to meet the ministry's needs.

According to Oahe Electric Member Services Manager Russ Hohn, "The Ranch has had a meaningful impact in our community and we've been able to give back through our Operation Round Up program, which is funded by our members. It's a prime example of our cooperative and our members demonstrating one of the seven cooperative principles: Concern for Community."

Continued from Page 7.

ARTICLE IV. DIRECTORS

SECTION 2. Election and Tenure of Office.

The Cooperative shall be comprised of ten (10) director districts. The members from within each district shall nominate and elect a qualified Director from within their district. The Directors are elected for three (3) year terms on a staggered term basis. The existing staggered terms shall remain in effect unless it shall appear to the Board that additional modifications will be necessary to maintain the staggered term concept, at which time the Board may make such adjustments as they deem necessary and appropriate. ~~Terms of office of newly elected Directors shall commence immediately following the Annual Meeting of the members on such date as said meeting is held from year to year, provided said terms shall commence no later than July 1 of each year. The normal three-year term of office of a newly elected Director shall commence immediately following the Annual Meeting of the members following the District Meeting in which the new Director was elected. The term of the Director shall continue until the Annual Meeting following the District Meeting in which his or her successor is elected. If the Annual Meeting is postponed or cancelled due to an emergency situation, the term of the Director shall continue until such time a successor has been elected and seated.~~

SECTION 3. Nomination and Election of Directors District Meetings.

The Board shall fix the date, hour and place of a meeting of the members in each district for which a Director is to be nominated and elected. If, in the opinion of the Board, a suitable place for the conduct of the meeting is not available in such district, then the Board shall designate a suitable meeting place reasonably near the district. Meetings of the members are permitted to be held through remote or electronic communication. In case of emergency, meetings of the members may be cancelled or postponed. The Notice of such meeting shall be given by publication of Notice thereof in the Cooperative's monthly publication in the issue published next prior to the date of such meeting or by delivery to each member located in such district as provided for in Article III, Section 3 hereof. The Notice shall include the names of all nominees and notify members that a Director will be elected at the meeting. The meeting shall, however, be open for discussion of any other matters pertaining to the business of the Cooperative, regardless of whether or not such matters were listed in the Notice of the meeting.

Whenever a vacancy in a Director's position shall exist by virtue of a Director's

term expiring, any person who meets the Director qualifications as set forth in these By-Laws, may become a candidate for the office of Director for such vacancy by filing at the Corporate Headquarters or a Sioux Valley Energy Service Center at least sixty (60) days prior to the date of the District Meeting, a Nominating Petition setting forth the name of the person so nominated for the office of Director, which Petition must be signed by at least ten (10) members ~~in good standing~~ who also reside within the District in which the vacancy exists. The spouse of a member may sign a petition on behalf of the member unless the member has indicated otherwise. Individuals seeking signatures to satisfy the requirements of the Nominating Petition are allowed to gather digital signatures and submit to the Cooperative via email or other electronic means. If no Petitions are timely received, nominations shall be received from the floor at the District Meeting. If one (1) or more Nominating Petitions are timely received, no nominations shall be received from the floor at the District Meeting. At said District Meeting, the members present and voting shall select by secret written ballot a Director to fill the expired term in that District. Mail or electronic voting may also be allowed if permissible by state law. Each member present and voting shall be entitled to vote for one (1) Director Nominee. The Director candidate receiving the most votes shall be declared to be the elected Director of the Corporation from the particular District. In the event there are no more Director nominees than there are vacancies, the Director candidate may be elected by voice vote at the District Meeting.

SECTION 4. Director Districts.

District No. 6 shall be made up of those Townships in Minnehaha County, South Dakota, which lie within Range 47, 48, 49 and Townships 101, 102, 103 and 104. Two "at large" Directors will represent District No. 6. ~~At the first election following the passage of this amendment, one at large director shall be elected for a two year term and thereafter the elected director shall serve a three year term, and one at large director shall be elected for a three year term.~~

District No. 9 shall be made up of those Townships in Pipestone County, Minnesota, which lie within Range 44, 45, 46 and 47 and Townships 106, 107 and 108. ~~The first Director elected from District 9 following the passage of this amendment shall be seated for a two year term and thereafter the elected director shall serve a three year term.~~

District No. 10 shall be made up of those Townships in Pipestone County, Minnesota and Rock County, Minnesota, which lie within Range 44, 45, 46 and 47 and Townships 103, 104 and 105. ~~The first Director elected from District 10 following the passage of this amendment shall be seated~~

~~for a one year term and thereafter the elected director shall serve a three year term.~~

Any proposed alteration of Bylaws setting out district territories recommended by the Board will be submitted to the membership for consideration at the next annual meeting with voting to take place as allowed by state law. A District revision may not increase an existing Director's term or shorten an existing Director's term unless the affected Director consents in writing.

ARTICLE VII. NON-PROFIT OPERATIONS

SECTION 4. Assignment of Capital Credits. The Notice ~~by mail herein provided~~ shall be one mailed distributed by the Cooperative to such patron or former patron at the last known physical address, or email address.

ARTICLE VIII. ENCUMBERING OR DISPOSING OF PROPERTY

SECTION 2. Other Disposition.

Except as provided in Section 1 of this Article, the Cooperative may not sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of all or a substantial portion of its property, unless such sale, lease, or other disposition is authorized by the affirmative vote of not less than a majority of all members of the Cooperative; members voting thereon must be present and vote in person may do so as allowed by state law; provided, however, that notwithstanding any other provisions of this Article, or any other provisions of law, the Board may, upon the authorization of a majority of all members of the Cooperative at a meeting of members thereof, called for that purpose, sell, lease or otherwise dispose of all or a substantial portion of its property to another cooperative or to the holder or holders of any notes, bonds or other evidences of indebtedness issued to the United States of America or any agency or instrumentality thereof or any other lender.

ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1. Standard Amending Procedure.

These Bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed by the members at any Annual or Special Meeting by the affirmative vote of a majority of those members voting thereon as allowed by state law. A copy of the proposed alteration, amendment, or repeal, or a statement specifying the nature of the proposed alteration, amendment, or repeal shall be mailed provided to all members in the same manner and time as is provided for Notice of the Annual Meeting. Any amendment which is germane to the proposed alteration or amendment specified in the notice and submitted at such meeting may be acted upon at said meeting with the same force and effect as though it had been contained in the notice of the meeting.

Baking Up Savings



Sheila Gross

Energy Services Specialist

With the holidays approaching, more time will be spent in the kitchen cooking and baking.

Your kitchen – from the refrigerator to the stove to the dishwasher and other appliances – can account for 15 percent to 20 percent of a typical family’s home energy use each month. Here are some tips to make sure you are getting your money’s worth out of these hard-working home sentinels:

- Ensure refrigerator door seals are tight. And, while you’re at it, eliminate unnecessary refrigerators or freezers. Just because it still runs doesn’t mean it should be draining your wallet plugged in the garage or basement.

- Turn off – and unplug – coffee makers when not in use.
- Use your refrigerator’s anti-sweat feature only if necessary.
- Switch your refrigerator’s power-saver to “On,” if available.
- Clean refrigerator coils annually.
- Regularly defrost refrigerator or freezer to avoid ice buildup.
- Set the refrigerator temperature to 34° to 37°F and freezer temperature to 0° to 5° F.
- Unplug unused refrigerators or freezers. Recycle them if you do not need them.
- Use a microwave for cooking when possible.
- When cooking on the oven range, use pot lids to help food cook faster.
- If you are heating water on the stove, use hot tap water instead of cold.
- Remember to use the kitchen exhaust fan when cooking. Turn it off after cooking.
- Use a slow-cooker instead of simmering foods on the stove.
- If rinsing dirty dishes before putting them into the dishwasher, do so with cold water.
- Use cold water for garbage disposal.
- Only run dishwasher when fully loaded.

Looking for more ways to save? Download our “101 Easy Ways to Save Energy and Money” booklet at www.siouxvalleyenergy.com/my-programs/energy-efficiency-tools

(If you need a print copy of the booklet, just let me know!)

CONTEST

Get your grill on!

We’ve brought the Energy Makeover Solutions Contest back just in time for the holidays!

This month, we’re giving away the Green Mountain Grills Davy Crocket pellet smoker. This portable grill is wifi enabled, allowing you to control and monitor the grill from the palm of your hand.

To enter, please complete the entry form below and mail to Sioux Valley Energy, Energy Makeover Contest, PO Box 216, Colman, SD 57017. The entry is also available online at www.siouxvalleyenergy.com. One entry per member. Enter by Nov. 3, 2020.

For more information, call Sioux Valley Energy at 800-234-1960.



Sign Me Up to Win!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Account #: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Mail this form to:

Sioux Valley Energy, PO Box 216, Colman, SD 57017

Tell Me More!

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heat Pump Rebate | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Audit Loan Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Smart Thermostat Rebate | <input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation Rebate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electric Heat Rate | <input type="checkbox"/> Electric Vehicle program | <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial/Ag LED Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewable Energy Credit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marathon/Westinghouse Water Heaters | <input type="checkbox"/> Time of Use Rate SmartHub Account Tool | <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Heat Rebates | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Saving Tips |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interlock Kit/Generator | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Please mail me a copy of the “101 Easy Ways to Save Energy and Money” booklet | | | |



The South Dakota National Guard has been responsive in helping co-ops restore power to their members after natural disasters.

S.D. NATIONAL GUARD

Co-ops, SDNG work together to meet challenges

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

The South Dakota National Guard and the state's rural electric cooperatives share a synergistic relationship that goes back for decades. Both the Guard and the co-ops are highly skilled, highly motivated and highly prepared to respond in an emergency situation and to deliver help when and where it's needed.

For cooperatives, the response typically centers around restoring power after a natural disaster so that members can return their lives and their business operations back to normal as soon as possible. The state's 28 electric co-ops are part of a state, regional and national mutual assistance agreement that assures help will arrive when needed, and that, in turn, help will be dispatched upon request.

Cooperative operations personnel throughout the state work in conjunction with the South Dakota Rural Electric Association (SDREA) in Pierre to formulate and maintain an emergency work plan designed to help expedite the process of responding to a natural disaster.

According to SDREA Manager of Loss Control Services Mark Patterson, the more than 125,000 electric co-op consumers across South Dakota can rest assured their local power provider has the resources available to meet any and all challenges.

"We have a well-connected professional network of electric co-ops in South Dakota that's made up of exceptionally skilled linemen and supervisors who are absolutely the best in the business," Patterson said. "They have the experience they need to do the job as quickly and safely as possible, and they also have the resources at their disposal to rebuild the system and get the

power back on for our members who desperately need it."

Similarly, emergency preparedness is the South Dakota National Guard's stock in trade; although the Guard's scope of emergency response is quite broader. Not only do soldiers stand ready to be deployed to just about anywhere across the globe at a moment's notice, they also are trained to assist in a variety of stateside tasks.

The Guard's heroic work after the Rapid City Flood, The Spencer Tornado, the 1997 blizzards and the 2011 mass flooding are just a few active duty missions where the Guard came to the rescue to help save and protect life and property.

Most recently and most prominently, the Guard has been summoned to help contain and control politically-motivated



Co-op crews have relied on the National Guard to assist in power restoration efforts.



The National Guard and electric cooperatives share a commitment to serve the citizens of South Dakota, especially in stressful times.

violence and also deal with problems brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

After a coronavirus outbreak at Smithfield Farms in Sioux Falls made national headlines, the Guard deployed 25 ambulance teams - including four air support teams - and was recruited to conduct contact tracing in both Sioux Falls and Rapid City. Roughly 2,600 Smithfield Farms employees and their family members were tested for the virus with the assistance of National Guard personnel.

Gov. Kristi Noem expressed her appreciation for the work of the National Guard soldiers. “We knew they would be ready, they always are, but I don’t want anyone to take for granted how blessed we are to have men and women in our South Dakota National Guard that continue to step up.”

Lt. Col. Anthony Deiss, Director of Public Affairs for the South Dakota National Guard, recalls being personally involved in previous missions to help electric cooperative crews transport poles and other equipment, control work zones along roadways and pull vehicles out of wet, muddy ditches.

He said the soldiers take a great deal of pride in their work and approach their respective missions with the same commitment to serve as cooperative line crews demonstrate on a daily basis.

“We’ve had a tremendous partnership with the electric cooperatives when working alongside them to help respond to winter storms over the years. Our co-ops are on the front lines when providing power restoration during and after natural disasters, and they serve a critically important role in public health and safety. Anytime the SDNG is called up by the state to assist our co-ops in their mission, we look forward to the opportunity to support them.”

“It’s important for different state agencies and organizations to coordinate and work together during emergencies. These

relationships are vital to our state and communities to help quickly mitigate, respond and recover from these disasters. We provide a variety of resources to assist civil authorities to ensure the safety and well-being of our citizens.”

Patterson of SDREA concluded: “I think this is one of the things that makes our state very unique, the sense that we all need to pull together, especially in a crisis. Neighbors helping neighbors...that’s what our National Guard and our co-ops are all about.”



The National Guard takes pride in helping electric co-ops reconstruct downed power lines and poles.



Bruce Martinson has been a SVE Board Director for 16 years. He is pictured (above) with former Director, Ernest Kroeger, taking part in a 2008 Board meeting.

Four Words Say It Exactly As It Is: **SERVING OUR MEMBERS. ALWAYS.**

Brenda Kleinjan, Communications Specialist

brenda.kleinjan@siouxvalleyenergy.com

Serving Our Members. Always.

“Four words say it exactly as it is. If you follow that mission as a director, an employee, or manager, you should be successful,” said Bruce Martinson, a 16-year veteran on the Sioux Valley Energy Board of Directors. “As we deliberate in the board room that has to be the primary focus: Is what we’re doing serving our members, always? If it is, then we’re on the right track.”

That mission has guided Martinson well.

“As a director, I don’t represent the members of Moody County only, but every member of the co-op – those in Minnesota, South Dakota, rural or city. Whatever we decide, we need to keep all of that in perspective,” said Martinson, who represents District 3.

Martinson is one of 11 individuals who serve on the Sioux Valley Energy Board of Directors. The Board oversees the business and affairs of the cooperative.

During his time on the board, Martinson said the cooperative business model has had a lasting impression.

“The model struck me more than anything. The member-driven, member-owned struck me most,” said Martinson, noting that focus was different than other boards he had served on in government or private businesses.

“It’s not hard to get your head wrapped around it for what we were trying to do. It made a lot of sense to me,” said Martinson.

The co-op model – with its community focus, education and information commitments and cooperation among cooperatives – provides a solid foundation.

“Of any of the boards I’d been on, I had never had that level of

training trying to get a good understanding of what we’re here to do,” said Martinson.

“As a director, the primary job is to set the direction for the CEO and his staff so they understand what direction the cooperative should be going in,” Martinson said. “The understanding is we are here to serve our members. Within that mission should be good reliable energy at reasonable costs.”

Martinson said the cooperative’s growth has been one of the biggest changes during his time on the board.

“That’s brought some new challenges,” he noted, mentioning the cooperative continues to see growth in the Sioux Falls area and other parts of the co-op.

Adapting technology changes, especially in the arena of beneficial electrification, including solar energy and electric vehicles, will continue to be a growing focus of the cooperative, which has a solar demonstration array at its Brandon office and also public electric vehicle charging stations in Brandon and Pipestone.

“At Sioux Valley, what I’ve seen in the last 16 years is a proactive approach such as insuring our infrastructure is in good condition and ready to serve before it fails; preparing for changes in the industry before they are on top of us; or keeping abreast of new ideas that benefit our members.”

Martinson is not seeking re-election in 2021.



**Bruce Martinson,
District 3 Director**

Is Your Organization Looking for Funding?

Sioux Valley Energy's Operation Round Up program hit the 20-year milestone this year of providing funding to local non-profits and communities. Since 2000, members and employees have awarded more than \$1.8 million to worthwhile causes throughout the cooperative's service territory. The concept is easy...participating members agree to have their electric bill rounded up to the next highest dollar and that money is collected for Operation Round Up. Many Sioux Valley Energy employees also help by deducting a small amount from their paychecks. More than 75 percent of SVE's members and employees participate in the program.

Who can apply for Operation Round Up funds? Individuals and non-profit organizations within the Sioux Valley Energy service area may apply.

How much can a non-profit receive from the Operation Round Up Program? Non-profit organizations, or charities are eligible to receive up to \$10,000 annually. The average award is \$1,200.

When are projects eligible for funding? Whenever possible, requests for funding should be for projects that will be completed within 12 months following the grant application.

When does the Sioux Valley Energy Customers' Trust Board of Directors meet and approve applications? The Board meets quarterly during the months of March, June, September and December.

When are applications due at the Sioux Valley Energy office? All applications received by the 20th of the month preceding a board meeting will be considered at the next board meeting. For example, an application received at the Sioux Valley Energy office by Nov. 20 will be reviewed for funding at the December board meeting.

How do I submit an application? Applications can be found on the Sioux Valley Energy website at: <https://www.siouxvalleyenergy.com/my-community/operation-roundup>. You can email the completed application to Debra.Biever@siouxvalleyenergy.com or FAX it to 605-256-1693. To mail the application, please send it to: Sioux Valley Energy Customer's Trust - PO Box 216 - Colman, SD 57017.



Holt named Scholar of the Week

Gavin Holt, a student at Baltic High School, has been chosen as a Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 'Scholar of the Week'. Gavin was recognized with a cash award by Sioux Valley Energy and was featured on Dakota News Now for his accomplishments. He is the son of Weston and Jessica Holt of Renner.



Gavin Holt
Baltic High School

Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, like Sioux Valley Energy, and Dakota News Now Television have joined together to recognize the achievements of high school seniors throughout the region. Recipients are highly motivated high school seniors who excel in the classroom and community. This program was founded on the four pillars of Touchstone Energy: Integrity, Accountability, Innovation and a Commitment to Community.

"Gavin is a talented young person who has an extensive list of accomplishments. He is an example of what we need in our future leaders and we are proud that he was chosen as a Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week," said Tim McCarthy, Sioux Valley Energy General Manager/CEO.

Baltic Secondary Principal & Athletic Director, Cameron Kerkhove, described Holt as "an exceptional student both in and out of the classroom. Gavin has excelled academically. Gavin was voted as president of his senior class this year as well as voted as a student council officer as a junior."

Holt was awarded a \$250 cash award from Sioux Valley Energy for being named Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week.

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3. Paid (Sum of 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e, 1f, 1g, 1h, 1i, 1j, 1k, 1l, 1m, 1n, 1o, 1p, 1q, 1r, 1s, 1t, 1u, 1v, 1w, 1x, 1y, and 1z)		979	979
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Note: Please make sure to call ahead to verify the event is still being held.

October 22

Butte County CFEL Annual Christmas Fair, Newell City Hall, Newell, SD, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 605-456-9837

October 24

Ladies Day Shopping Extravaganza, The Crossing Bar, Mina, SD, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

October 29-30

Helping with Horsepower's Phobia - A Haunted Trail, Reclamation Ranch, 40789 259th St., Mitchell, SD, 7-11 p.m. 605-770-2867

October 31-November 1

Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Assn. Sioux Falls Classic Gun Show, 3200 W Maple St. Sioux Falls, SD, 605-630-2199

November 1 and 15

VFW Bingo, Wall Community Center, Wall, SD, 605-279-2663

November 6-8

YFS Kids Fair, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD

November 7

Fall Fling Craft/Vendor Fair, Dakota Christian School, Corsica, SD, 605-366-7940

November 7

Fairburn Community Center Bazaar, Fairburn, SD, 5:30 p.m., 605-255-4807

November 7

Silver Star Bazaar, Lake Norden Community Center, Lake Norden, SD, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



November 7

BH Meat Fest, Fundraiser for Shriner Patient Camps, BH Harley Davidson, Rapid City, SD, 605-415-3577

November 7

Helping with Horsepower's RibFest, 4 p.m., Reclamation Ranch, Mitchell, SD, Contact mattcarter1421@gmail.com to register your team

November 11

MasterChef Junior Live, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD

November 12

Zonta Club of the BH Expo, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4115

November 14

Winter Marketplace Pop Up, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4115

November 14

Annual Holiday Extravaganza, Sisseton Area Merchants and Crafters, Sisseton, SD, 605-698-7425

November 17

Baby Shark Live, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4115

November 20-21

Holiday Arts Christmas Show, 112 E. 5th St. Masonic Hall, Mitchell, SD, 605-359-2049

November 21-22

Winterfest: A Winter Arts Festival, 203 S. Washington St., Aberdeen, SD, 605-226-1557

November 27

Black Friday Trap Shoot, Sioux Falls Izaak Walton League, 10:30 a.m., Lunch Available, 5000 North Oakview Place, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-332-9527

December 5

Rapid City Garden Club's 59th Annual Wreath and Center-piece Sale, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Lions' and Bridger Buildings, Central States Fairgrounds, Rapid City, SD, 605-343-0710

December 5

Festival of Trees, Newell City Hall, Newell, SD, Admission: Two Cans of Non-Perishable Food Items Per Person, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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.