



Cooperative Connections

**Veterans
Sought:
America's
Co-ops' Hiring
Program**

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Fall Initiatives Underway

New website up and running



Tim McCarthy, GM/CEO

tim.mccarthy@siouxvalleyenergy.com

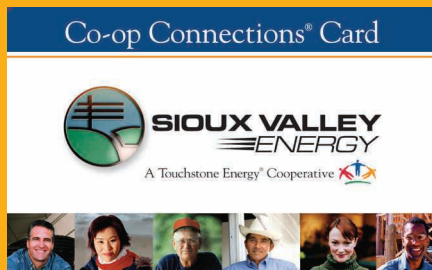
It's been an exciting month at Sioux Valley Energy! We launched our new website which has much of the same information, but the functionality is greatly improved. There is one aspect to the website which is completely different and that is our Blog/Vlog. It may not sound very exciting, but this is an additional way we can communicate with our membership. Communication is tough because people are busy. We all have careers, families, hobbies, etc. that keep us running. For some, sitting down and reading a newsletter (like this one) is just not going to happen. However, if they see something in their Facebook newsfeed or on Twitter that involves Sioux Valley Energy, they may just click on it while waiting to pick up their kids from an activity. That's what we hope will happen with the Blog/Vlog... reaching members who have 'on the go' lifestyles.

The latest entry is of me offering a welcome message to those visiting the new website (www.siouxvalleyenergy.com). However, going forward, we will utilize many of our employees' expertise on this Blog/Vlog format. For example, our customer service representatives often get questions from members that relate to billing or policies. Those questions may be useful to other members, but it is hard to disseminate that information quickly. Now, we can do that through our Blog/Vlog. If you have questions about your service, rates, or policies that may interest other members, let us know! We can post a new entry to answer that question and perhaps help other members in the process as well. Additionally, we encourage you to drop us a line at SVE@SiouxValleyEnergy.com with your feedback about the new website.

We are also excited to offer you a tool that will help you save money! Sioux Valley Energy is committed to its communities and to its members and to show that, a few years ago we rolled out the 'Co-op Connections' card. The card helps members utilize valuable discounts at local and national businesses. It's a benefit of being a member of a Touchstone Energy cooperative! It is time to send out new cards and update our list of local businesses that have partnered with SVE to discount its products or services. In between pages 8 and 9 you will find an insert with all our local business partners. It also includes a card you can pop out and stick in your wallet. If you register online at www.connections.coop you can find a variety of other discounts as well.

And finally, the Board just approved the district meeting schedule which is listed on page 10. This year we will have six (yes six) election meetings! 2019 is what we consider a transition year, so we can better stagger our district elections to ensure a smooth transition when a new director is elected. Two of our current directors—Henning Hansen (District 1) and Arlyn Zylstra (District 10) have made the decision to retire from the Board so there will be an open seat in those two districts. If you or someone you know are interested in serving on the Board and would like more information on what it requires; give us a call at 1-800-234-1960 or send an email to Amy.Voelker@SiouxValleyEnergy.com.

Stay safe this fall and we will see you at the upcoming winter meetings!



Get Your Card Today!
Check the insert between pages **8** and **9**.
Learn How You Can Save and Register at
www.connections.coop

Sioux Valley Energy Cooperative Connections

(USPS No. 497-440)

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Sioux Valley Energy is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Home Energy Makeover Contest Winner Announced



Wendy Buss of Hills, MN was the winner of the "Turn on the Savings" energy makeover contest. She won an energy star ceiling fan. Sioux Valley Energy has completed the 12-month Energy Makeover Challenge. If you would like more information on energy saving techniques, rebates and incentives, contact our Energy Services Department at 1-800-234-1960 or email Sheila.Gross@SiouxValleyEnergy.com

Harvest Safety

Awareness doesn't spread as fast as an electrical current, but a little goes a long way. Remember to look up and look out for power lines this harvest season. Follow these Four S's to Stay Safe:

SPOTTER. Get a spotter to be sure you are staying at least 10 feet away from power lines on all sides, keeping in mind that field cultivators and sprayers can reach as high as 12 feet.

STUDY. Educate yourself on any new equipment you may have purchased recently. New equipment has higher antennas and wider attachments than ever before. What cleared in previous years may not in your new ride. Know what you're working with.

SAGGING. If you see a power line sagging on your property, contact Sioux Valley Energy to fix it. That's their job!

SEARCH. Sometimes trees or brush can make power lines difficult to see. Don't just glance up, really take a minute to search your surroundings when moving equipment.

Hitting a power line can be scary. In certain situations, there may be a lot of noise, which will likely cause you to instinctively run—you've got seconds to understand what's happening and respond appropriately. Do you know what to do if you come in contact with a power line?

STAY PUT. Unless there is a fire, you need to stay calm and stay in the vehicle. Touching the ground and the vehicle at the same time (i.e. stepping out of the equipment) can be deadly. Don't risk becoming a conductor for the electricity to move from the vehicle to the ground through you, stay put. Even if it's loud.

CALL FOR HELP. Call for help from the vehicle if possible. 911 is a good place to start, especially if you don't know Sioux Valley Energy's phone number. If you don't have your phone, try radioing for help. If someone comes to assist you, they need to stay at least 30 feet away from the vehicle until professional help has arrived.

JUMP CLEAR. If there is a fire forcing you to leave, or you have no way of calling for help, jump clear of the equipment. Jump with your feet together and with your arms folded across your chest, as far away from the vehicle as possible. Be sure you are not touching the equipment and the ground at the same time. Then, shuffle (tiny, quick steps) away. The ground may be electrically charged in varying points surrounding the vehicle so quick, short, shuffle steps (never allowing your feet to break contact with the ground) are important.

Halloween Safety Tips

Are your Halloween traditions a trick or a treat? The following helpful tips will let you know if real danger is lurking in your Halloween décor.

Trick:

- Costumes can catch fire! Avoid costumes with billowing or long trailing fabric. If you are making your own costumes, choose fire-resistant materials.
- Never use electrical products outdoors that are marked "for indoor use." You could get shocked – or worse!
- Avoid using dried flowers, corn stalks, hay or crepe paper in your festive decorations. These items are highly flammable and could even be ignited by heat from a nearby light bulb or heater.
- Never block exits or escape routes.

Treat:

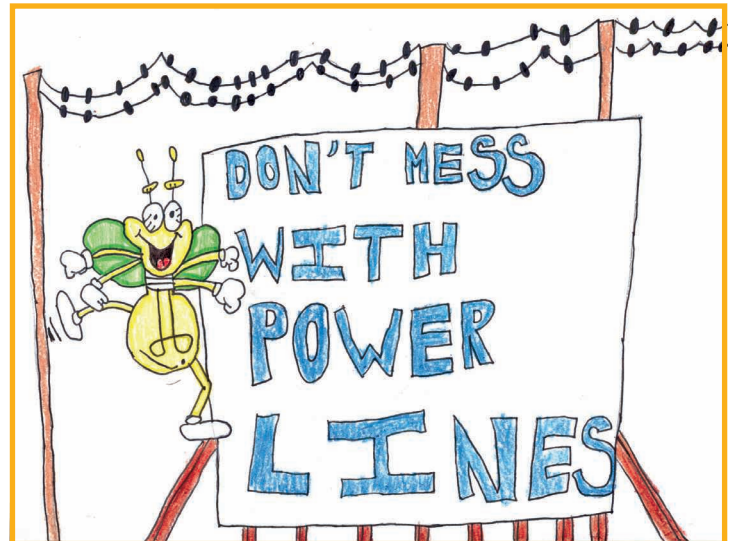
- Inspect all electrical decorations and extension cords before use. Discard any that have cracked, frayed or exposed wiring.
- Outdoor electrical decorations are increasingly popular. To reduce your risk of shocks, ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) should be used wherever water may come into contact with electrical products. Replace traditional receptacles with GFCIs or use a portable one.
- Use only electrical lights and decorations that are approved for safe use by a nationally tested laboratory such as UL, Intertek (ETL) or CSA.
- Always turn off electrical decorations and extinguish any open flames before leaving home or going to bed.
- Use a flashlight or battery-operated candles in a jack-o-lantern. If you must use a real candle, use extreme caution as it can start a fire or burn someone.
- Curiosity leads to many things, not all of them safe. Protect children by installing tamper resistant receptacles in your home. This permanent, cost-effective solution prevents injuries and deaths caused by the insertion of foreign objects into outlets.

Source: esfi.org



VISIT VOTE.COOP TO LEARN HOW TO BECOME A CO-OP VOTER.

KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



"Don't mess with power lines."

Jackson Baumgarn, 8 years old

Jackson is the son of Casey and Anne Baumgarn, Webster, S.D.

They are members of Lake Region Electric Association, Webster.

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.

Crock Pot Creations

3-Bean Crockpot Casserole

1/2 lb. bacon	1/2 cup brown sugar
1/2 lb. hamburger	1/2 cup ketchup
1 cup chopped onions	1 can pork and beans
1/2 tsp. salt	1 can lima beans
2 T. vinegar	1 can kidney beans
1 T. prepared mustard	

Brown bacon until crispy. Brown hamburger with the onions. Combine all ingredients in a crock pot. Cook on LOW for 3 to 4 hours.

Mary Ellen Luikens, Tea, SD

Triple Chocolate Surprise

1 (18 oz.) chocolate cake mix	3/4 cup oil
8 oz. sour cream	4 eggs
1 pkg. instant chocolate pudding	1 cup water
	1 cup chocolate chips

Combine all ingredients. Spray crock pot with no stick cooking spray. Pour mixture into pot. Cook on LOW 6 to 8 hours.

Betty Klingbile, Wall, SD

Juanita's Crockpot Peanut Clusters

1 (16 oz.) jar salted peanuts	4 oz. German chocolate bar, broken into pieces
1 (16 oz.) jar unsalted peanuts	3 lbs. almond bark, broken into pieces
1 (12 oz.) bag semi-sweet chocolate chips	

Layer ingredients in crock pot in order given. Cook on LOW for 3 hours. DO NOT OPEN. After 3 hours, stir and cook an additional 5 minutes. Turn off crock pot and let cool at least 15 minutes. Stir and spoon heaping spoonfuls onto waxed or parchment paper. Let sit until set.

Marcia Broone, Rapid City, SD

Slow Cooker Chicken Rice Curry

4 bone-in chicken breasts, halves (about 2 lbs.), skin removed	1 medium Golden Delicious apple, unpeeled, cored and coarsely chopped
1 T. McCormick® Curry Powder	1/4 cup raisins
1 pkg. McCormick® Chicken Gravy Mix	1/4 cup McCormick® Onions, Chopped
1 (14.5 oz.) can chicken broth	2 McCormick® Bay Leaves, broken in half
1 medium red bell pepper, cut into 1/2-inch pieces	1/2 tsp. McCormick® Garlic Powder
	1 cup instant rice

Rinse chicken and pat dry. Cut each breast half into 2 pieces. Sprinkle chicken with curry powder. Gradually stir gravy mix into broth in slow cooker until well blended. Add seasoned chicken and remaining ingredients except rice; stir well. Cover. Cook 8 hours on LOW or 4 hours on HIGH. Gently stir in rice. Cover. Cook 15 to 20 minutes longer on HIGH or until rice is tender. Remove bay leaves before serving. Makes 6 servings

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 296, Total Fat 4g, Cholesterol 78mg, Sodium 600mg, Protein 35g, Carbohydrates 30g, Dietary Fiber 2g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Crockpot French Dip Sandwiches

3 lb. roast, beef or pork	1 (10 oz.) can beef broth
1 (10 oz.) can French onion soup	1 (12 oz.) can beer
	Swiss cheese

Cook above ingredients in crock pot on LOW for 7 hours. Shred meat with fork. Let set 30 minutes. Fill buns (I use steak buns). Top with Swiss cheese. Use the juice in crock pot for dipping, if desired.

Jane Ham, Rapid City, SD

Please send your favorite holiday, soup or brunch 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 2018. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

What is the true impact livestock development could have on our region?

How can farm families and communities take advantage of these new opportunities?

What is the most economically feasible and environmentally sound path forward?

These and other important questions will be discussed at the first:

LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT

Hosted by your local Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

**NOVEMBER 15, 2018
SDSU CAMPUS, BROOKINGS, S.D.**

South Dakota and southwestern Minnesota farm families as well as community leaders who are interested in learning more about emerging livestock development opportunities are encouraged to attend.



Featured Speaker

Barry H. Dunn, PhD
President, South Dakota State University

Featured Speaker

Governor Dennis Daugaard



Panel Discussions

Economic Impact
Young Farmers and Agribusinesses
Financing
Siting, Zoning and Permitting



Networking

Talk with industry experts and other livestock developers

**TO REGISTER: visit www.yourcoopower.com/LivestockSummit
COST: FREE! Please RSVP before November 1**

Together we are

RE-ENERGIZING LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT



Sioux Valley Hosts 'Sleep in Heavenly Peace' Event

20 Beds in Two Hours

A \$3,500 grant from Sioux Valley Energy's Operation Round Up fund and a dedicated volunteer crew helped build 20 beds in two hours for children that have nowhere to sleep. The build-a-bed event took place at the Sioux Valley headquarters near Colman.

Sioux Valley employees along with members of the SVE Board, ORU Board, Member Advisory Council and families spent a few hours on a windy Saturday afternoon in September offering their time and talents to the Brookings Chapter of the 'Sleep in Heavenly Peace' organization.

'Sleep in Heavenly Peace' was started by an Idaho couple more than six years ago. It began after they had extra wood from a bunk bed project and put a post on Facebook asking if anyone was in need of a bed. The response was overwhelming. The organization has grown to other states including Minnesota and South Dakota.



Sioux Valley Energy decided to host a bed building event after Director of Customer and Employee Relations, Debra Bieber, learned of the organization. "The idea of being able to provide beds to 20 kids who have nowhere to sleep really spoke to me and I knew our employees, Board and MAC members would love to help. The work we did truly defines our mission: Serving Our Members. Always," Bieber said.

If you are interested in hosting a build-a-bed event or making a donation, contact: Dave Miller at 605-690-0143 or Dave.Miller@shpbeds.org.

Since the year 2000, Operation Round Up funds have provided more than \$1.5-million to local non-profit organizations. Operation Round Up is funded by Sioux Valley Energy members who "round-up" their electric bill as well as employees who donate.





Military veterans meet with electric co-op leaders at a Veterans in Energy event. Veterans in Energy is a professional development group that was formed through NRECA's Serve Our Co-ops; Serve Our Country initiative to help veterans transition into the energy workforce after they've been hired at electric cooperatives.

An Electric Co-op Mission to **HIRE VETERANS**

Paul Wesslund

NRECA

Electric cooperatives are working to make even better use of a powerful source of energy – military veterans.

“Veterans, active military and their spouses are some of our greatest assets as employees,” says Michelle Rostom, director of workforce development for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). “They are mission-driven. When we think about providing safe, reliable and affordable power, we know our veterans – whatever their job – are focused on making sure we are operating safely and that we are creating a reliable electric network for co-op members.”

Rostom spends a lot of her time getting more veterans hired by electric co-ops in her role as program manager for NRECA's initiative called “Serve Our Co-ops; Serve Our Country.”

The program launched in January 2016 “to honor and employ veterans,” said Rostom.

Since then, the program has been forming a coalition of co-ops and other groups to focus attention on the benefits of hiring veterans and to actually hire more veterans.

In announcing the program, Jim Matheson, CEO of NRECA,



An NRECA Commemorative Coin Recognizes veterans hired through the Serve Our Co-ops; Serve Our Country program. On the Cover: A statue of South Dakota Gov. Leslie Jensen, who was governor in 1937-1939, stands in front of the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building in Pierre. Jensen served in both WWI and WWII.

said, “Our military veterans deserve our unending gratitude for their service to our country, on Veterans Day and every day. Veterans possess many of the qualities sought by electric co-ops, including a deep commitment to service and an uncompromising work ethic. More than 200,000 service members transition out of the military to civilian life each year and we’d like to tap into that talent to help fill the thousands of co-op jobs opening up.”

Hiring veterans is certainly a decent thing to do, but Rostom lists why it makes business sense as well.

“They understand their role and they go out and execute it,” she says. “They bring leadership skills, they work in teams and look out for each other in that kind of ‘brotherhood.’ They work in all types of weather. They are disciplined. They show up on time. Those are professional competencies that not every job applicant brings with them, but you find them in the military.”

The initiative grew out of broader strategic planning by NRECA. That plan envisioned that 25,000 jobs at electric co-ops would need to be filled in the next few years.

“We are racing to make sure we have the right talent applying for our jobs,” says Rostom.

Part of that work has been developing and distributing information to bring attention and advice aimed at connecting veterans with co-op jobs. A series of three checklists published by the program helps guide electric co-ops in setting up a veteran hiring effort. The checklists show co-ops how to recognize veterans, contact groups in their communities for broad-based effectiveness and bring attention to the skills and abilities veterans offer.

Some of those skills and abilities might not be immediately obvious, says Rostom, like what they learn by having to change their job and their residence every few years.

“They are trained to learn,” she says. “They change jobs every couple of years, so they learn to adapt.”

Serve Our Co-ops; Serve Our Country also started a group called “Veterans in Energy,” a professional organization to go

beyond hiring, by helping veterans transition into the energy workforce.

Military spouses make up another often-overlooked resource, says Rostom.

“You’ll get resumés for a spouse and they will have big gaps in their experience,” she says. “They’ve put their career path

Our military veterans deserve our unending gratitude for their service to our country, on Veterans Day and every day.

on hold to follow their spouse around the world with the military, so don’t just discount that resumé.”

Rostom says, “They’ve had to move their family probably 10 times over the past 15 years, so they have to plan, they have to find housing, find schools, medical care – and they’re doing that without their spouse there, who is deployed somewhere. Often, they are volunteering, so they are community-focused, which is what we look for in the co-ops. In working with

groups of volunteers, they are managing people, they are probably managing a budget, they are securing vendors for events. There are a lot of skill sets that they bring.”

Rostom continues, “Many are working on a degree while they are moving around the world. They are a phenomenal group of untapped talent we should consider. When you see that resumé, it doesn’t say military spouse, but I think it should. It totally changes the game – it shows the potential employer why their career has been put on hold. They are smart, educated, they are project managers, they work with diverse groups of people. They’re an untapped group of talent that we don’t always think about.”

Through Serve Our Co-ops; Serve Our Country, electric co-ops are better positioned to increase their veteran workforce and support local veteran communities. To learn more about the program, visit www.servevets.coop.

Paul Wesslund writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56 percent of the nation’s landscape.



Photo by NRECA

District Vacancies

Hansen and Zylstra to retire from Board

Sioux Valley Energy is recruiting qualified members from the Cooperative's Districts #1 and #10 who are interested and willing to serve on the Board of Directors to fill two vacancies. The term for the incumbent directors, Henning Hansen and Arlyn Zylstra, will expire in 2019 and both have decided to not seek another term on the Board. District #1 and #10 members interested in seeking nomination to the Board must submit a nominating petition. The deadline for submitting petitions for the vacancies can be found below. The Cooperative Bylaws state the qualifications needed to be a director and can be found next to this article.

District No. 1 is made up of those Townships in Brookings County, South Dakota, which lie within Ranges 47, 48 and 49 and Townships 109, 110, 111 and 112; and Range 50 and Townships 111 and 112.

District No. 10 is 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.

Interested members are encouraged to contact Amy Voelker, Executive Assistant, at 1-800-234-1960.

Elections will also take place at four other district meetings. Terms expire in 2019 for Gary Fish (District #6), Allan Kooima (District #2), Bruce Martinson (District #3) and Dave Daniel (District #4). Members who are interested in running for the Board of Directors must file a petition. Petitions are available at any Sioux Valley Energy office or at www.siouxvalleyenergy.com.

Each district meeting will include a complimentary meal, a short informational program and a \$25 bill credit for each member attending which will be awarded at the end of the meeting.

SECTION 5. Qualifications. Any member shall be eligible to be nominated or elected or to remain a Director, provided that:

(a) They are a natural person receiving electric service from the Cooperative at their primary residence or meet the qualifications for corporate representation; (b) They have the capacity to enter legally binding contracts; (c) They have been and shall remain a resident of the district for which they are or were nominated or elected for at least one (1) year prior to nomination, and continue to reside therein during their entire term as Director; (d) While a Director and during the five (5) years immediately prior to becoming a Director, they have not been convicted of a felony; (e) They or their spouse are not employed by, materially affiliated with or have a material financial interest in any individual or entity which either is: (i) Directly and substantially competing with the Cooperative, or any of its subsidiaries; or (ii) Selling goods and services in substantial quantity to the Cooperative or its subsidiaries; or having sold goods or services in substantial quantity to the Cooperative or its subsidiaries within three (3) years of seeking nomination. (iii) Possessing a substantial conflict of interest with the Cooperative or any of its subsidiaries; or (iv) They are not in any way employed by the Cooperative or any of its subsidiaries nor have they been employed by the Cooperative or its subsidiaries within three (3) years of the directors nomination, and (v) They are not a close relative of any existing Director or existing employee of the Cooperative or its subsidiaries. For the purpose of this section only "close relative" shall mean a person who is either a child, grandchild, stepchild, parent, grandparent, stepparent, brother or sister, by blood or in-law, of the principal. (f) A designated representative of any non-human member such as a corporation, shall, notwithstanding that he or she does not receive service from the Cooperative at their primary residential abode, be eligible to become a Director, if:

- 1) He or she is an officer of said non-human member; and
- 2) He or she is in substantial permanent occupancy, direction or use of the premises served by the Cooperative; and
- 3) He or she is a permanent year round resident within the district for which the Corporation or non-human member is receiving service, and
- 4) Otherwise meets the qualifications set forth herein, provided, however, that no more than one (1) such person as the designated representative may serve on the Board at the same time and in the event that he or she should resign or is unwilling to so act, the directorship shall become vacant.

District Meeting Schedule

Meeting Date	Director/District	Town	Location	Petition Deadline
Thursday, February 21	Leuthold (8)	Luverne MN	Grand Prairie Event Center	
Monday, February 25	Fish (6) & Rogan (6)	Brandon SD	Brandon Valley High School	December 27, 2018 (3 yr. term)
Thursday, February 28	Johnson (9)	Pipestone MN	Pipestone High School	
Monday, March 4	Weinacht (5)	Colton SD	Tri-Valley School	
Tuesday, March 19	Hansen (1)	Elkton SD	Elkton Community Center	January 18, 2019 (2 yr. term)
Thursday, March 21	Zylstra (10)	Edgerton MN	Edgerton Public School	January 20, 2029 (3 yr. term)
Monday, March 25	Kooima (2)	Volga SD	Sioux Valley School	January 24, 2019 (3 yr. term)
Tuesday, March 26	Martinson (3)	Flandreau SD	William J Janklow Comm. Center	January 25, 2019 (2 yr. term)
Thursday, March 28	DeMent (7)	Hartford SD	West Central School	
Monday, April 1	Daniel (4)	Madison SD	Madison High School Commons	January 31, 2019 (3 yr. term)

Red Indicates Election Meetings

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Full Name: **Rural Utilities Service (USDA)**
Complete Mailing Address: **1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250**

National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation 20701 Cooperative Way, Dulles, VA 20166

CoBank PO Box 5110, Denver, CO 80217

12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)
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a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)		19,667	19,440
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	19,617	19,390
	(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	0	0
	(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®	0	0
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c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))		19,617	19,390
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies included on PS Form 3541	0	0
	(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies included on PS Form 3541	0	0
	(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail)	0	0
	(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	0	0
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))		0	0
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		19,617	19,390
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))		50	50
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)		19,667	19,440
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)		100%	100%

* If you are claiming electronic copies, go to line 16 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.

PS Form 3526, July 2014 (Page 2 of 4)

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

16. Electronic Copy Circulation

	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Paid Electronic Copies	834	838
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	20,451	20,228
c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	20,451	20,228
d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 16c × 100)	100%	100%

I certify that 50% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership
 If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the **November 2018** issue of this publication. Publication not required.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: **Carrie Vugteven** Date: **9/27/18**

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).



Campaign buttons advocating a no vote on Amendment W are pictured.

ELECTRIC CO-OPS JOIN FIGHT AGAINST W

Brenda Kleinjan

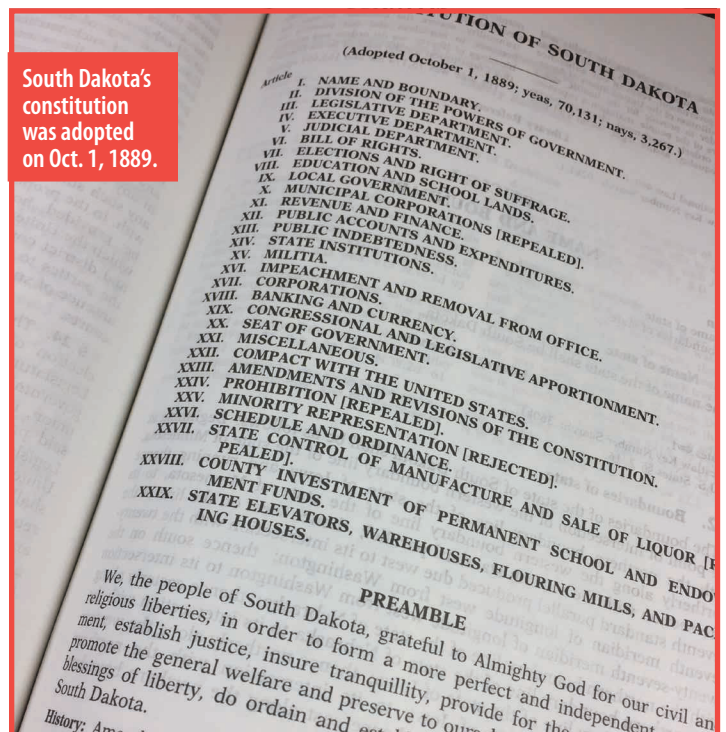
brenda.kleinjan@srea.coop

South Dakota's electric cooperatives, through their statewide association, the South Dakota Rural Electric Association in Pierre, have joined with more than 30 other South Dakota-based groups and individuals opposing an amendment to the South Dakota constitution.

Voters in November will decide the fate of Amendment W, which is titled "An initiated amendment to the South Dakota Constitution changing campaign finance and lobbying laws, creating a government accountability board, and changing certain initiative and referendum provisions." A "yes" vote would change South Dakota's constitution. A "no" vote leaves the constitution as is.

"Amendment W creates an entirely new article of the South Dakota Constitution and declares that the new article is superior to all other sections of the constitution. It creates a non-elected tribunal called "The State Government Accountability Board," forces the

South Dakota's constitution was adopted on Oct. 1, 1889.



legislature and Governor to fund it and allows that board to go to court for more money,” said David Owen, president of the South Dakota Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Owen is the head of a coalition of South Dakota groups that have formed the “W is Wrong” statewide Ballot Question Committee opposing the amendment.

“No other state has anything like Amendment W,” Owen said. “Only two other states even mention an ethics board in their constitution and neither of them overrides the legislative process for funding and oversight.”

The SDREA board – comprised of local South Dakotans elected by their neighbors to serve on their local electric cooperative board and then elected to serve on the statewide board – has historically been engaged on advocating on behalf of their member-owners. SDREA was formed in 1942 to help cooperatives bring electricity to the state and continues to work to give voice to the 120,000 co-op members in the state. In Minnesota, the Minnesota Rural Electric Association does similar work on behalf of Minnesota electric cooperatives. The SDREA board consists of members of multiple political ideologies and parties.

“In reaching their conclusion to oppose Amendment W, the SDREA board walked through the proposed language thoughtfully and considered its potential ramifications carefully,” said Ed Anderson, general manager of the South Dakota Rural Electric Association. “With any proposed initiated measure or constitutional amendment this complex, a thoughtful, reasoned consideration of all possible effects is the only responsible approach to take and I applaud them for their effort.”

To see the amendment in its entirety, along with other measures voters will be deciding on in November, go to <https://sdsos.gov/elections-voting/upcoming-elections/general-information/2018-ballot-questions.aspx>

Who Backs W?

Promoters of Amendment W claim to be a South Dakota group calling themselves “Represent South Dakota.” Financial reports from 2017 and from this year’s pre-primary report show that the effort has been funded from a Massachusetts organization known as “Represent US.”

For calendar year 2017, the Amendment W campaign reported to have raised \$369,588; and spent \$362,348 – leaving a balance of \$7,240

2017 notable contributions were:

- Represent US – Florence, MA – \$121,000
- End Citizens United Non-Federal – \$15,000 (in-kind)
- Donated by Represent US – \$47,238

Plus a supplemental report that is 191 pages of individual contributions – many multiple \$1, \$3, \$5 listings – totaling \$233,588 and not one from South Dakota. The last eight donations were responsible for 50 percent of the total. This report sets the stage of a deceptive claim that there are thousands of supporters of Amendment W who gave small contributions.

Right before the primary election the Amendment W campaign reported they had raised an additional \$26,681 and spent \$33,084 – with a new balance of \$837.40.

Why is W Wrong?

- Amendment W creates an entirely new Article of the South Dakota Constitution and declares that the new article is superior to all other sections of the constitution and all other provisions of law.
- The Amendment bluntly states that **“if there are any conflicts with any other provisions of the constitution and the new article, this article shall control.”** Amendment W gives the new article control over the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the constitution. To further secure this power the amendment uses the phrase **“notwithstanding any other provision of the constitution”** four times including a specific reference to Article II – which states **“The powers of the government of the state are divided into three distinct departments, the legislative, executive and judicial; and the powers and duties of each are prescribed by this Constitution.”**
- Amendment W creates an inquisition style board called “The State Government Accountability Board” and gives it unprecedented powers including taking anonymous complaints about campaign violations and a long list of other powers including (but not limited to): **(I) Investigate any allegation of bribery, theft, or embezzlement of public funds, or any violation of this Article, ethics rule, or state law related to government ethics, campaign finance, lobbying, government contracts, or corruption by any elected or appointed official, judge, or employee of any state or local government and to issue subpoenas related to the investigation;**
- This inquisitorial board will have authority over all “non-federal elected officials” starting with the Governor and ending with members of road districts and irrigation districts and political precinct chairmen and chairwomen. The reach of the new board includes every public employee working for state, county and local governments including townships.
- The members of the board are required to disclose the conflicts of interest and are expected to recuse themselves from participating in any investigation that deals with those conflicts unless **“the board member’s vote is necessary to resolve the matter”**...meaning that a member of the board with a conflict of interest will only vote when it matters most.
- The Amendment uses the constitution to appropriate and annual budget for the new board of \$389,000 (increasing with inflation) which is in direct conflict with the other provisions of the Constitution that require that appropriations be in the annual budget or a separate spending bill and passed with a 2/3rds majority of both the Senate and House of Representatives. The new board is also empowered to intervene in any civil lawsuit. **“The board may intervene as a matter of right in any civil action involving any government entity, agency, or instrumentality alleged to be in violation of any mandate or prohibition under this Article and to and in any civil action relating to the board’s powers or the sufficiency of resources provided for the board’s implementation and operation.”**

Source: <http://www.wiswrong.com/amendment-w.html>

Lend Your Voice to Rural America

In 2016, rural America played a big part in our national elections – 500,000 MORE rural voters went to the polls than in 2012. This is an incredible story, as many in small towns and communities across our country went to the polls to ensure their voices were heard and elected officials took notice. But, elections matter EVERY year.

2018 will be no different and electric cooperatives have the opportunity to play a vital role in encouraging rural voter turnout and engaging on issues that matter most to us. This year, we must build on the momentum we started in 2016, to join with 42 million members of electric cooperatives around the country and remind our elected officials that rural issues matter.

Electric co-ops are not-for-profit energy providers that are owned by the members they serve. They provide coverage for 88 percent of our nation's counties. They are a foundation in their communities and their members can make a difference in lending their voices to issues like rural infrastructure and broadband and maintaining access to affordable, reliable electricity.

To ensure that all electric co-op members do continue the

drumbeat that started in 2016, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) will continue the successful Co-ops Vote program. This is a non-partisan initiative that remains quite simple at its core: to ensure that members are registered to vote and they go to the polls for every election and to ensure rural issues remain part of the national discussion.

By participating in the Co-ops Vote program in 2018, co-op members continue to send a resounding message that all candidates – at all levels – will need to put rural America's concerns front and center in order to earn our vote. We proved in 2016 that with millions of electric co-op members speaking out with one voice, we can have a major impact in making our top issues part of the national conversation.

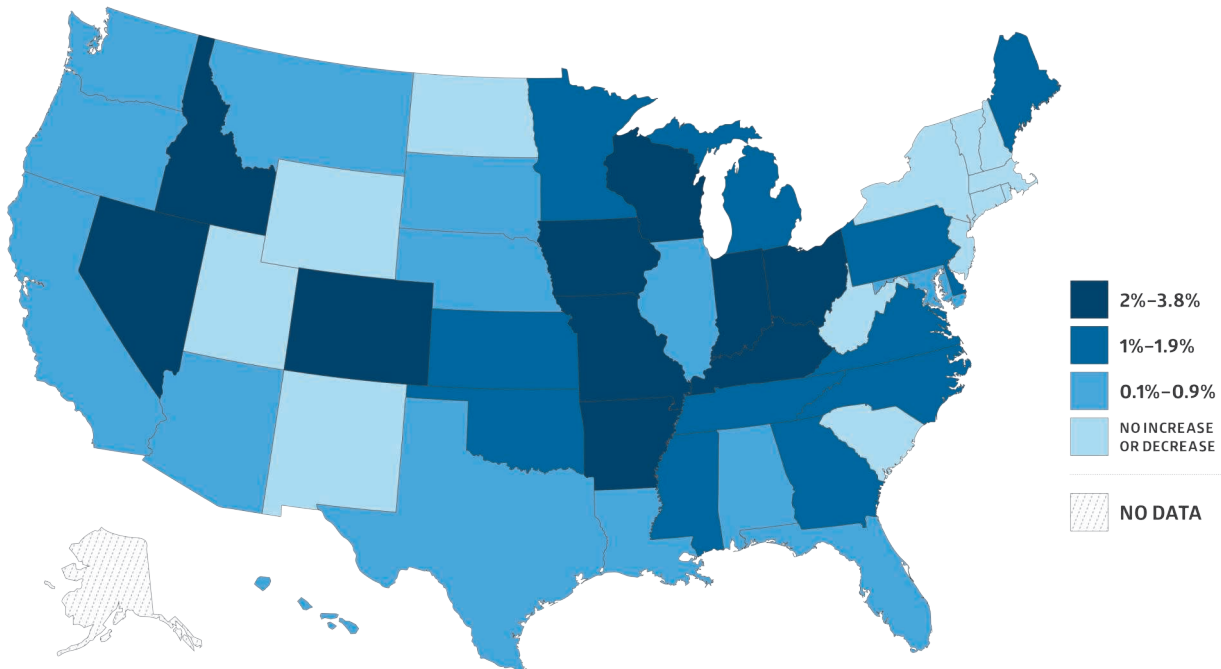
Everyone, regardless of their political beliefs, are encouraged to join America's electric cooperatives in this national effort. Let's continue to stand up for the priorities of the rural electric co-op community – it's more important now than ever. Learn more at www.vote.coop.

CO-OPS VOTE 2016 RURAL TURNOUT



RURAL VOTE vs. URBAN VOTE

This data demonstrates where rural counties had a higher voter percentage turnout in 2016 than their urban and suburban counterparts.



CO-OPS VOTE

A PROGRAM OF AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES
VOTE.COOP



America's Electric Cooperatives understand what's important to our homes and our communities, and we understand that registering to vote and voting in every

election is vital to protecting our way of life. So is building relationships with elected officials, so they understand the unique issues we face.

Co-ops Vote is designed to boost voter turnout, develop relationships with candidates and elected officials, and ensure that issues that matter in rural America are heard everywhere, from local councils all the way up to the U.S. Capitol.

Co-ops Vote provides the tools to help build those relationships and educate co-op employees, directors and consumer members prior to hitting the polls for every election.

Please join us, and make sure our elected leaders know that we expect them to represent all the people electric cooperatives serve. Learn more at vote.coop.

Follow **CO-OPS VOTE** on social media and stay updated



@CoopsVote

WHAT IS CO-OPS VOTE?

Co-ops Vote is a non-partisan campaign focused on enhancing the political strength of electric cooperatives through relationship building and voter engagement. The main goal of the campaign is to boost voter turnout in cooperative areas, making sure that our members exercise one of their most basic rights - the right to vote. Working in collaboration with states and local co-ops, this effort will educate and engage candidates and voters on important issues like:

- Expanding broadband coverage throughout rural America.
- Ensuring continued access to reliable electricity.
- Promoting the work of co-ops within the communities they serve.

AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

- ✓ **833** distribution and **62** G&T cooperatives, a total of **905** co-op members.
- ✓ Serve a total of **42 million** people in **47 states**.
- ✓ Generate 5% of the total electricity in the United States.
- ✓ Own and maintain **2.6 million miles** or **42%** of the nation's electric distribution lines, covering **56%** of the U.S. landmass.
- ✓ Serve **19 million**, businesses, homes, schools, churches, farms, irrigation systems, and other establishments in **88% of US counties**.



WHY IS THE CO-OPS VOTE PROGRAM IMPORTANT?

- We must elect public officials who identify with America's Electric Cooperatives and will vote to support the issues important to 42 million electric cooperative members across the nation.
- Electric cooperatives are a trusted resource in the communities we serve. Voters want to hear from community leaders (like electric co-ops) about important issues.

For more information on **Co-ops Vote** please visit vote.coop or cooperative.com/coopsvote.

October 20

SD State High School Boys and Girls Cross Country Meet, Yankton Trail Park, Sioux Falls, SD

October 20

Harvest Festival Soup and Pie Supper with crafts and bake sale including homemade lefse, 4 to 7 p.m., Lutheran Church, 47474 258th St., Renner, SD, 605-338-7120

October 20-21

South Dakota State and National Corn Husking Contest, State is on the 20th and National on the 21st, 9 a.m., Flandreau, SD

October 26-27

Harvest Halloween, Yankton, SD, info@harvesthalloween.com

October 26-28

ZooBoo, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7003

October 26-28

Autumn Festival, An Arts and Crafts Affair, Sioux Falls, SD, 402-331-2889

October 27


Hartford Women of Today Fall Craft Fair, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., West Central Becker Center, Hartford, SD, 605-359-2049

October 27-28

Dakota Territory Gun Show, Davison County 4-H Grounds, Mitchell, SD, 605-630-2199

October 28

St. George Parish Annual Turkey Dinner, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., St. George Parish Center, Hartford, SD, 605-366-4600



October 20-January 6:
Pheasant Hunting Season,
Statewide, Pierre, SD,
605-223-7660

November 1-3

South Dakota Local Foods Conference, Brookings, SD, Contact 605-681-6793 or SDSPAinfo@gmail.com

November 8-10

Ringneck Festival and Bird Dog Challenge, Huron, SD, 605-352-0000

November 9

Hairball, Deadwood Mountain Grand, Deadwood, SD, 605-559-1188

November 10

Sisseton Area Merchants and Crafters 21st Annual Holiday Extravaganza, Sisseton, SD, 605-698-7425

November 10

Mountain West Beer Fest, Rapid City, SD, 605-343-6161

November 10

Lutefisk Supper, 4:30 p.m., 5:45 p.m., 7 p.m., Lake Campbell Lutheran Church, 46610 219th St, Volga, SD, For reservations call Judy at 605-692-8781 or Charlotte at 605-693-4325

November 11

81st Annual Bergstrom Bodeen Post 128 American Legion and Auxiliary Turkey Shoot and Dinner, 11 a.m.

Trap Shooting at Hudson Gun Club, 4:30 p.m. Dinner at Hudson Memorial Building, Afternoon and evening bingo, games, prizes, Hudson, SD, donesor@yahoo.com

November 15-December 18

Black Hills Christmas Tree Permit Season, Custer, SD, 605-673-9200

November 16-17

Holiday Arts Christmas Craft Show, Masonic Temple, Mitchell, SD, 605-359-2049

November 20-December 26

Christmas at the Capitol, Pierre, SD, 605-773-3178

November 23-24, Dec. 1-2, 8-9, 15-16, 22-23

1880 Train Holiday Express, Hill City, SD, 605-574-2222

November 29-30

Festival of Trees, Lead, SD, 605-584-2067

December 1

Christmas Stroll and Holiday Parade, Spearfish, SD, 605-717-9294

December 1-2

Living Christmas Tree, Aberdeen, SD, 605-229-6349

Dec. 1, 7-8, 13-15, 20-21

Strawbale Winery Twilight Flights, Renner, SD, 605-543-5071

December 8

Christmas Musicale, Eureka, SD, 605-284-2161

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.