

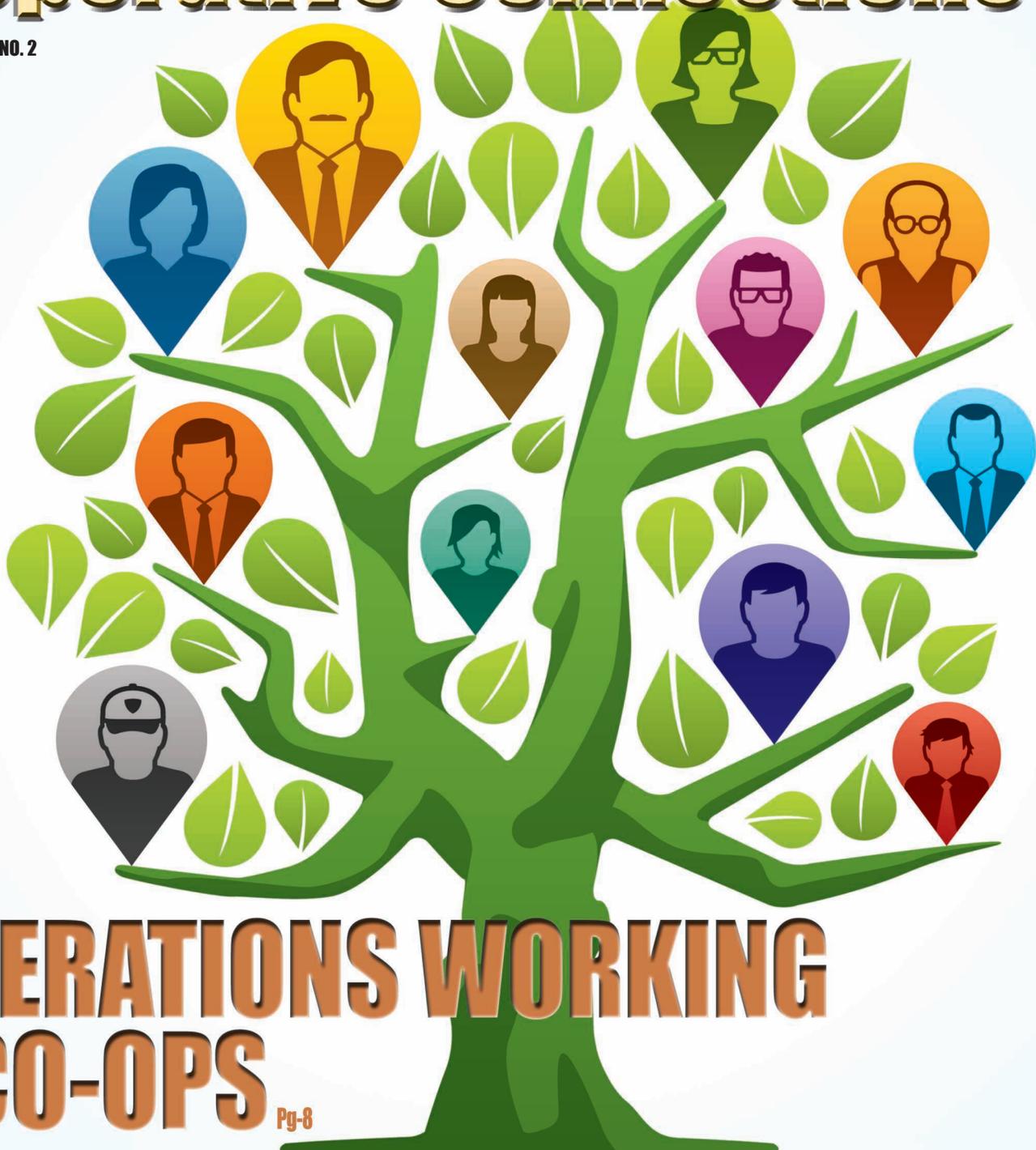


Sioux Valley Energy

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Cooperative Connections

JUNE 2014 VOL. 15 NO. 2



GENERATIONS WORKING AT CO-OPS

Pg-8

75 Years of Building SVE Looking to the Future



Tim McCarthy
General Manager/CEO

Several years ago

I was chatting with a friend who was in the process of building a house. I remember him telling me the process was both rewarding and challenging all at the same time. Even before the hole was dug for the basement, he had to make a ton of decisions from

the foundation to the insulation and the electrical to the roof. He knew the decisions he made at the very beginning of the process would determine how well the structure was built and its ability to withstand the elements of time. When I think about Sioux Valley Energy and its 75 years in existence, I am reminded of that conversation and of the whole concept of a building process.

Our founding co-op members worked hard to build a strong foundation. They served as board members, officers, lineworkers, managers and political advocates. They knew they had to get it right the first time. And boy did they ever. Sioux Valley is a strong, sustainable organization with top-notch, dedicated employees, highly rated customer care and reliable electric service. The reason can be traced to visionary leadership over the last seven-plus decades. We celebrate the cooperative's 75th anniversary this year at our annual meeting. To commemorate the milestone, we will be bringing the meeting back to the Colman headquarters. We are really excited and hope our members join us for the celebration on June 3.

The thing about building is that you are never truly "finished". There will always be maintenance and updates needed. If you have owned your own home for many years, think about the changes that you have made to it... the technology is likely different, the look is probably different; sometimes the size is even different. The one thing that remains the same with your home is its ability to keep you warm and safe. Today's Sioux Valley Energy is different than what it was in 1939. Technology has made working with electricity easier and safer than ever before. The cooperative has grown to over 22,000 members in two states with 5,800 miles of electric lines. That



is certainly a change from when the first pole was set in the ground all those years ago. The name has been updated over the years, but the mission remains the same--to provide reliable, affordable electricity at cost-based rates and to be our customers' choice for energy and diversified services.

So what happens in the next 75 years? Well, I won't be here when Sioux Valley hits its 150th, but tomorrow's leaders will be. We need strong, passionate people who believe in the cooperative business model, who put a focus on community/civic service and who are willing to do what is best for the membership as a whole. Our board of directors has the foresight and drive to build those leaders and are willing to invest in them. That is why we have initiated a new youth leadership program called "EmPOWER Youth Leadership". The premise of the program will include four sessions throughout the year that will focus on leadership skills such as communications, conducting meetings, civic duty, and career development. There will be travel and scholarship opportunities available as well through the EmPOWER youth leadership program. It's an opportunity to build leadership skills and learn about the cooperative model.

We are excited about the future...let the next 75 years be as successful as the first.

See you June 3rd at the annual meeting in Colman!



SIoux VALLEY
ENERGY

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative
The power of human connections

Cooperative Connections

(USPS No. 497-440)

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Sioux Valley Energy's headquarters, Colman, S.D.

SIoux VALLEY SEEKING INPUT ON SOLAR POWER

Your electric cooperative wants to know your thoughts on using the sun as a source of energy. A survey will be available online at www.siouxvalleyenergy.com. The survey will include questions about the cost and investment potential of solar, as well as member desire to incorporate more renewables into the electric system. This survey was initiated by a group of employees who were tasked with investigating the potential and feasibility of alternate sources of energy. Go online and give us your feedback today! Look for the 'Solar Survey' under the 'Quick Links' portion of the Sioux Valley Energy website at: www.siouxvalleyenergy.com.



SVE Members Submit Over 3,000 Messages to EPA

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) CEO Jo Ann Emerson announced that rural electric cooperatives have submitted more than 500,000 comments to the Environmental Protection Agency in opposition to the proposed New Source Performance Standards rule regulating new power plants. The comment period closed May 9. Over 3,000 of those came from Sioux Valley Energy members.

"More than 500,000 Americans have united to oppose regulations that will constrain fuel types for new power plants because they're rightly concerned about affordable and reliable electricity in this country," Emerson said. "Any proposal that relies on technology that is 'technically feasible' instead of 'commercially viable' belies common sense and threatens the reliability of electricity in this country. Electric co-ops operate in the real world and understand the importance of diversity for fuel sources when it comes to generating electricity."

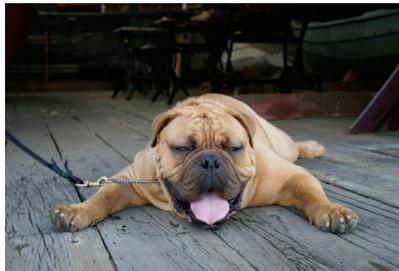
Electric cooperatives also visited their congressional delegations at the beginning of May to discuss their concerns on EPA regulations and a host of other issues. General Manager/CEO Tim McCarthy represented Sioux Valley Energy.

"We have a very receptive congressional delegation in both South Dakota and Minnesota. While we don't agree on every issue, they all seem to understand the importance of rural electric cooperatives and their members. These annual visits are important in keeping the lines of communications open," said McCarthy.

SVE General Manager, Tim McCarthy, visits with Sen. Thune (SD) about issue impacting electric cooperatives.



Summer Safety Tips for Dogs



Hot weather can make us all uncomfortable and it poses special risks for your dog. Keep the following safety concerns in mind as the temperature rises

and follow these tips to keep your dog cool.

Heat Hazards

- If your dog is outside on a hot day, make sure he has a shady spot to rest in. Doghouses are not good shelter during the summer as they can trap heat. You may want to fill a child's wading pool with fresh water for your dog to cool off in.
- Never leave your dog in a closed vehicle on a hot day. In bright sunshine, your car acts like an oven, becoming much hotter inside than the outside air even. In fact, on a sunny 70 degree day, your car can heat up to more than 100 degrees within minutes.
- Always provide plenty of cool, fresh water.
- Avoid strenuous exercise on extremely hot days. Take walks in the early mornings or evenings, when the sun's heat is less intense.
- Try to avoid prolonged exposure to hot asphalt or sand, which can burn your dog's paws.
- Dogs that are brachycephalic (short-faced), such as Bulldogs, Boxers, Japanese Chins, and Pekingese, have an especially hard time in the heat because they do not pant as efficiently as longer-faced dogs. Keep your brachycephalic dog inside with air-conditioning.

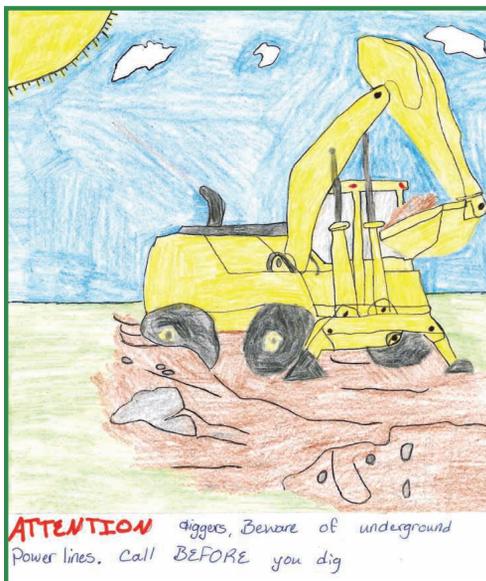
General Health

- Make sure your dog's vaccinations are up to date, especially since dogs tend to stay outdoors longer and come into contact with other animals more during the summer months.
- Keep dogs off of lawns that have been chemically treated or fertilized for 24 hours (or according to package instructions), and away from potentially toxic plants and flowers.
- Keep your dog well-brushed and clean.
- Fleas and ticks, and the mosquitos which carry heartworm disease, are more prevalent in warmer months. Ask your veterinarian for an effective preventive to keep these parasites off your dog.

Source: akc.org and petmd.com

Kids' Corner Safety Poster

"Attention Diggers: Beware of underground power lines. Call BEFORE you dig."



Albert Wurtz III, 12 years old

Albert is the son of Albert and Sarah Wurtz, Delmont, S.D. They are members of Charles Mix Electric Association, Lake Andes, S.D.

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

RELIABILITY... SECURITY... AFFORDABILITY...

FROM ADEQUATE CAPACITY AND FUEL DIVERSITY

Because of federal regulations up to **85 Gigawatts** of **generation capacity** are projected to be **lost** by 2023, potentially jeopardizing reliability across the nation.

Co-ops keep electricity flowing when demand surges, thanks to diverse power supply and adequate capacity.

During the **polar vortex**, co-ops and many other utilities produced **record amounts of electricity** just to keep lights on and houses warm.

If new regulations force more generation to be shut down, will we be able to meet the **demands of tomorrow?**

We can't afford new regulations that hurt the reliability of America's power supply.

SPEAK UP TODAY AT ACTION.COOP

Ethnic Eats



Rosettes (Scandinavian)

- 2 eggs
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1 cup flour
- 2 T. sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 cup milk
- Hot oil

Beat eggs slightly. If beaten too much, rosettes will blister. Add sugar, salt and vanilla. Lemon extract may be substituted. Add flour and enough milk to make a smooth batter. Gradually add the rest of the milk and stir until smooth. The batter should be the consistency of cream. Heat oil in an electric skillet set at 400°F. Dip molding iron in hot oil for about 30 seconds then drain and dip into batter, being careful not to let any of the batter cover over the top of the iron. Immerse in hot oil and fry until light brown in color, 20 to 25 seconds. Place upside down on rack or absorbent paper. Dip top in sugar while warm.

Amy Schoenfelder, Cavour

Knoepfla Hot Dish (German)

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 small onion
- Salt and pepper
- 4 medium potatoes, peeled and cubed
- 1 can sauerkraut
- Knoepfla:**
- 4 cups flour
- 1/4 tsp. baking powder
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp. salt
- Water

Brown ground beef and onion; drain. Add salt and pepper to taste. In a separate skillet, fry potatoes; set aside. Prepare knoepfla by mixing flour, baking powder, egg and salt; add enough warm water to make a stiff dough. Snip with a kitchen shears into 1/4-inch pieces. Drop in boiling water; boil until knoepfla floats to the top. Drain. Add to hamburger and potatoes. Add undrained sauerkraut. Simmer 30 minutes. Add water if needed.

Rebecca Hauser, Tripp

Mexican Meat Loaf

- 1-1/2 lbs. ground beef
- 2/3 cup milk
- 1 cup salsa, divided
- 1 T. Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. ground mustard
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 1/8 tsp. garlic powder
- 1 large egg
- 3 slices bread, torn into small pieces
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1/2 cup shredded Colby-Monterey Jack cheese
- 1 (4.5 oz.) can chopped green chilies, drained.

In a large bowl, mix all ingredients except 2/3 cup salsa. Spread mixture in ungreased 8x4 or 9x5-inch loaf pan. Spread 2/3 cup salsa over top. Bake at 350°F, uncovered, for 1 hour to 75 minutes or until beef is no longer pink in the middle. Drain meat loaf. Let stand 5 minutes, remove from pan

Stephanie Fossum, Hudson

Southwest Skillet Chicken and Rice

- 2 tsp. chili powder
- 2 tsp. Lawry's Seasoned Salt, divided
- 1-1/2 lbs. boneless, skinless chicken breast halves
- 1 T. oil
- 1 cup frozen corn
- 1 (15 oz.) can black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 (14.5 oz.) can petite diced tomatoes, drained
- 1 cup instant white rice
- 1 cup water

Mix chili powder and seasoned salt in small bowl. Sprinkle chicken with 1 tsp. seasoning mixture. Heat oil in large nonstick skillet on medium heat. Add chicken; cook 5 minutes per side or until lightly browned. Stir in corn, beans, tomatoes, rice, water and remaining seasoning mixture. Bring to boil. Reduce heat to low; cover and simmer 5 minutes or until chicken is cooked through and rice is tender. Let stand 5 minutes. Cut chicken into serving size pieces. Fluff rice mixture with fork before serving. Makes: 6 servings

Nutritional information per serving: Calories 294; Fat 6g; Protein 32g; Carbohydrates 28g; Cholesterol 73mg; Sodium 778mg; Fiber 4g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Rice Pancakes (Czech-Rye Livanec)

- 2 eggs
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 cup milk
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 cup flour
- 2 T. butter, melted
- 1 cup rice, cooked

Beat eggs thoroughly. Add salt and milk. Mix baking powder with flour. Combine with egg mixture. Add butter and rice; mix until smooth. Cook on hot griddle, browning on both sides.

Betty Cihak, Lake Norden

Kilich (Russian Easter Bread)

- 2-1/4 to 2-3/4 cups flour, divided
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 tsp. lemon peel, grated
- 1 pkg. yeast
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/4 cup water
- 2 T. margarine
- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup almonds, chopped
- 1/4 cup raisins
- Powdered sugar frosting
- Colored sprinkles

Mix 3/4 cup flour, salt, sugar, lemon peel and yeast in large bowl. Combine milk, water and margarine in saucepan; heat over low until warm. Add to dry ingredients and beat 2 minutes at medium speed with electric mixer. Add egg and 1/2 cup flour or enough to make a thick batter. Beat at high 2 minutes. Stir in enough extra flour to make a soft dough. Knead until smooth and elastic, 8 to 10 minutes. Place in greased bowl. Cover, let rise until double, about 1 hour. Punch down. Knead in almonds and raisins. Divide dough in half. Shape into ball and place each half in a greased 1 lb. metal coffee can. Cover, let rise until double, about 1 hour. Bake at 350°F. for 30 to 35 minutes. Remove from cans. When cool, frost with powdered sugar frosting and top with sprinkles.

Mary Jessen, Holabird

Please send your favorite dessert, salad and garden produce 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 2014. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

Zip on in to the 2014 Annual Meeting

WHEN?

Tuesday, June 3

WHERE?

Colman Headquarters
47092 SD Hwy 34 - Colman, SD 57017

Schedule of Events

4:30-6:30 p.m. -- Meal and Bingo with Prizes

- Registration

Bring 3 canned or non-perishable food items to donate and receive a LED night light.

- Complimentary Supper
- Bingo with prizes

Enjoy a game or two of bingo while you eat!

- Vendors and Activities

6:00 - 6:30 p.m. -- Crevier Family Show

- Recently featured on the finals of America's Got Talent --- Bruce and Diane and their family of 12 children have been in over 35 countries, using their Spin-tacular Basketball Show to entertain and share a message of hope to this generation!

6:30 - 7:00 p.m. -- Business Meeting

7:15 - 8:45 p.m. -- Member Appreciation Event

- Arch Allies: Why settle for one tribute band when you can see the classic three! Journey, Styx & REO. Be part of an epic night of rock with the greatest hits of the 80s.



• Zip Line

• Nascar #46 race car simulator
(Sheehan Mack & Equipment)

• Crevier Family

• Touchstone Energy Hot Air Balloon
(Weather permitting-must register for the chance to win a balloon ride.)





LIES

EY REO

Vendors & Activities

Blood Pressure Screening
Firehouse & Fire truck
Antique tractors/vehicles
Petting Zoo
Balloon animals
Inflatables
Trooper car/drug dog
Reptile display
Electric safety display
Game Fish & Parks

*Watermelon!
Gaylen's Popcorn!
Rootbeer Floats!
Fresh Baked Cookies!
Cotton Candy!*

Making Payments by Phone?

A new process will begin June 1



Regulations designed to protect consumers will change the way you make payments over the phone. Payment Card Industry or PCI regulations will require Sioux Valley Energy to transfer your call to a secure payment site to use an automated voice response system. Members are still encouraged to call the office to discuss their account but all payments will be made through our automated phone system. Here is what you need to make a payment the automated phone system:

SVE Automated Phone Payment System:

1. Either call the office and we will transfer you or call the payment system directly at 1-877-779-7476.
2. Have your ten digit account number or the phone number listed on your account available.
3. Follow the prompts and you will hear the following options:
 - Press 1: Check your account status
 - Press 2: Make a payment
 - Press 3: Create/update your PIN (required only if paying by check)
 - Press 9: Repeat Menu

Other Ways to Pay:

Auto-Pay: Complete a form and have your electric payment withdrawn from your checking or savings account on the due date.

Online: Visit www.siouxvalleyenergy.com and sign up for electronic billing. In addition to paying your bill online, you will receive an electronic bill instead of a paper one.

In-Person: Stop by one of our service centers in Colman, Pipestone or Brandon and drop off a payment in person or in the secure drop box.

Mail: Send payment through the U.S. Postal Service.

Questions?

Visit www.siouxvalleyenergy.com for additional information about payment options or call 1-800-234-1960.

All in the Family

Co-op Tie Links Generations

TAKE A LOOK AROUND YOUR COMMUNITY AND YOU will likely find an example – or two or 10 – of children following the career path of their parents or grandparents.

The concept fuels many family farms and small businesses. Even doctors and lawyers' offices have been known to exemplify the trend.

And, in many ways, electric cooperatives are no different. From the board room to the line truck to the front office, the next generation can often take inspiration for their career from the generation that went before.

At Cam Wal Electric Cooperative in Selby, S.D., generations of Rossows have been sitting at the board table guiding the electric cooperative they and their neighbors own.

When Dwight Rossow first joined the board of directors in 1996, his name was a familiar one at the cooperative. Dwight's grandfather, Ernest G. Rossow, was a director for the cooperative from 1951 to 1975, guiding the cooperative through its early days. Dwight's father, Dennis, then served from 1975 to 1987.

Dwight Rossow has served not only at the local level, but also represented the cooperative on the statewide South Dakota Rural Electric Association board of directors for

a dozen years, retiring in 2014. He also spent two terms representing cooperatives throughout Minnesota,

By **Brenda Kleinjan**



North Dakota and South Dakota on the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Cooperation board, a cooperative dedicated to serving cooperatives' financing needs.

And, the fourth generation of Rossows has also joined the co-op fold. Dwight's son, Joshua, is an environmental coordinator at Basin Electric Power Cooperative in Bismarck, N.D.

In western Minnesota, Renville-Sibley Co-op Power Association in Danube has seen the Nestande family serve on its board of directors for 63 of the co-op's 75 years.

Renville-Sibley board president Phil Nestande has served on the board since 1997. He also represents area cooperatives on the Minnesota Rural Electric Association board of directors. Phil followed in the footsteps of his grandfather, Elvin, who served from 1951 to 1968 and his father, John, who served from 1968 to 1997.

When Michelle Prins started as a billing clerk at H-D Electric Cooperative in Clear Lake, S.D., she may have been a new employee, but her co-op roots ran deep. Prins' father, Doyle Thompson, had served as a director for the co-op from 1995 to 2010. He had taken over the board seat from his father-in-law, Lloyd Kruse, who had served from 1976 to 1995. And Kruse had taken over the seat from Royal Thompson – Doyle's dad – who served from 1967 to 1976.

"My whole family has been on co-op boards since I've been around," said Prins with a chuckle, noting that she had attended annual meetings from the time she was a little girl hanging out in the kids' activity room.

At FEM Electric Association in Ipswich, S.D., Stephanie Horst, who is

in charge of the cooperative's member services and communications arenas, can say her grandpa helped build the co-op she now works at. Literally.

"My grandfather was FEM's line superintendent. He actually started on the construction crew that was building the FEM lines in 1948. He was on the wire stringing crew. Also my great-aunt (my grandpa's sister-in-law) was FEM's bookkeeper," said Horst.

The family ties don't end there.

Horst's mother-in-law, Valette, is the co-op's receptionist and Valette's father, Leroy Perman, was a director at Cam Wal Electric Cooperative in Selby, S.D., from 1964 to 1981.

FEM general manager Scott Moore has seen his son, Brandon, go on to become a lineman at neighboring cooperative Dakota Energy Cooperative of Huron, S.D., working out of the Miller, S.D., office.

David Piehl, a journeyman substation technician for East River Electric Power Cooperative in Madison, S.D., has seen two of his sons go on to careers with electric cooperatives. Ben is a journeyman lineman at Butte Electric Cooperative in Newell, S.D., while Chris is an apprentice lineman at Northern Electric Cooperative in Bath, S.D.

The family ties that reach out from Northern Electric don't stop there. The co-op's chief financial officer, Char Hager, and her brother, West Central Electric Cooperative manager Steve Reed, have both followed in the career path of their dad, Kenneth, who worked at three separate cooperatives during his career: Ree Electric (now part of Dakota Energy), Spink Electric (now part of Northern Electric) and Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative in Timber Lake, S.D.

Northern Electric Cooperative manager Jim Moore and his brother, Elwood, who manages an electric cooperative in Nebraska, have both found careers following their father's lead.

Why Work at an Electric Cooperative?

Electric cooperatives provide their staff with competitive salaries and excellent benefits. With approximately 63,000 employees nationwide, Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives offer great career opportunities among a variety of professional, technical, and business positions.

Where are the Jobs?

Careers with Touchstone Energy cooperatives are everywhere – in a small town, large city or the sprawling suburbs in the Northwest, South or anywhere in between. Best of all, once you are part of our cooperative community, you can count on receiving the same great benefits and opportunities wherever you go.

Spark Your New Career

Have an entrepreneurial spirit?
Interested in growth opportunities?
Mission-focused?

At Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, we have opportunities in many diverse roles, ranging from information technology, communications, marketing and member services, engineering and operations and community and economic development to name a few. Plus, you can feel good about what you do. Electric co-op staff receive satisfaction knowing their work makes a difference in their community, directly improving people's lives.

Make the Connection

Some of the best, brightest, most creative and dedicated people have chosen to serve their communities and develop their careers through electric cooperatives. Now is a great time to join the Touchstone Energy team. Together, America's electric co-ops are working to bring home innovated electrical solutions to the communities we serve. Find out more at <http://www.touchstoneenergy.com/content/careers-co-ops>

Making a BIG Deal about Safety

Sioux Valley Energy's Safety Committee judged the seventh annual 4th grade safety billboard contest. Three winners were selected out of over 400 entries from area schools. The winners received a \$25 cash prize in addition to having their poster displayed on a Lamar billboard. Look for the billboards of our contest winners throughout the month of May.

A Colman-Egan Elementary 4th grader, Mackenzie Hemmer, won with her safety poster cautioning people to avoid driving big machinery under power lines. Mackenzie is the daughter of Jeff and Kim Hemmer. Her poster will be located on a billboard on I-29 near the Dell Rapids exit.

Charlie Simonson, a student from Robert Bennis Elementary School, won with his poster warning people to call before they dig. He is the son of Ben and Tara Simonson. His poster will be displayed near the junction of I-90 and I-229 in Sioux Falls.

'Call B4 U DIG' is the message that Samantha Moser, a Hills-Beaver Creek fourth grader, displayed on her safety poster. She is the daughter of Stuart and Karin Moser. Her poster will be on display on Highway 75 by Hardwick.

Sioux Valley Energy places a strong emphasis on educating the public on the benefits and dangers of electricity and is proud to partner with Lamar Advertising to get the message out. Last year there were more than 2,900 hours of outages caused by contacts to the cooperative's electric facilities by members, contractors, farmers and the general public. The annual safety poster contest is designed to help teachers incorporate electrical safety messages into their lesson plans.



Top: Mackenzie Hemmer and SVE Director of Customer and Employee Relations, Debra Bieber

Bottom Left: Charlie Simonson and SVE Safety Coordinator, Terry Ebright

Bottom Right: Samantha Moser and SVE Safety Coordinator, Terry Ebright and Journey Lineworker, Matt Seivert

Brandon Valley Senior Wins Scholarship

Noah Kalm, a senior at Brandon Valley High School, was awarded a \$500 scholarship at the Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Year Banquet on the campus of Mitchell Technical Institute. He was one of three scholarship recipients.

The event honored the 34 high school students who were chosen each week throughout the school year as the Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week which recognizes students for academic achievement, co-curricular involvement and community service. The students are featured in weekly segments which air on KSFY Television and each student receives a \$100 scholarship for being chosen as the Scholar of the Week.

Other scholarship recipients included Shelby VanDriel and Cooper Eliason. Shelby is a senior at Scotland High School. She lives in the Bon Homme Yankton Electric service territory. Cooper, a senior at Howard High School, also received a scholarship. The names were drawn from among the attendees.

KSFY News anchor Brian Allen served as the master of ceremonies. Brendan Johnson, U.S. Attorney for the district of South Dakota, was the keynote speaker for the Scholar of the Year banquet. He told the high school seniors to pursue their passion in life.



Pictured: Front row: Tanna Waltman, Parkston; Danika Polreis, Ethan; Heaven Zevenbergen, Elk Point-Jefferson; Mikayla Bonnet, Langford Area; Alli Steckelberg, Chamberlain; and Shelby VanDriel, Scotland. **Second Row:** Nichole Dvorak, Andes Central; Lisa Smith, Kimball; Kaitlin Van Ruler, Edgerton, Minn.; Taylor Homann, Pipestone, Minn.; Kayla Breske, Waubay; Tory Makela, Ipswich; and Tyson Mitzel, Aberdeen Roncalli. **Third row:** Garret Reed, Estelline; Mathew Preszler, Menno; Noah Brown, Baltic; Allison Deal, Sunshine Bible Academy; Noah Klamm, Brandon Valley; Michael Saffel, Irene-Wakonda; Alex Holzwarth, Hamlin. **Back row:** Tyler Panek, Tea Area; Lydia Blume, Redfield; Craig Reiter, Florence; Cooper Eliason, Howard; David Weidler, Howard; and Derrick Podoll, Frederick Area.

Spring has Sprung at Sanderson Gardens

Sanderson Gardens just east of Brookings, S.D. is gearing up for another bountiful and busy season. The Sioux Valley Energy member has been growing pick-your-own produce for years and owner, Jan Sanderson, says they are



right in the middle of asparagus harvest. "We snap it off by hand so there is very little waste--you can eat it right to the bottom and man is it good!" Typically, asparagus season ends in May, but soon after strawberries begin ripening. Sanderson expects the berries to be ready around June 20th. For more information on daily picking conditions call 605-693-4871 or check out the Sanderson Gardens facebook page.

SWING into SPRING

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Leaders Take Co-op Issues to D.C.

EACH MAY, ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LEADERS FROM across the country converge on Washington, D.C., to rally support for legislative issues important to cooperatives and the 42 million people they serve. 2014 was no exception.

More than 2,500 co-op leaders from 47 states – including 60 from South Dakota and western Minnesota – headed to the Nation’s Capitol for updates from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association on legislation and trends vital to cooperatives and to meet with their respective state’s congressional delegations.

By Brenda Kleinjan

Among topics covered at NRECA 2014 Legislative Conference in early May were the following:

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Electric co-ops rely on reimbursements by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)’s Public Assistance Program to restore service after severe floods, hurricanes, tornadoes and ice storms.

Decisions made in FEMA’s Region VII in 2013 could threaten the reimbursement of eligible expenses for electric co-ops for damage from disasters.

Cooperative leaders asked their delegation to





Left: Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative General Manager Vic Simmons outlines South Dakota electric cooperatives' stance on issues with Sen. Tim Johnson, D-S.D. **Below left:** East River Electric Power Cooperative General Manger Tom Boyko speaks with Sen. John Thune about the Endangered Species Act. **Below:** Don Heeren, president of the South Dakota Rural Electric Association and Southeastern Electric Association boards of directors speaks with Rep. Kristi Noem about the important role large capacity water heaters play for South Dakota electric cooperatives. **Opposite Page:** With the U.S. Capitol as a backdrop, a portion of the South Dakota electric cooperative leaders attending the NRECA Legislative Conference pose for a photo.



ensure there is sufficient oversight of FEMA, so that FEMA policies are consistently applied and in line with established practices.

Greenhouse Gas Standards

In June, EPA will propose regulations to limit greenhouse gas emissions from existing sources.

This regulation could threaten system reliability and affordability for electric co-op consumer members. It needs time for careful and thorough consideration.

Cooperative leaders asked their Senators and Representatives to support an adequate comment period of at least 120 days.

Senators and Representatives were also told that more than 500,000 people sent messages to the EPA through their electric cooperatives on rules at new power plants.

Preserve Access to Large Electric Water Heaters

Co-ops use large water heaters to help save consumers money and manage peak loads through demand response programs.

The Department of Energy's stringent 2010 efficiency standard will eliminate the type of water heaters co-ops use starting next year.

The House passed H.R. 2126 to allow continued manufacture of these water heaters. Cooperatives urged their senators to push Leaders Sens. Harry Reid, D-Nev., and Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., to bring the Shaheen-Portman Energy Efficiency Bill or the Hoeven-Pryor Water Heater bill to the floor, noting that the Senate must act to preserve co-op demand response programs that save consumers money.

Improvements to the Endangered Species Act

Currently, more than 1,450 species in the United States are

designated threatened or endangered under the ESA.

Further, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is on a path to increase the number of listed species by more than 20 percent in the next five years.

NRECA supports the House ESA reform package of four targeted bills to update, improve and modernize the Endangered Species Act for the 21st century.

Members of Congress were urged to co-sponsor and support H.R. 4315, H.R. 4316, H.R. 4317, and H.R. 4318 to update the ESA. Additionally, Senators were encouraged to get involved with ESA Reform.

NRECA's International Rural Electrification Programs/ Electrify Africa Act

For 50 years, NRECA International has provided people in over 42 developing countries with access to safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

More remains to be done, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, where 68 percent of the population or 589 million people live without the benefits of electric power.

Members of Congress were asked to support HR 2548 when it comes to the House floor and Senators were asked to co-sponsor the Senate bill.

The House passed the bill the week that cooperative's were on the Hill.

Power Marketing Administrations

South Dakota electric cooperatives also spoke with their delegation about the important relationship cooperatives have with federal Power Marketing Administrations. In the Dakotas and western Minnesota, that partnership is with Western Area Power Administration.

Travel: South Dakota's No. 2 Industry

By Brenda Kleinjan

From Department of Tourism Releases

Below: Nicollet Tower near Sisseton, S.D., provides visitors with a far-reaching view of northeastern South Dakota along with parts of southeastern North Dakota and western Minnesota. **Above Right:** The National Park Service's Minuteman Missile National Historic Site is scheduled for completion this fall near Kadoka, S.D.

Opposite Page: Visitors to the De Smet, S.D., area can find several venues inspired by children's author Laura Ingalls Wilder.

SCORES OF SOUTH DAKOTA TOURISM DESTINATIONS take travelers right through electric co-op country, including a new National Historic Site under construction.

Construction for one of Western South Dakota's most popular attractions, Minuteman Missile National Historic Site (NHS) is well under way and on-target for completion late this year. The facility will feature an area of approximately 7,500 square feet of quality displays and exhibits that the National Park Service is known for. The Minuteman Missile NHS is sure to be a can't miss attraction, and only gain in popularity with families and couples looking for more than just a stop-and-see.

"We are the only unit of the National Park Service dedicated to telling the story of the Cold War, and South Dakota's 44th Missile Wing's role in deterring, and preventing, the Cold War from becoming World War III by being ready to retaliate if ordered by the President of the U.S." said Duane Bubac, Superintendent of Minuteman Missile National Historic Site. Visitation at Minuteman peaks during the summertime, and Ranger-guided tours are conducted daily from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

National Park Service attractions aren't the only destinations attracting visitors. From lofty views at the Nicollet Tower in northeastern South Dakota to grassy prairie surroundings for a visit to a children's



author's homestead, tourists bring an influx of revenue to the state.

The total economic impact of South Dakota's visitor industry increased in 2013 by 2.8 percent from 2012, translating to an overall economic impact of nearly \$2 billion, according to a report by IHS Global Insight.

In addition, a 2012 study conducted by Longwoods International showed that, for every dollar spent on marketing by the state Department of Tourism, South Dakota receives \$5 in tax revenues.

"South Dakota's visitor industry continues to show its strength, despite facing numerous challenges," Gov. Dennis Daugaard said. "In 2013, South Dakota faced a spring blizzard and ice storm, federal sequestration, an early fall blizzard and the federal government shutdown. And yet, the visitor industry persevered with another record-setting year."



2013 Economic Impact Statistics about South Dakota's No. 2 Industry:

2.8 percent – The increase in the economic impact of tourism on South Dakota's economy last year.

\$1.98 billion – Tourism's direct impact on South Dakota's economy in 2013.

1:5 – The ratio between dollars spent on tourism marketing and tax revenue received. For every dollar Tourism spends marketing the state as a vacation destination, South Dakota receives \$5 in tax revenue.

19.41 percent – The amount of state and local tax revenue generated by tourism-related activity in 2013. This totaled \$295 million.

27,958 – The number of jobs directly generated by the tourism industry in 2013. That's 1-out-of-11 South Dakota jobs that depend on travel and tourism.

\$892 – The amount of additional taxes each household in the state would pay if South Dakota's tourism industry did not exist.

8.6 percent – Percentage of visitor spending that came from international visitors.

2013 Year-Over-Year Comparisons:

- Taxable sales were up 4.5 percent
- Inquiries to the SD Dept. of Tourism were up 8.4 percent
- Unique visitors to the consumer website, www.TravelSD.com, were up 3 percent.

First Aid Kit Necessities for the Car

A fall, burn or illness can occur at any given time or place. Always keep a first aid kit in your vehicle to make sure you have all the bases covered. The American Red Cross recommends a family of four have the following items in a first aid kit:

- Two absorbent compress dressings, 5-by-9 inches
- 25 adhesive bandages, assorted sizes
- One adhesive cloth tape, 10-yards long, 1-inch wide
- Five antibiotic ointment packets
- Five antiseptic wipe packets
- Two packets of aspirin (81 milligrams each)
- One blanket
- One breathing barrier with one-way valve
- One instant cold compress
- Two pair of non-latex gloves, large
- Two hydrocortisone ointment packets
- Scissors
- One roller bandage, 3 inches wide
- One roller bandage, 4 inches wide
- Five sterile gauze pads, 3-by-3 inches
- Five sterile gauze pads, 4-by-4 inches
- Oral thermometer, non-mercury/nonglass
- Two triangular bandages
- Tweezers
- First aid instruction booklet

It's a good idea to include hand sanitizer, insect repellent and cotton swabs as well. Your first aid kit should be readily accessible; don't pack it under your luggage. Be sure to check your first aid kit on a regular basis and replace outdated contents as needed.

Prepare an Emergency Car Kit

It could be a dire situation if your vehicle breaks down or severe weather leaves you stranded. By taking a little time to prepare an emergency car kit, you can keep your family safe until help arrives. The American Red Cross suggests you pack your emergency car kit with the following items:

- Battery powered radio, flashlight and extra batteries
- Blanket
- Booster cables
- Fire extinguisher, 5-pound, A-B-C type
- First aid kit and manual
- Bottled water and non-perishable, high-energy foods such as granola bars, raisins and peanut butter
- Maps
- Shovel
- Flares
- Tire repair kit and pump
- Matches and survival candle that can burn for several hours

There are several other factors to consider when preparing your emergency car kit. For example, if you're stuck for a long period of time, you will need to go to the bathroom. Go above and beyond and create the mother of all emergency car kits with the following suggestions from Allstate insurance:

- Toilet paper
- Hand sanitizer
- Toothbrush, toothpaste and dental floss
- Plastic tablecloth
- Trash bags
- Baby wipes
- Bar of soap in a zip-top bag
- Disinfecting wipes
- Feminine protection
- Box of tissues
- Zip-top bags in various sizes
- Water
- LED flashlights and/or headlamps
- Rain ponchos
- Emergency radio
- Duct tape
- Tarp
- Multi-purpose knife
- Sunblock
- Whistle
- Pepper spray

Furthermore, it's a good idea to have plenty of items on hand to keep you occupied in the event you're stranded for a long period of time. Create a special box or bag full of entertainment items such as books, card games and a pencil and notebook. You'll be ready for any emergency.

Regional Dateline

May 31

Everything's Coming Up Crafts and Treasures, Lutheran Church, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch Available, Renner, SD Contact at Linda Krumbach at 605-521-8357

June 6

Relay For Life of Brandon Valley-Garretson, 6 p.m. to midnight, Brandon Valley High School Track, Free 5K Run/Walk starting at the track at 6:30 p.m. \$20 registration, includes a t-shirt Contact Brenda 605-201-6039 or Sarah 605-254-5046

June 6-8

30th Annual Buffalo Days **Friday:** Cruise-In from 6 to 10 p.m., Main Street Downtown **Saturday:** Dad's Belgian Waffles 7:30 to 10 a.m. at the American Legion Building Arts in the Park from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Luverne City Park, Buffalo Days Parade 10 a.m. Main Street, **Sunday:** Tales from the Graves (#3) 1 to 4 p.m. St. Catherine's Catholic Church Cemetery, Luverne, MN, Contact the Luverne Area Chamber 1-888-283-4061 www.luvernechamber.com

June 10

Ag Women's Day, All women involved in agriculture are invited to a special day just for you! 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Registration at 8 a.m. First Lutheran Church Activity Center, Brookings, SD 605-692-8003, Ext. 2



PHOTO COURTESY OF S.D. DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM

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.

Events of Special Note

June 6-8

Wheel Jam
SD State Fairgrounds
Huron, SD, 605-353-7340
www.wheeljam.com

June 13

Northern Bull Riding Tour
7 p.m., Prairie Village
Madison, SD, 605-256-3644

June 8

Miss Prairie Village/Miss Prairie Princess Pageant
Prairie Village, Madison, SD
605-256-3644
www.prairievillage.org

June 19-21

Jamboree Days, Little Miss Hartford Pageant, Car Show, 5K, vendors in the park, kid's parade, free inflatables, main parade, antique tractor pull
Dakota Kids pull, street dance
I-90 Speedway, Hartford, SD
605-528-3338

June 20-22

125th Anniversary Celebration
Humboldt, SD, Call Wanda at
605-363-3223

June 22

Prairie Village Variety Show
Prairie Village, Madison, SD
605-256-3644

June 27-29

Motogator Joe's Country

Music Festival, Prairie Village
Madison, SD, 866-245-2702
www.bigtimecountry.com

June 28

Free Gospel Concert
1 to 5 p.m., Brandon Valley
Performing Arts, Brandon SD
605-582-6766

July 3-6

125th Anniversary Celebration
Garretson, SD, 605-594-6721
or 605-941-2976
www.visitgarretson.com

July 4

Moody County Time Capsule
100 Year Celebration
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Vendors, games, contests
Time capsule opening:
1 to 2 p.m., Moody County
Courthouse lawn
Flandreau, SD
Contact Time Capsule
Committee at 605-997-3151 or
605-997-3171

July 12-13

Railroad Days, Pizza Train
Saturday at 6 p.m. by
reservation, Free Hobo Stew
Sunday, Prairie Village
Madison, SD, 605-256-3644
www.prairievillage.org

July 25-27

Honey Days, Bruce, SD
605-627-5671

August 3

21st Annual Madison Car
Show, Prairie Village
Madison, SD, 605-256-3644

August 9

Fifth Annual Camaro Fun
Days, Pioneer Park, Parade
Line Up 9 a.m., Poker Run
10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Cruise 3 p.m., Entry Fee:
Four cans of food for Food
Pantry, Music, Poker Run and
Food Vendors, Brookings, SD
Contact Terry at 605-695-1560
or Calvin at 605-690-1057