



Sioux Valley Energy

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Cooperative Connections

MAY 2015 VOL. 16 NO. 1



CELEBRATING EMTs

Pg 8

Cyber and Grid Security

A High Priority for Sioux Valley Energy



Tim McCarthy
General Manager/CEO

The explosion of technology over the last several decades has brought electric co-op members so many beneficial services and conveniences. Members can now pay bills online, monitor electric use on an hourly basis, know when the power is out remotely, report outages, send emails to our co-op, etc. The list could go on and on. These services are all available because of the Internet. With this technology

comes a new responsibility for electric cooperatives—cyber security. Sioux Valley Energy makes protection and security of its members' information a high priority. We are extremely vigilant when it comes to protecting our members' digital data.

Your electric cooperative has adopted a stringent Risk Mitigation and Cyber Security plan. Our plan covers the security of both "physical and non-physical" assets. It was developed with the intent to keep our members' information and physical assets (the poles, wires, substations, transformers, etc) safe. The plan was approved by the U.S. Department of Energy a few years ago. This plan is unique to Sioux Valley Energy because there is truly no "one-size fits all" approach to security for any utility.

Is it possible to protect every inch of our physical assets? Probably not...because it would be cost prohibitive but we prioritize to accomplish the following:

- **protect the most critical grid components against the most likely threats**
- **improve resiliency by building redundancy into the system**
- **coordinate preparation and response efforts with government assistance agencies, and develop contingency plans for response and recovery when either man-made or natural events impact grid operations.**

Protecting your information and the electric system infrastructure requires a constant process of evaluating and addressing risks and vulnerabilities, testing, tightening measures, planning and evaluating again.

Sioux Valley Energy has made significant investments in efforts to protect both the grid and its members against evolving threats or would-be hackers. While we do not discuss specific details of our overall plans publically, we do conduct regular exercises that attempt to pinpoint weaknesses in our plans. The results of these testing scenarios are then used to make adjustments and fortify our plans. The goal is to keep our members as safe as possible from those individuals or entities that may wish to harm members or our electrical distribution system.

Even in our rural areas, we are seeing a vast amount of change occurring at speeds inconceivable just 20 years ago. We must stay diligent and be prepared to take on evolving challenges we face in our society. This is but one aspect of our core principle expressing our concern for our communities. We will always attempt to look out for the overall safety of our membership.

Drop Box Available at Pipestone Service Center



The new Sioux Valley Energy Pipestone Service Center construction is complete and is open for business! It is still in the original location (1102 7th St. SE, Pipestone, MN 56164). **A drop box has been installed at the new building for after-hour payments.**



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.

Johnson Elected to SVE Board of Directors



Members of District 9 cast ballots for a new director to represent them at their district meeting on March 19th in Pipestone. Greg Johnson was elected to serve a three-year term on the Board. Johnson replaces retiring director, Jan Bobendrier. He will be seated officially in June after the Cooperative's annual meeting.

"We are excited to have Greg join the Sioux Valley Energy Board of Directors. He has a long history of community service and his experience gained from serving on other Boards will be valuable," said Board President, Mark Rogen.

Johnson is an owner and operator of Dandy Acres Angus. He is also involved in agricultural sales for Gorters Clay and Dairy. As a community member in Pipestone, he has been active in several other organizations including: Pipestone County Planning and Zoning Commission, Pipestone County Extension Committee, Minnesota Angus Association Board of Directors, Pipestone County Cattlemen, Pipestone FFA Alumni and the Pipestone Lions Club.

He and his wife Nancy have three adult children and five grandchildren.

Enhancing Communities, One Home at a Time by Sheila Gross

Herlinda Uribe and her four children will soon be moving into their new home in Sioux Falls, SD. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on March 31st for the family. Herlinda describes home ownership as a "dream she never thought would come true." Thanks to the Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sioux Falls, sponsors like Sioux Valley Energy's Operation Roundup, and countless efforts of volunteers, her dream is now a reality.

Habitat for Humanity partnered with the Career and Technical Education Academy of the Sioux Falls School District to build their home. The students learned building trade skills while they supplied free labor to construct the home. The materials and supplies were donated from community sponsors. The foundation is in place and the home will be moved to the site within a few weeks.

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sioux Falls has built and restored over 130 homes since its inception in 1989. Their mission is to partner with others to improve housing conditions and to provide secure, safe homes for people who might not have access to home ownership any other way. Not only does home ownership benefit the tax base in a community, studies show it also positively impacts the health and wellbeing of families, improves children's grades, and leads to reaching more long-term goals.

For more information on becoming a partner family for home ownership or opportunities to volunteer and support these efforts, visit your local Habitat for Humanity.



Gardening Health and Safety Tips

Gardening can be a great way to enjoy the outdoors, get physical activity, beautify the community and grow nutritious fruits and vegetables. If you are a beginner or expert gardener, health and safety should always be a priority.

Below are some tips to help keep you safe and healthy so that you can enjoy the beauty and bounty gardening can bring.

Dress to protect.

Gear up to protect yourself from lawn and garden pests, harmful chemicals, sharp or motorized equipment, insects and harmful rays of too much sun.

- Wear safety goggles, sturdy shoes and long pants to prevent injury when using power tools and equipment.
- Protect your hearing when using machinery. If you have to raise your voice to talk to someone who is an arm's length away, the noise can be potentially harmful to your hearing.
- Wear gloves to lower the risk for skin irritations, cuts and certain contaminants.
- Use insect repellent containing DEET. Wear long-sleeved shirts and pants tucked in your socks. You may also want to wear high rubber boots since ticks are usually located close to the ground.
- Lower your risk for sunburn and skin cancer. Wear long sleeves, wide-brimmed hats, sun shades and sunscreen with sun protective factor (SPF) 15 or higher.

Put safety first.

Powered and unpowered tools and equipment can cause serious injury. Limit distractions, use chemicals and equipment properly and be aware of hazards to lower your risk for injury.

- Follow instructions and warning labels on chemicals and lawn and garden equipment.
- Make sure equipment is working properly.
- Sharpen tools carefully.

- Keep harmful chemicals, tools and equipment out of children's reach.

Know your limits in the heat.

Even being out for short periods of time in high temperatures can cause serious health problems. Monitor your activities and time in the sun to lower your risk for heat-related illness.

- If you're outside in hot weather for most of the day, you'll need to make an effort to drink more fluids.
- Avoid drinking liquids that contain alcohol or large amounts of sugar, especially in the heat.
- Take breaks often. Try to rest in shaded areas so that your body's thermostat will have a chance to recover. Stop working if you experience breathlessness or muscle soreness.
- Pay attention to signs of heat-related illness, including extremely high body temperature, headache, rapid pulse, dizziness, nausea, confusion or unconsciousness.

Enjoy the benefits of physical activity.

Gardening is an excellent way to get physical activity. Active people are less likely than inactive people to be obese or have high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes, osteoporosis, heart disease, stroke, depression, colon cancer and premature death.

- Be active for at least 21½ hours a week. Include activities that raise your breathing and heart rates and that strengthen your muscles. Help kids and teens be active for at least 1 hour a day.
- If you have been inactive, start out with just a few minutes of physical activity each day. Gradually build up time and intensity.
- Vary your gardening activities to keep your interest and to broaden the range of benefits.

Source: arifleet.com

ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIP

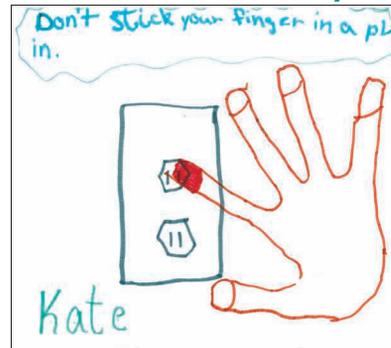
SAFETY



Power strips are great – but relying on them too much can be a problem! You may need to install more outlets in your home. Call a qualified electrician for help.

Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International

Kids' Corner Safety Poster



“Don't stick your finger in a plug-in.”

Kate Kramme, 9 years old

Kate is the daughter of Shane and Dawn Kramme, Fort Pierre, S.D. They are members of West Central Electric Cooperative, Murdo, 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.

Comforting Casseroles



Chicken Biscuit Bake

1/4 cup melted butter
3 cups cooked, shredded chicken
1-1/2 cups mixed vegetables
Salt and pepper to taste

1-1/2 cups milk
2 cups Bisquick
1 can cream of chicken soup
1-1/2 cups chicken broth

In a 9x13-inch pan, layer butter, chicken and vegetables. Combine milk and Bisquick (a few lumps are OK). Pour over chicken/vegetables. Do not mix. Combine cream of chicken soup with chicken broth. Pour over Bisquick layer. Do not mix. Bake at 350°F. for 40 to 45 minutes until brown and bubbly. Let rest 5 minutes before serving.

Mary Truman, Kimball

Potato Beef Casserole

3 lbs. potatoes, peeled and sliced 1/4-inch thick
1 lb. lean ground beef
1/2 cup chopped onion
4 T. butter
1/4 cup flour

1 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. black pepper
2 cups milk
2 cups grated Cheddar cheese
1/2 cup dry bread crumbs

Cook potatoes with a pinch of salt in water until tender; drain. Arrange in a 6x9x2-inch casserole dish. Brown beef and onion; drain. Melt butter in a medium pan; whisk in flour to make a roux. Cook until mixture bubbles, whisking constantly until light brown in color. Gradually add milk while continuing to whisk. When mixture thickens, add salt and pepper. Stir in cheese and beef. Pour beef mixture over potatoes. Bake at 350°F. for 20 minutes until heated and bubbly. Sprinkle bread crumbs on top and bake an additional 5 minutes.

Lois Hanson, Howard

Cowboy Baked Beans

2 (15. oz) cans pork and beans
1/2 cup chopped onion
1/2 cup shredded sharp cheese
2 T. molasses

2 T. Worcestershire sauce
2 T. brown sugar
1 tsp. chili powder
4 slices bacon, fried and crumbled

Mix together all ingredients except bacon. Place in a 2-quart baking dish and top with bacon. Microwave about 10 to 12 minutes on High or bake at 325°F. for about 60 to 75 minutes.

Grace Loerzel, Hermosa

Double Cheese Spinach-Potato Pie

1 (4.2 oz) carton Hungry Jack Cheesy Hashbrown Potatoes
3/4 cup Hungry Jack Mashed Potato Flakes
3/4 cup milk
2 eggs
1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese

1/2 tsp. ground black pepper
1/4 tsp. salt
16 oz. frozen chopped spinach, thawed and squeezed dry
2 T. vegetable or olive oil

Refresh hashbrown potatoes according to package directions. After 12 minutes, drain and squeeze out any excess liquid from carton. Heat oven to 425°F. Coat 9-inch pie dish with cooking spray. While hashbrowns are standing, combine potato flakes, milk, eggs, Parmesan, pepper and salt in large bowl. Mix in spinach. Add oil to refreshed hashbrowns in carton and mix well. Spread 3/4 of hashbrowns firmly onto bottom and sides of prepared pie dish. Spoon spinach mixture lightly into dish. Top evenly with remaining hashbrowns, fluffing hashbrowns with fork. Bake until hashbrowns are well-browned and center is set, 30 to 35 minutes. Let stand 10 minutes before slicing into wedges. Note: To thaw spinach, microwave in large bowl on High for 4 to 5 minutes. Place in colander and press firmly with spoon or spatula to drain liquid. Makes 6 servings.

To make a casserole pie, double ingredients and prepare in a 9x13-inch baking dish. Allow additional time to thaw spinach. Reserve 1/2 carton of hashbrowns for topping; press remaining 1-1/2 cartons of hashbrowns on bottom and halfway up sides of baking dish. Prepare spinach filling as directed in recipe. Bake at 400°F for 40 to 45 minutes. Makes 12 servings.

Nutritional information per serving: 260 calories; 11 g fat (3 g saturated fat); 11 g protein; 28 g carbohydrate; 3 g fiber; 70 mg cholesterol; 710 mg sodium.

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Blend of the Bayou Seafood Casserole

4 oz. cream cheese
1/4 cup plus 1 T. butter, divided
1/2 onion, chopped
2 ribs celery, diced
1/2 red or yellow pepper, diced
1 large clove garlic
1 small can mushrooms, drained
1 can cream of mushroom soup

1 can water
1-1/2 cups minute rice, uncooked
1 (6.5 oz.) can crab meat, drained and rinsed
1 (6.5 oz.) can shrimp, drained and rinsed
2 tsp. lemon juice
1/4 tsp. Tabasco sauce

Heat cream cheese and 1/4 cup butter until melted. Saute onions, celery, pepper and garlic in 1 T. butter. Combine all ingredients. Pour into a 9x13-inch pan or 2-quart casserole. Bake at 350°F. for 45 minutes. Fresh shrimp or crabmeat can be added to enhance the seafood flavor. Also, you may opt to add cheese on top.

Sharon Steckley, Geddes

Please send your favorite dairy, dessert and salad recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in June 2015. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

EmPOWER Youth Leadership 'Making a Mark on the World'

by Sheila Gross

Franklin D. Roosevelt acknowledged, "We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future." The concept of sharing the cooperative story and engaging the younger generation came out of a strategic planning session. The result of that discussion was the implementation of Sioux Valley Energy's EmPOWER Youth Leadership program.

Marketing Specialist Jennie Patrick was tasked with developing the program. She researched other youth leadership models and networked with local school officials. Thirty-two sophomore and junior students were recruited for the program to begin their own journey of "Making a Mark on the World." The initiation of the program was held last June at the Cooperative's annual meeting and 75th anniversary celebration. "This outstanding group of EmPOWER Youth Leadership students signifies the quality and passion we can expect to see in our future leaders," offered Jennie Patrick, Sioux Valley Energy EmPOWER Youth Leadership Coordinator.

The program offers students opportunities to network with their peers and business professionals, develop leadership skills, experience educational travel adventures, gain a comprehensive understanding of cooperatives, explore career options, study strengths through assessment tools, and access scholarship awards.



Participants were able to visit the 'Energy Trail' in July to see how electricity is generated and delivered to cooperative members. Seventeen students joined teens across the state on a three-day excursion to North Dakota to explore the Coteau Freedom Coal Mine, the Dakota Gasification Plant and Antelope Valley Station.

The core curriculum of the program includes four, day-long 'EmPOWER' workshops. Session one included a motivational message from former U.S. Attorney Brendan Johnson on

making a mark on the world. The students took a strength finder assessment and learned about the cooperative model and business ethics. Session two encompassed learning teambuilding techniques to gain skills for effective leadership, dealing with difficult situations, and building self-confidence.



Continued on Page 15

2014-2015 EmPOWER Team



Alyssa Hahn
Flandreau HS



Anders Barton
Brandon Valley HS



Andy Holmes
Brandon Valley HS



Ashley Menor
Ramona HS



Austin Falor
Tri-Valley HS



Brianna Renaas
Rutland HS



Clarissa Skyberg
Rutland HS



Courtney Bickley
Brandon Valley HS



Garret Sands
Garretson HS



Grant Burggraff
Tri-Valley HS



Hannah Hoogland
Luverne HS



Hannah Jorgenson
Rutland HS



Jackson Dziedzic
Brandon Valley HS



Justin Nielson
Brookings HS



Kayla Johnson
Flandreau HS



Kelly McClain
Brookings HS



Kelsey Geraets
Chester Area HS



Laura Selman
Chester Area HS



Levi Burggraff
Tri-Valley HS



Elizabeth Klamm
Brandon Valley HS



Mariah Burggraff
Tri-Valley HS



Matthew Eigenberg
Brandon Valley HS



Molly Hageman
Sioux Valley HS



Natalie Gunderson
Sioux Valley HS



Noah Laycock
Brandon Valley HS



Ryleigh Beers
Luverne HS



Samantha Ykema
Luverne HS



Sara Haugen
Flandreau HS



Shantelle DesMarais
Pipestone Area HS



Thea Richards
Hills-Beaver Creek

Sophomores & Juniors...Join the EmPOWER Team!

**Opportunities for Travel, Leadership Growth,
Monetary/Scholarship Awards, Building Friendships and more.**

**For more information Call Jennie Patrick at 1-800-234-1960 or email
Jennie.Patrick@SiouxValleyEnergy.com**

EMS Strong

Emergency Responders are the Front Lines

IN A REGION WHERE THE POPULATION IS SPREAD OUT among small towns and some of the more remote areas of the state, chances are the emergency responders who answer your call for help are part of a volunteer crew.

In fact, a July 2014 survey prepared by the Government Research Bureau of the W.O. Farber Center for Civic Leadership at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, found that many of the agencies surveyed for an Ambulance Provider Survey reported having higher numbers of volunteer personnel than either full-time or part-time staff. (Typically, full-time personnel are found at agencies in or around the state's largest communities such as Sioux Falls, Rapid City and Aberdeen.)

Nationally, the National Emergency Medical Services Week observation is observed in May each year. In 2015, it is May 17-23 with the theme

“EMS Strong.”

National Emergency Medical Services Week brings together local communities and medical personnel to publicize safety and honor the dedication of those who provide the day-to-day lifesaving services of medicine's “front line.” For additional information, contact emsweek@acep.org.

The first EMS Week was declared by President Gerald Ford in November 1974. It continued for four more years and was reinstated by the American College of Emergency Physicians in 1982. It has been an annual event since 1982 and is currently observed in May.

“Not everyone needs EMT services, but when they do, it's nice to have it,” said Stephanie Horst, Director of Communications and Marketing at FEM Electric Association in Ipswich, S.D. Horst has been a volunteer Emergency Medical Technician

By **Brenda Kleinjan**



(EMT) with the Ipswich Ambulance Service just west of Aberdeen since 2010.

“There was a need in the community,” Horst said of why she decided to undergo the training and testing to become an EMT. “It’s hard to pass the test, but that service is so needed in our rural communities. There are communities in South Dakota that are in dire need for people to step up and become EMTs.”

Horst’s observation about the need for responders was noted in a state 2010 EMS Workforce Summit held in South Dakota. Observations made at the summit included that rural areas were being under served and there was a growing need for more people to start volunteering for rural and smaller town ambulance services.

“At first I was worried if I could handle it, but with the training, the emotions get set aside. You’re there to help the person you’re responding to,” said Horst.

While the Ipswich Ambulance Service has additional people working to become EMTs, it currently has five EMTs to cover calls in the community and area. EMTs are scheduled to cover 12-hour on-call shifts.

The Ipswich service is not alone in needing more EMTs. According to the USD survey, 15 agencies reported having 10 or fewer active personnel on their rosters. Thirty-two reported having 11-20 personnel while 25 had more than 21 people.

Horst estimated she will be on call 10 shifts a month, a number that has decreased as she balances demands of her full-time day job with the co-op.

“In the last few months, I haven’t been able to be on call as much as I’d like,” said Horst.

Horst said 24 hours of continuing education are needed annually to cover the state minimum requirements; however to maintain the national certification



There are communities in South Dakota that are in dire need for people to step up and become EMTs.

patient and then transport the patient to a local hospital.

As Horst and Holien (whose husband, Ryan, also works at FEM Electric and is a volunteer firefighter) competed, the co-op background helped play a role.

“It happened to be that the scenario was an electrical contact,” Horst said. Countless hours of safety training at work came in handy.

“It brings in the whole safety thing with our job. When you’re responding to a call, being safe is a priority. At the co-op, it’s something that’s drilled into us, too,” said Horst.

Horst’s husband is also a

firefighter in Ipswich.

For firefighters, based on 2014 certification, there are 8,065 volunteer firefighters statewide and 430 paid firefighters. In 2013, volunteer fire departments account for the majority of the fire departments in the state – 326 – while career paid departments account for five and six departments are comprised of a combination of paid employees and volunteers.

Statewide, the South Dakota Office of Emergency Medical Services certifies 123 in-state ground ambulance services and five in-state air ambulance services.

To find out more about getting involved, contact your local fire department or ambulance service.

that she and others on the Ipswich crew have requires 72 hours of training annually. That training, on top of the on-call shifts, can mean a significant investment in time to serving one’s community.

But, the work can be rewarding.

“It’s a way to give back. There’s a need,” said Horst.

In 2011, Horst and fellow ambulance crew member Kelsey Holien teamed up to compete in the Trauma Wars competition at the South Dakota EMT conference.

The duo went into a room not knowing the scenario they would face and were to respond to the scene, treat the

Proposed Bylaw Changes Will Come Before Membership

Several proposed bylaw amendments will be brought to the membership at the 2015 Annual Meeting. The three proposals deal with district make-up and representation as well as the assignment of capital credits. Listed below are the three issues with current and proposed language included. For a complete copy of the bylaws, go to www.siouxvalleyenergy.com or call 1-800-234-1960 to request a printed copy.

ISSUE A.

SECTION 2. ELECTION AND TENURE OF OFFICE

The first sentence of Section 2 be amended to read:

“The Cooperative shall be comprised of ten (10) director districts.”

The current first sentence of Section 2 reads:

The Cooperative shall be comprised of eleven (11) director districts.

SECTION 4. DIRECTOR DISTRICTS

The preamble to Section 4 be amended to read:

“The territories served by the Cooperative shall be divided into ten (10) districts. Each district, other than District No. 6, shall be represented by one Director. The ten (10) districts shall be as follows:”

The current preamble to Section 4 reads:

The territories served by the Cooperative shall be divided into eleven (11) districts. Each district shall be represented by one (1) director. The eleven (11) districts shall be as follows:

SECTION 4. DIRECTOR DISTRICTS

The following district descriptions in Section 4 be amended to read:

“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.”

The current corresponding district descriptions read:

District No. 6 shall be made up of those Townships in Minnehaha County, South Dakota, which lie within Ranges 47, 48 and 49 and Townships 103 and 104.

District No. 8 shall be made up of those Townships in Minnehaha County, South Dakota, which lie within Range 47, 48 and 49 and Townships 101 and 102.

ISSUE B.

SECTION 4. DIRECTOR DISTRICTS

The following district descriptions in Section 4 be amended to read:

“District No. 8 shall be made up of those Townships in Rock County, Minnesota, which lie within Range 44, 45, 46 and 47 and Townships 101 and 102.”

“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.”

The current corresponding district descriptions read:

District No. 9 shall be made up of those Townships in Pipestone County, Minnesota, which lie within Ranges 44, 45, 46 and 47 and Townships 107 and 108; and Ranges 45, 46 and 47 and Township 106.

District No. 10 shall be made up of those Townships in Pipestone County, Minnesota, which lie within Township 105, and Ranges 44, 45, 46 and 47 and Townships 106, Range 44. District 10 also includes the following Townships in Rock County, Minnesota; Township 104, Ranges 44, 45, 46 and 47 and Township 103, Range 44.

District No. 11 shall be made up of those Townships in Rock County, Minnesota, which lie within Ranges 44, 45, 46, and 47 and Townships 101 and 102; and Ranges 45, 46 and 47 in Township 103.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! ANNUAL MEETING

JUNE 2, 2015 -- McCROSSAN BOYS RANCH



**SIoux VALLEY
ENERGY**

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

ANNUAL MEETING

We are looking for member participation in two main attractions: mutton busting and barrel racing.

If you are interested in either activity please contact Jennie Patrick by May 1, 2015 at 800-234-1960. We will take 15 entrants for each event.

Mutton Busting: Must be 8 years or younger and 60 pounds or less.

Barrel Racing: \$1,500 Sioux Valley Energy 1D Barrel Race split between the top three racers. There is a \$25 entrance fee.

**Tuesday, June 2, 2015
McCrossan Boys Ranch**



ISSUE C.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO BYLAW ARTICLE VII SECTION 4. ASSIGNMENT OF CAPITAL CREDITS

Paragraph 6 be amended to read:

“The assignment, gift or forfeiture of Capital Credits shall become effective only upon the expiration of the time and in the matter and under the conditions provided by the state law applicable to the Member’s capital credit allocation.”

The current paragraph reads:

The assignment and gift to the Cooperative provided for under this section shall become effective only upon the expiration of three (3) years from the date when such payment was made available to such patron or former patron and only after the further expiration of sixty (60) days following the giving of a Notice by mail or publication without claim therefore.

Learning, Growing in 1,000 Hours

By
Brenda Kleinjan

EXPERIENCE IS OFTEN REFERRED TO AS THE BEST teacher and for line workers embarking on their careers, getting that valuable experience will often involve a stint as a temporary 1,000-hour employee.

The 1,000-hour employee helps cooperatives bridge the construction season gap. And, at the same time, newly-minted line workers gain valuable on-the-job experience, building upon their line school training with real-world experience.

“We hire them to assist us. We like to hire them because they help us bridge that construction season gap so we can continue with our normal day-to-day activities that goes on 365-days a year,” said Brian Bultje, Operations Manager at Central Electric Cooperative in Mitchell, S.D.

“Typically our busy time is the first week of April to the first of December. Those are our busiest and

most demanding times,” said Bultje, noting that having additional help is beneficial.

At Central, the 1,000-hour workers are considered utility workers. They assist with the ground work and working in non-energized situations

“They’re here to learn – and help,” said Bultje. During their time at the co-op, they learn to run equipment.

“Later on in their training they may go up in the bucket to work on de-energized lines,” said Bultje. “They are honing their craft and learning the basics on the job.”

Bultje said during the course of their 1,000 hours, the temporary utility workers will help with a bit of everything at the co-op; they’ll go on out-ages with the crews, do elbowing for underground installations, install transformers and perform line





Left: 1,000 hour employee Nick Kramer, right assists a Codington-Clark Electric Cooperative crew with framing a pole for a pole change out south of Watertown in May 2013. **Opposite Page:** Kramer works on attaching a crossarm as part of the ground work he did during his 1,000 hour experience at Codington-Clark.

maintenance.

“They do everything from setting a pole to burying underground and pulling underground,” said Bultje. “We ask them to do just about anything and everything our guys are doing once we get comfortable with them – except energized work.”

And the temporary workers observe how crews operate and how energized work is done.

“These hours go towards their apprenticeship hours worked,” said Bultje. A line worker needs 8,000 hours of work as an apprentice along with taking and passing a series of tests over a four-year period to become a journey line worker.

An added benefit to the temporary 1,000-hour gig is that it provides a trial-run for both the worker and the co-op.

“If we have openings, they are one of the first ones we take a look at. If they’re good at their job and fit in with the crew they’ll have the first shot at it,” said Bultje.

“It’s a good way to get in the door. If you’re good at one cooperative and down the road you apply someplace else, the co-ops do talk,” said Bultje.

Central and other cooperatives often hire past 1,000-hour workers when full-time positions become available. And, with a number of retirements among the line crew ranks in the future, more posi-

tions will be becoming available.

“There are going to be a lot of retirees in the next five to seven years,” said Bultje. “The thousand hours gives you valuable experience and exposure to the co-op world.”

This spring several electric cooperatives in South Dakota were looking to fill more than two-dozen 1,000-hour positions.

Lake Region Electric Association in Webster, S.D., was among them.

The thousand hours gives you valuable experience and exposure to the co-op world.

“We’ve been on an extensive retirement mode up here, so that 1,000-hour employee is important in our process,” said LREA Manager Tim McIntyre.

“We’ve had some of our thousand-hour employees turn into full-time employees. You can kind of read what these guys are all about in that summer time frame,” noted McIntyre.

Like Bultje, McIntyre said the 1,000-hour position allows the co-op – and the worker – to size one another up.

“If they turn out to be exceptional employees, when we have an opening we keep that in mind,” McIntyre said.

“It’s a good training process for them; it’s how they learn,” said McIntyre. “And we can tell if they’re worth their salt.”



Co-op Connections Corner

Earn Cash Back from Online Purchases

The days of long checkout lines and crazy parking lots are a thing of the past as more and more people are shopping online. A new benefit from your Co-op Connections Card gives Sioux Valley Energy members cash back when online purchases are made from thousands of online retailers.

With Co-op Connections' Cash Back Mall, you can earn cash back on purchases of more than 300,000,000 products. To start earning your cash back visit www.siouxvalleyenergy.com and click on the Cash Back Mall link on the Co-op Connections Card menu or go directly to www.Connections.coop/CashBackMall.

By clicking the "Download Now" button and following the instructions, a free shopping assistant tool bar will appear at the top of your internet browser. This tool bar will keep track of the cash back you have earned. As you make online purchases at Best Buy, Walmart, Target, the Apple Store and

other big name retailers, watch the money in your account pile up. From fishing and outdoor gear to clothing and big screen TVs, it all adds up.

When setting up your account you choose how you would like to receive your cash back--whether it is directly deposited into your account, a printed check, or mailed to your address. You can also decide at what dollar amount you would like to receive your cash, \$15, \$25, or \$50.

For your added convenience, the Cash Back Mall is now available as a free app in the App Store for Apple devices and Google Play for Droid devices.

Whether you are buying gifts for loved ones, booking a trip or treating yourself, Cash Back Mall can put money back in your pocket. It's just another member benefit brought to you by Sioux Valley Energy.

WELCOME OUR NEW BUSINESS

Action Professional Services – Action Professional Services account-handling procedure is to try to obtain payment in full, make payment arrangements, or search for assets and file small claims court to obtain judgment. Action Professional Services has the philosophy that a hands on, personalized approach to collections fosters a relationship with "the quality of friendship and the professional etiquette it imposes." Discount offered: Fifteen days free-no charge notice. Call 605-335-3090 or email rcaff@actioncollectionagency.com for more information.

Pay After Hours with MoneyGram

Want to pay your energy or wireless bill in cash after hours? It just got easier! Sioux Valley Energy is now offering an option for members who want to pay their electric or wireless bill in cash after 4:30 p.m.

Members who wish to make a cash payment after hours can use MoneyGram*. The process is easy--just bring cash for your payment plus the MoneyGram fee (\$1.50) to a location that offers the MoneyGram service like Walmart. There are several other locations within the SVE service territory.

HOW TO PAY YOUR SIOUX VALLEY ENERGY BILL USING CASH IN PERSON AFTER HOURS:

1. Find a MoneyGram* location such as Walmart: www.MoneyGram.com/BillPayLocations
2. Bring these with you:

**Cash: enough for your payment and the MoneyGram fee (\$1.50),
Your Account Number,
Receive Code: 15098**

3. Complete the MoneyGram* ExpressPayment® blue form. You **MUST** use the blue form or your payment will not post to your account immediately

EmPOWER Youth (Continued from Pg. 6)

Students also got a history lesson entitled Co-ops 101 which included the seven cooperative principles. Session three focused on communication skills. Students had an opportunity to do a netweaving exercise of one-on-one discussions with fourteen area professionals of varying occupations and also learned basic CPR techniques. Session four included a presentation from retired WNBA player Olympia Scott empowering the students to seek their passion and purpose in life. They also learned tips and tools for college preparation and watched demonstrations conducted by lineworkers.

Throughout the year, students put their knowledge of the cooperative model and principles into practice by developing their own Soda Pop Co-op. They elected a Board of Directors who then hired a General Manager and Assistant Manager from an application process. The Board of Directors include: Anders Barton, Cortney Bickley, Shantelle DesMarais, Jackson Dzedzic, Noah Laycock, Brianna Renaas, and Laura Selman. General Manager Samantha Ykema and Assistant Manager Hannah Hoogland, with the assistance of their board, collaborated to determine the drinks, prices, and operation of the store at the leadership workshops.

An Advisory Council of seven students was selected from their peers to serve as the leadership team. They include: Laura Selman, Kelsey Geraets, Hannah Jorgenson, Ashley Menor, Shantelle DesMarais, Thea Richards, and Brianna Renaas. The Council will assist in evaluating the current EmPOWER program, recruiting students, and developing program materials for the next group of participants. The Council attended the Co-ops YES! Conference in Eau Claire, WI, in March. Two students, Thea Richards and Shantelle DesMarais, were elected to the Cooperative Network Youth Board while in WI. They will represent Sioux Valley Energy and Cooperative Network at the Youth Leadership Conference in River Falls, WI and a conference at Virginia Tech this summer.

Interviews were conducted in April to select three of the



EmPOWER students to attend the Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. in June. Shantelle DesMarais, Thea Richards, and Kelsey Geraets will participate in the tour which includes visits with the congressional delegation at the Capitol and stops at historic sites like the Arlington National Cemetery, Mount Vernon, the Presidential Memorials, and the Smithsonian Museum.

As this group of students is nearing the completion of the year-long leadership and development training program, Sioux Valley Energy is accepting applications for the 2015-2016 EmPOWER Youth Leadership Program. Upcoming sophomores and juniors are eligible to apply. EmPOWER participant Laura Selman encourages students to apply for the program. She shared, "I've been able to experience different traveling opportunities which have been a blast! I've learned quite a bit about myself. During each session there is usually a motivational speaker that helps highlight leadership skills and relates them to real life situations. Through this program I've been given the chance to learn and use different leadership skills along with getting a better understanding on how Co-ops operate. The best part, however, has definitely been all the remarkable people I've met!" Shantelle DesMarais added, "The program has found a way to make learning fun and adventurous. It has been so beneficial for me to begin to have a better understanding of cooperatives and what it is that they do. I highly recommend that anyone looking to enhance their lives as young leaders apply to the Empower Youth Leadership Program." Applications are available until May 15th. For more information, visit Sioux Valley Energy's website, contact Marketing Specialist Jennie Patrick at 800-234-1960, or inquire with your school counselor.



Not Pictured on page 7: Isabelle Dickey (Brookings HS) and Vanessa Renteria (Flandreau HS)

Regional Dateline

April 22

South Dakota National History Day State Contest, Open to the public, SDSU Student Union SD Agricultural Heritage Museum, Brookings SD 605-688-6226 www.agmuseum.com

May 2

Outdoor Adventure Center of South Dakota's State National Archery in the Schools Program 3-D Brookings, SD, 605-693-4622 www.oacofsd.org

May 8

McCrossan Banquet Auction 5:30 p.m. - Silent Auction 6:30 p.m. - Dinner 7 p.m. - Live Auction and Keynote Speech by T. Denny Sanford, Tickets: \$75 Convention Center Sioux Falls, SD, 605-339-1203

May 9

Consignment Auction, 10 a.m. Prairie Village, Madison, SD 605-256-3644

June 5-7

Buffalo Days
Friday: Cruise-In from 6 to 10:30 p.m., Main Street Downtown
Saturday: Dad's Belgian Waffles 7:30 to 10 a.m. at the American Legion, 5K and 10K run at 8:15 a.m., Register at Luverne Aquatic and Fitness Center, Arts in the Park from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Luverne City Park, Parade 10 a.m. Main Street



PHOTO COURTESY OF KAY BAER

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

May 9

Minnehaha County Master Gardeners' Spring Plant Sale, 9 to 11 a.m., W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds, Arts Building Sioux Falls, SD

June 6-7

SDQG Quilt Show Aberdeen, SD, 605-228-3545

Sunday: Tales from the Graves (#3) and Pie/Ice Cream Social 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 9

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

June 21

Prairie Village Variety Show Prairie Village, Madison, SD 605-256-3644 www.prairievillage.org

June 6

On Exhibit: Bittersweet Harvest - The Bracero Program 1942-1964, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., On Exhibit June 6 thru Aug. 16, SD Agricultural Heritage Museum Brookings SD, 605-688-6226 www.agmuseum.com

June 12

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

June 26-28

Motongator Joe's Country Music Festival, Prairie Village Madison, SD, 866-245-2702 www.bigtimecountry.com

June 7

Miss Prairie Village/ Miss Prairie Princess Pageant Prairie Village, Madison, SD 605-480-2633 www.prairievillage.org

June 19

McCrossan 60th Anniversary Golf Event and BBQ, Golf at noon - Central Valley Golf Course at Hartford, BBQ at 5:30 p.m. at McCrossan Boys Ranch, Sioux Falls, SD 605-339-1203

July 11

South Dakota Old Time Fiddlers Association Fiddlers Contest, Prairie Village Madison, SD, 605-256-3644 www.prairievillage.org

July 11-12

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