

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

River Power Renewed

Fort Randall Renovations

Pages 8-9

Pick, Sloan & the Missouri

Pages 12-13

The Fort Randall Dam is retrofitted
with new generating units.
Photo by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

District Meeting Recap and Upcoming Annual Meeting Notice



Tim O'Leary
General Manager

The Cooperative's 87th Annual Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 3, and will be held at the Cooperative's warehouse in Tyler. The annual meeting report is included in this month's newsletter, and additional copies will be available at the meeting.

The annual meeting is held each year to update the membership on cooperative operations, financial performance, and plans for the future. It is also where members participate in the director election

process by voting for the individuals who will represent them on the cooperative board of directors.

District Meeting Recap

In April, the cooperative held its district meetings to narrow the list of director candidates for this year's board elections. Members in each district voted to determine the final two candidates who will appear on the ballot at the annual meeting.

This year's director candidates are:

- **District 1:** Scott Johnson and Neil Thooft
- **District 2:** John Wiese and Glen Grant
- **District 3:** Dale Fier and Darin Brink

You can find additional information about each candidate in the annual meeting report on pages 6 and 7.

One name you will not see on the ballot this year is Galen Grant. Galen has decided not to seek reelection after representing District 2 for the past 33 years. During that time, he served as Vice President of the board and also represented Lyon-Lincoln Electric on the board of our power supplier, East River Electric Power Cooperative. Kevin Mahoney- 1528500.

Galen has provided thoughtful leadership, steady guidance, and often a bit of humor during his years of service. His experience and commitment to the cooperative and its members has been greatly appreciated, and his presence at monthly board meetings will be missed.

Staff Updates at District Meetings

Following the district business meetings, cooperative staff provided updates on cooperative activities from the past year, member programs, and current industry issues.

This year's staff report focused on the cost drivers behind the recent rate adjustment and how those same pressures may affect future rates. We also discussed the resources used to generate the electricity our members use each day, our planned construction work for 2026, energy efficiency incentives, small distributed generation opportunities, and electric vehicle rebates and rate options.

This year's district meetings were well attended, and we would like to thank all members who took the time to attend, ask questions, and participate in the cooperative's democratic process.

Please Join Us for the Annual Meeting

We encourage all members to mark their calendars and join us for the annual meeting on **Wednesday, June 3**.

This year's annual meeting theme is "**A Legacy of Service.**" The annual meeting is the largest event of the year and provides an opportunity to meet with directors and employees, hear reports on the cooperative's financial position and operations, and participate in the election process.

The evening will also include a catered meal provided by the Lincoln County Pork Producers and the Country House, along with time to visit with fellow members and cooperative staff.

As a member-owned cooperative, your participation matters. We hope to see you there.



Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



FARMFEST 2026
AUGUST 4-6
28366 COUNTY HWY 13
MORGAN, MN (GILFILLAN)



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives
The power of human connections®



ENTER TO WIN!
Bring this coupon to Farm fest booth #2201 for a chance to win a battery powered yard tool!

MEMEBER INFO:

Member Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

LYON-LINCOLN ELECTRIC

(ISSN 1540-6989)

Board of Directors

Dale Fier, Taunton – President
Scott Johnson, Tyler – Vice President
Kathleen Schreurs, Tyler – Sec./Treas.
Joel Buyck, Garvin
Jared Dritz, Porter
Galen Grant, Russell
Mary Gunnink, Lake Benton
Mike Longtin, Taunton
James Rokeh, Minneota

Staff and Personnel

Tim O'Leary – General Manager
Lyle Lamote – Line Superintendent
Kristi Jensen – Finance Manager
Brian Jeremiason – Manager of
Marketing & External Relations
Rochelle Borresen – Accountant
Lisa Hauswedell – Billing Clerk
Jessica Gums – Executive Assistant
Wade Thooft – Operations Staff
Assistant
Alan Fischer – Work Order Clerk/Ware
house Coordinator
Ross Birath – Journeyman Linemen
Dan Tutt – Journeyman Linemen
Tyler Blomme – Journeyman Linemen
Tyler Sand – Journeyman Linemen
Nathan Pavek – Journeyman Linemen
Trent Skjefte – Journeyman Linemen
Sam Rohde – Journeyman Linemen

www.llec.coop

Lyon-Lincoln Electric hours are
8:00 AM–4:30 PM Monday thru Friday

LYON-LINCOLN ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is
published monthly by Lyon-Lincoln
Electric Cooperative, 205 W. Hwy. 14,
PO Box 639, Tyler, MN 56178. Electric
co-op members devote 50 cents
from their monthly electric payments
for a subscription. Non-member
subscriptions are available for \$12
annually. Periodicals Postage Paid at
Tyler Post Office, Tyler, MN 56178 and
at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes
to: Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative
Connections, PO Box 639, Tyler, MN
56178; Telephone (507) 247-5505;
Toll Free 1-800-927-6276; Fax (507)
247-5508.

Jessica Gums, Editor

WE INVITE YOU TO:

LYON-LINCOLN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

87TH ANNUAL MEETING

A Legacy of
SERVICE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2026

AGENDA:

5:00 – 6:30pm Registration

5:30- 6:30pm Dinner

6:45- 7:45pm Business meeting

Delicious Meal Provided

Vote in the Annual Director Elections

Hear Updates From Staff/Board

Prize Drawings

YEAR-TO-DATE COMPARISON FEBRUARY 2026

	February - 2025	February - 2026
Total Revenue	\$2,328,557	\$2,509,504
Cost of Power	\$1,301,595	\$1,480,815
Operating Expenses	\$1,007,774	\$894,252
Operating Margins	\$19,188	\$134,437
KWH's Purchased	22,080,813	20,429,490
KWH's Sold	21,011,882	19,472,111
Members	3,956	3,949
Miles of Line	1,670	1,669
Members per Mile	2.37	2.37

NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH: PLUG INTO WHAT MATTERS

Safety is a word that shows up in mission statements, meetings and job sites across every industry. At its best, it reflects preparation, awareness and responsibility.

That's where the difference shows.

Electricity doesn't leave room for shortcuts. It demands attention, consistency and respect every day. For your local cooperative, that responsibility is built into the work.

The job goes beyond delivering power. It protects the people who build and maintain the system and the communities who rely on it. Reliable and affordable electricity matters, and so does making sure every crew member goes home at the end of the day.

That outcome takes focus, repetition and a culture where doing things right matters more than doing them fast.

Built on the Right Habits

Linework is demanding and, at times, dangerous. It's also highly structured. Crews follow national standards designed for utility work. Protective equipment isn't optional. Procedures aren't suggestions.

Before a job begins, it's planned. Crews walk through the work, identify risks and make sure everyone is aligned. Communication stays constant.

What happens after the job matters just as much. Near-misses are tracked, reviewed and discussed to understand what happened and prevent it from happening again. Over time, those lessons build a stronger, more prepared workforce.

Everyone is expected to look out for each other. If something doesn't look right, it gets said. That accountability turns policies into habits.

Contractors working alongside cooperative crews are held to those same expectations.

Extending Beyond the Jobsite

The work doesn't stop at the edge of a right-of-way. Because crews live in the communities they serve, that responsibility carries beyond the job.

Your local cooperative shares electrical safety information through schools, events and outreach. It's simple advice that helps prevent accidents.

June is National Safety Month. Most electrical injuries are preventable, and small decisions matter.

Leave electrical work to qualified professionals. Don't overload outlets. Stay clear of downed power lines and report them. If something looks off, whether it's a damaged transformer or an open substation, say something.

Take the Extra Moment

Electricity is easy to take for granted. But the systems behind it, and the people maintaining them, depend on careful decisions.

When a task involves electricity, take a moment. Look twice. Think it through.

That pause can make all the difference.



"Be safe, lineman!"

Renn Ronning, age 8

Renn urges the line crew to stay safe on the job. Thank you for sharing your picture, Renn! Renn's parents are Justin and Katrina Ronning from Elk Point, 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.

Easy & Delicious FAMILY MEALS

TACO SOUP

Ingredients:

1 lb. hamburger, cooked and drained
1 28 oz. can red or Kidney beans
1 28 oz. can petite diced tomatoes
1 14 oz. can corn
1 pkg. taco seasoning

Method

Put all ingredients into bean pot. Microwave for 20 minutes. Serve with shredded cheese and corn chips. Do not drain liquids.

Marla Gilbert
Southeastern Electric

QUICK PORK CHOP DINNER

Ingredients:

4 pork chops
2 tps. prepared mustard
2 tps. flour
1/2 tsp. salt or Mrs. Dash
Dash of pepper
2 tps. fat or oil
1 10 oz. can of chicken rice soup or chicken broth
1/2 cup water
Add onion, potatoes, carrots, garlic powder to taste

Method

Spread mustard over pork chops and sprinkle with flour, salt and pepper. Brown thoroughly in fat or oil in pressure cooker. Add chicken soup and water. Add vegetables and cover. Set control at 10 and cook 12 minutes or 35 minutes if you add vegetables. Cool pan for 5 minutes, then reduce pressure.

Ruth Konechne
Central Electric

CARAMELIZED HAM & SWISS SLIDERS

Ingredients:

12 Hawaiian dinner rolls, split
1/4 cup horseradish sauce, optional
12 slices deli ham (or 24 if it's thinly sliced)
6 slices Swiss cheese, cut in fourths (so you have 24 squares of cheese)

Sauce

1/2 cup butter
1/4 tsp. onion powder
2 tps. brown sugar
1 tps. Dijon mustard
2 tps. poppy seeds
1-1/2 tps. Worcestershire sauce
1/4 tsp. garlic powder

Method

Spray a 9x9 or 9x13 glass dish with non-stick cooking spray. Set aside. Preheat oven to 325°. Spread roll bottoms with horseradish sauce (if using). Fold up pieces of ham to fit the rolls and place them on the bottom halves of the roll. Next, place 2 squares of cheese, replace roll tops and place in a single layer in the prepared pan.

In a small skillet, heat butter over medium-high heat. Stir in remaining ingredients. Pour over rolls. Cover with foil and bake covered for 20 minutes. Remove foil and bake 5 more minutes. *These can also be made ahead of time. Just cover with foil and refrigerate for several hours or overnight. Bake as instructed.

Jerald and Virginia Jensen
Sioux Valley Energy

Please send your favorite recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2026. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

March 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative was held on Monday, March 23, 2026. The following directors were present: Scott Johnson, James Rokeh, Jared Dritz, Kathy Schreurs, Mary Gunnink, Joel Buyck, Galen Grant, Mike Longtin and Dale Fier. Also present at said Board Meeting were General Manager, Timothy O'Leary, Finance Manager, Kristi Jensen, and Attorney, Michael W. Cable.

The Board and others in attendance stood and gave the Pledge of Allegiance. President, Dale Fier, then called the meeting to order and conducted routine business including approval of the February 2026 meeting minutes, a review of the check schedule, applications for memberships, and shares to be cancelled.

Finance Manager, Kristi Jensen, reviewed the Financial and Statistical Report for the period ending January 31, 2026. The Board reviewed and approved to move accounts deemed uncollectible as bad debt, there was information presented to the Board from the National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC) indicating the Capital Credit Account Summary, and the 2025 Year-End Form 7 was provided to the Board for their information.

The board viewed the February 2026 Outage and Safety Reports prepared by Lyle Lamote, Line Superintendent. The Board was advised of the February Safety Meeting that had been held on February 18, 2026 concerning the

topic of Safety Culture with Shawn Marthaler from MREA. Mr. Lamote indicated that the linemen were working on the following projects: trimming trees and using the mulcher to control growth along the electric lines in the Cooperative's service territory, and doing maintenance on the east and west side of the Cooperative's service territory. The board was also informed of Linemen Appreciation Day scheduled for April 13, 2026.

Brian Jeremiason, Manager of Marketing and External Relations, reviewed his report with the Board and discussion was as follows: The Cooperative has begun mailing load control receiver replacement letters in phases, starting in the southwest service area and expanding to additional regions, and provided a list of the 2026 Basin/Operation RoundUp Scholarship winners. Rita Mack - 1579700.

General Manager, Timothy O'Leary, gave his General Manager's Report and was as follows: reviewed the February 2026 power bill and sales to members and compared those figures to budgeted amounts, looked at line loss for the system, reported on the East River MAC Meeting, reviewed upcoming meetings and notices and reviewed the Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s Cyber Report for February 2026 which was prepared by East River Cyber Security Department.

Directors shared updates from several recent meetings, including the NRECA Power Exchange Conference and the MREA Annual Meeting.

General Manager, Timothy O'Leary, advised the Board that the following candidates would be considered at the District Meetings pursuant to the Nominating Committee's decisions and those candidates are as follows:

District One – Scott Johnson and Neil Thooft

District Two – Glen Grant and John Wiese

District Three – Dale Fier and Darin Brink

The Board reviewed and approved the CoBank's governance bylaw amendment. The Board then reviewed and approved to nominate Adam Tromblay, Nobles Electric, as a director candidate to the RESCO Board.

General Manager, Timothy O'Leary, then discussed with the Board the remodeling or replacement of the headquarters building and indicated that he was obtaining more information on the possible headquarters project.

There being no further business to come before the Board, President, Dale Fier, adjourned the meeting at 12:45pm.

OUTAGE REPORT:

10 OR MORE CONSUMERS

MARCH 2026

No Outages for the
Month of March 2026.

LIGHTNING SAFETY FOR OUTDOOR WORKERS

Outdoor work increases lightning risk — especially in open areas, near tall objects and around metal.

HIGH-RISK OCCUPATIONS:

- Utility/line work
- Farming
- Forestry
- Construction/maintenance
- Heavy equipment operation
- Plumbing/pipefitting

STAY ALERT:

- **Check the forecast.** Delay work if storms are possible.
- **Watch for warning signs** like dark clouds, increasing wind, rain or thunder.
- **Take shelter immediately** in a building or hard-topped vehicle if you hear thunder.

AVOID:

- **High places and tall objects**, like roofs, scaffolding, ladders, poles and trees.
- **Large equipment**, such as bucket trucks, bulldozers, cranes, backhoes and tractors.
- **Conductors**, like metal tools, utility lines, water and plumbing.

IF A CO-WORKER IS STRUCK:

- **Call 911.**
- **Move them to safety** if possible. Lightning victims are safe to touch.
- **Start CPR** (if trained) if no breathing or pulse.

 **Safe
Electricity.org®**



WIN MONEY

FIND YOUR NAME & MEMBER #

The tradition of listing member names and numbers in the newsletter continues in the Co-op Connections. If you find your name and member number, call the office and let us know and you will receive a \$20 energy credit.

In last month's Co-op Connections, Craig Winter & Tonia Czech were listed, and will receive an energy credit if they spotted their names and called the office. Once again, there are two new names and numbers hidden in this issue. **Good Luck!**

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

TIP OF THE MONTH

During these warm summer months, a smart thermostat can help keep your home comfortable while reducing cooling costs. Smart thermostats learn your routine and automatically raise the temperature when you're away and cool things down before you return, avoiding unnecessary energy use. You can also adjust settings remotely from your phone, so you're never cooling an empty house. Setting your thermostat a few degrees higher while you're away or asleep can lead to significant savings. Many smart thermostats provide reports and tips, helping you fine-tune your energy use and stay cool while keeping your electric bill in check.

Source: energy.gov



RENEWING RIVER POWER

Fort Randall Dam Undergoes Multiyear Renovation

Jacob Boyko

jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop

A 72-year old hydropower dam in southeast South Dakota is the first of the state's four mainstream Missouri River dams to undergo a substantial retrofit to improve the facility's efficiency and reliability.

Fort Randall Dam, which began operating in 1954, was built near Pickstown, South Dakota, through the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program. The program was included in the Flood Control Act of 1944 by Congress to dam the Missouri River at multiple points to improve the region's water management, irrigation, flood control and navigation while also generating much-needed hydropower. *(See Pages 12-13 for more on how the program came to be.)* A marvel at the time of its construction, the two-mile-long rolled-earth dam holds back 5.4 million acre-feet of water in Lake Francis Case. The dam's eight turbine generators have a maximum generating capacity of 320 megawatts – enough electricity to power about 245,000 homes.

Now, more than seven decades later, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is looking to boost those numbers and revitalize the aging dam with state-of-the-art, 21st-century technology to ensure the facility keeps up with the region's modern energy demands.

Overseeing the multi-year project is Maintenance and Operations Manager Michael Schenkel, who's spent the last 14 years at the Fort Randall Project overseeing the facility's maintenance, operation and planning. Schenkel says while the dam's eight original 72-year-old generators and turbines have served reliably, a renewal will improve the project's operation.

"Like many aging public assets, it's time for reinvestment," Schenkel said. "The turbine-generator units were installed in the

1950s and are beyond their expected service life. We're replacing them to ensure long-term energy and infrastructure resilience."

He pointed out that the USACE got its money's worth with the original generators, saying how rare it is for a generator to last over 70 years without needing a rewind – referring to the process of replacing the stators, or the copper windings and insulation that help convert the turbine's rotation into electricity. Over time, heat, vibration and age can weaken that insulation and increase the risk of failure. Schenkel noted that Fort Randall is the only Missouri River dam in South Dakota that has retained its original stators up to this point.

The scale of the units pose a significant challenge – each unit is 40 feet tall and weighs more than 400 tons, necessitating piece-by-piece transport, assembly and installation. Voith Hydro North America, the company awarded the contract to manufacture and install the new turbine runners and generator stators, began the decommissioning and replacement of the first generator in July of 2025. USACE expects that generator to be offline until November 2026 after installation is complete and engineers can inspect it for any issues. Once the first unit is back online and clears inspection, engineers will give the contractor the green light to proceed. To keep up with hydropower demand and allow adequate flow downstream, USACE's goal is to keep six units operating and two units offline for renovation at a time until the project is wrapped up in 2031.

Schenkel explained how the upgrade solves two problems at once: it replaces aging components in the dam and provides the opportunity to install new, highly efficient generators and turbines to produce more power with the same amount of water.

Fort Randall's original turbines generate hydropower most efficiently with 103 feet of head – the vertical distance between the water levels above and below the dam, determining the pressure at which water moves through the turbine. At 103 feet of head, each generator will produce about 31 megawatts of electricity.

However, due to the region's fluctuating power demands, water

management and other factors, operating in the efficient middle ground isn't always ideal. Schenkel says USACE often operates Fort Randall at 40 megawatts and 119 feet of head – about 4% below peak efficiency.

To solve this problem of lost efficiency, the new turbines being installed are highly-efficient, rated for 52 megawatts at 119 feet of head. This change raises the facility's total generating capacity from 320 megawatts to about 400 megawatts – enough electricity to power more than 300,000 homes.

"We expect to recover roughly 10% more energy output from the same water volume," Schenkel said. "Essentially free power beyond the capital investment once the upgrade is complete."

As part of the renovation, USACE also completed as-needed updates to the switch yard, which is the infrastructure that routes power to transmission lines for transport across the region.

Electricity generated at the Fort Randall Dam is managed, transported and sold by the Western Area Power Administration under the U.S. Department of Energy.

As a co-op member, part of your utility's energy mix is hydropower from the Missouri River dams, including Fort Randall, "so this work directly affects co-op members," Schenkel added.

Looking at the dam's age and efficiency profile – and also being the only dam in South Dakota possessing its original stator windings – Schenkel said Fort Randall was the clear priority. The USACE has begun planning a similar renovation project for the Oahe Dam.

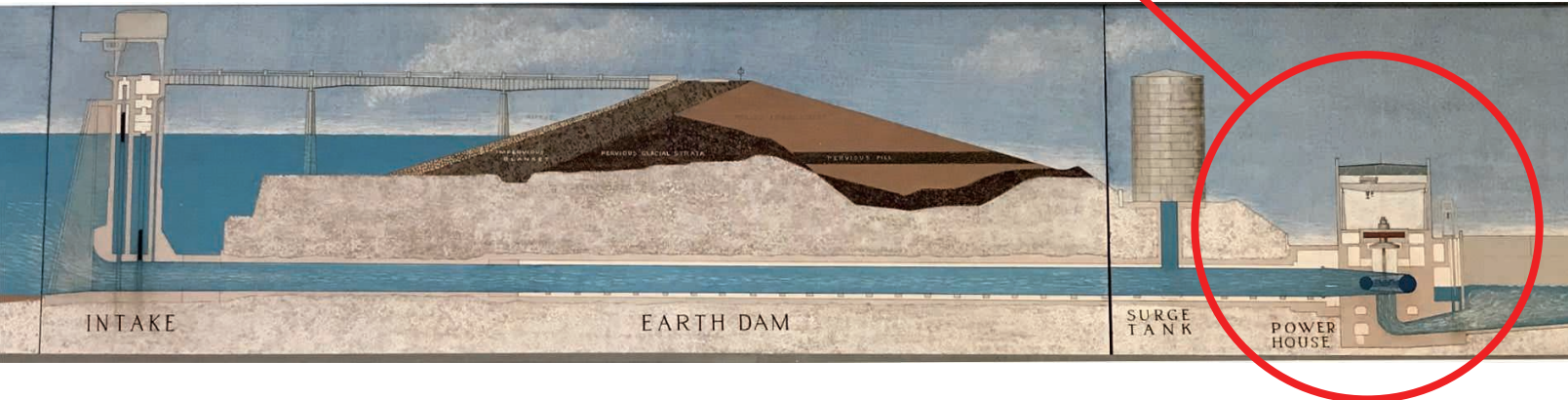
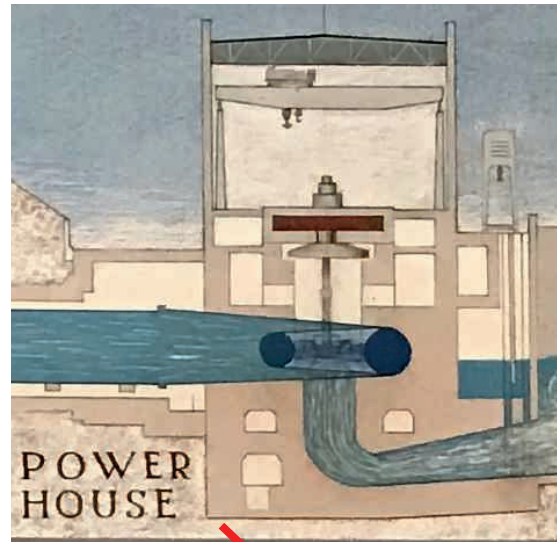
Work at the Fort Randall Project is scheduled to wrap up in 2031 once all eight generating units are replaced.



Above: The Fort Randall Dam is equipped with eight turbines. Unit 6 turbine is shown being removed for the first time since it went online in 1955.

Below & Right: A visual of Fort Randall Dam. Water flows into the powerhouse via the intake tunnel. As the water passes through, it spins the turbine. The rotor, connected to the turbine, spins inside the stator. As the rotor spins inside the stator, its magnetic field passes through copper windings and produces electricity.

Photos Submitted by USACE



HELP US!

Return Capital Credits to Our Members

The "capital credit" refund that our members receive simply for being a member of, and purchasing power from, a rural electric cooperative is a yearly occurrence. Capital Credits are issued to our current Lyon-Lincoln Electric members as a credit on their electric bill. Although, for our former members that are now inactive, a check was placed in the mail. But what happens if the check gets lost, goes uncashed, or is returned to us by the post office?

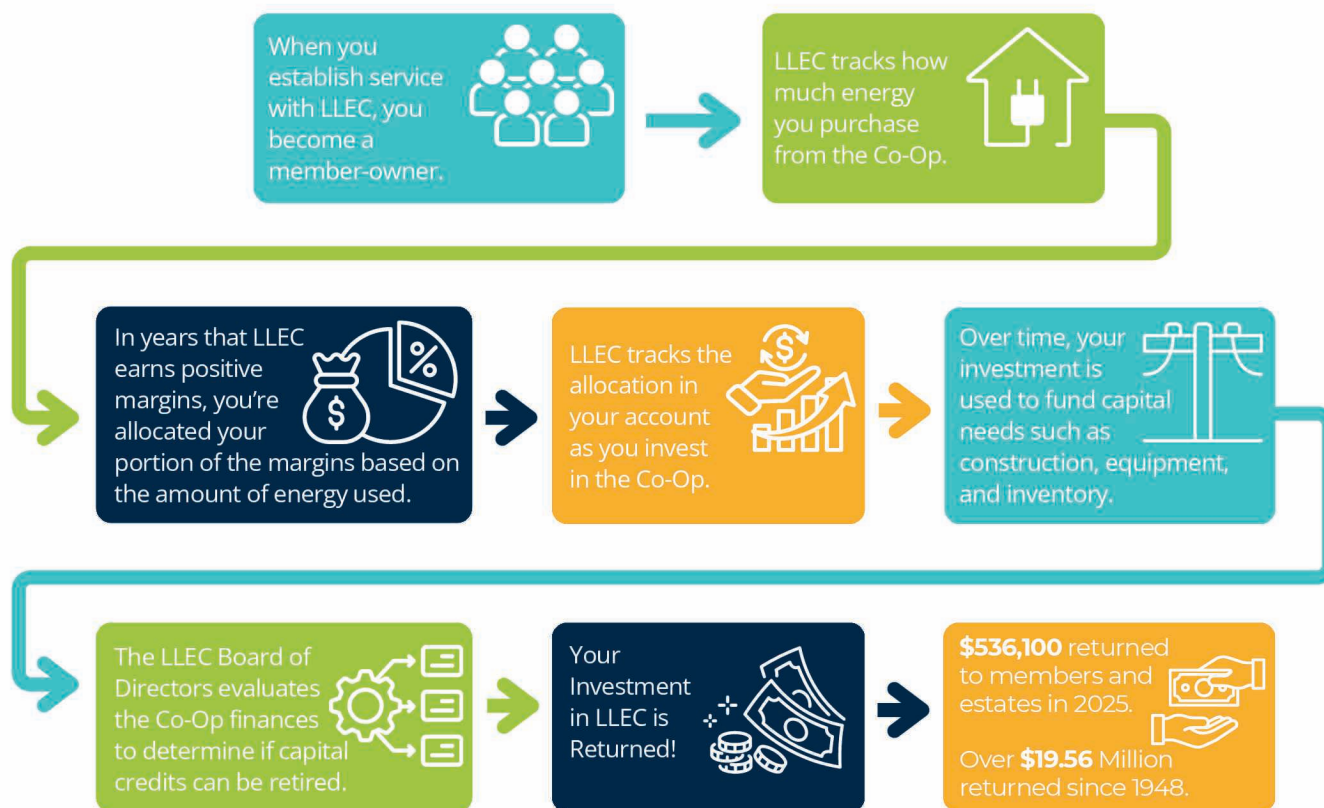
Lyon-Lincoln Electric goes on the search for our "missing members" by publishing a list of checks from the previous year that remains undeliverable or uncashed for one reason or another. Please take a look at the list on the next page. If you know where any of our "missing members" are located, please **call our office at 1-800-927-6276 or 1-507-247-5505**.

It's also the right time to remind our members that when receiving a capital credit check in the mail, please make an effort to cash it as soon as possible, even if it's a small amount.

We know that life takes people down many different paths, but as members come and go, it's always a good idea to provide us with a valid address. For members of Lyon-Lincoln Electric that are planning on moving from the area, it's recommendable to inform us of your forwarding address, so future refund checks can be delivered to you.

For those dealing with the loss of a family member who was on "REA" at any time, remember to check with Lyon-Lincoln Electric for a possible lump-sum settlement for their estate.

LLEC CAPITAL CREDIT ALLOCATION PROCESS



DO YOU KNOW OUR MISSING MEMBERS?

Michael Anderson
6906 Aigner Road
Rapid City, SD 57703

Larry Anderson
203 S Brook St. #101
Hendricks, MN 56136

Erik D. & Brooke Anderson
716 Granite Way
Dundas, MN 55019

Josh Bakker
402 Finch Circle
Brookings, SD 57006

James Blodgett
118 W Maple St.
Marshall, MN 56258

Patricia A Body
1319 60th Ave.
Luverne, MN 56156

Patricia A Body
1319 60th Ave.
Luverne, MN 56156

Tom & Linda Castle
14390 290th Ave.
Waseca, MN 56093

Allen C Dumke
403 S Hooker Ave.
White, SD 57276

Leann Eng
PO Box 37
Russell, MN 56169

Joann J. Perez & Craig
Fedorenko
108 Ridge St. N
Trosky, MN 56144

Jessica Feeney
2517 Co Rd 7
Marshall, MN 56258

Rhonda Garner
2632 County Road 5
Marshall, MN 56258

Barbara Hall
229 4th Ave. SE.
Pipestone, MN 56164

Bjarte & Jamie Haram
6914 Autumn Terrace
Eden Prairie, MN 55346

Jeremy Hartson
1412 S 4th St., Apt 2
Marshall, MN 56258

Mehgan Hernandez
1165 220th St.
Russell, MN 56169

Morton Herrington
PO Box 50
Recluse, WY 82725

Ervin & Katherine Hersom
610 W 5th St.
Peabody, KS 66866

Quenten Hoehne
3620 Ximines Lane N.
Plymouth, MN 55441

Ken Holm
600 Hwy 14 W.
Balaton, MN 56115

Myron Johnson
2026 260th St.
Ivanhoe, MN 56142

Nancy Johnson
10446 49th Street NE.
Albertville, MN 55301

Arlen Jorgenson
421 9th Ave. SE.
Pipestone, MN 56164

Dwight & Carolyn Kelley
PO Box 115
Milroy, MN 56263

Brandon Kirsh
101 Main Street
Currie, MN 56123

Keith Kontz
12201 E Andrea St.
Wichita, KS 6720

Keith & Dawn Lensing
11 Shoreview Drive
Cottonwood, MN 56229

Janet Lindsay
1420 Floyd Wild Drive
Marshall, MN 56258

Patricia Minett
250 5th St. E.
Tracy, MN 56175

Teresa Mitteness
14310 Rice Lake Drive
Waseca, MN 56093

Jeffrey R Modica
9396 S Riveredge Drive
Cordova, TN 38018

Duane L Person
1575 Us Hwy 59
Garvin, MN 56132

John Peters
9685 173rd Ave. SE.
Becker, MN 55308

Harriet Salazar
311 Ring Ave. S.
Canby, MN 56220

Solon Schaefer
30824 223rd Ave.
Albany, MN 56307

William Schauman
1080 Seagull Road
Helena, MT 59602

Andy Schmidt
15536 250th St.
Milroy, MN 56263

Anne Sherod
6304 S Mogen Ave.
Sioux Falls, SD 57108

Christalee A. Shivers
108 Nevada Ave.
Adrian, MN 56110

Roger R. Sik
1394 380th St.
Taunton MN, 56291

Joseph Sik
343 Timberlane Drive
Marshall, MN 56258

**Stay connected.
Stay updated.
Don't leave
money behind.**

**Have you moved?
Know someone who
has? We have capital
credit checks that
couldn't be delivered
or haven't been
cashed —
and we need your
help to get them
where they belong.**

**Check the list on
this page!**

**See a name you
recognize? Reach out!**

**Call us at:
1-800-927-6276 or
507-247-5505**

Blanche Szymanski
13575 Gossamer Way
Apple Valley, MN 55124

Randy Vanoverbeke
155 Harmony Church Road
Gillsville, GA 30543

Timothy Voss
7205 E Sierra Trail
Sioux Falls, SD 57110

Nicole Westeen
310 N Maple Ave., Apt. 1212
Hartford, SD 57033

Jeremy & Annie Williams
101 Circle Drive
Marshall, MN 56258

THE PICK-SLOAN PLAN

Taming North America's Longest Waterway

Jacob Boyko

jacob.boyok@sdrea.coop

In the 1930s, both the upper Missouri River and its home in rural America looked notably different than they do today.

That was a period in which electricity was still a luxury enjoyed by townsfolk lucky enough to have a municipal or investor-owned utility serving the community. As rural neighbors founded electric cooperatives to serve their homes, the once-primitive prairie quickly began to light up. And with that step into the modern age came the growing need for more electricity.

At this same time, the 2,300-mile-long Missouri River passing through seven states in the region was proving to be an untamable, destructive force for the communities and agriculture producers on its banks.

The floods would wreak havoc on riverside cities like Omaha, Kansas City, St. Louis, and Mississippi River communities like Memphis and New Orleans during swells, disrupting economic activity and trade. During low-flow years and toward the end of summer, the low water levels made navigation extremely difficult for barge traffic.

These problems had been ongoing. All the way back in 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal constructed the Fort Peck Dam near Glasgow, Mont. There, the nearly 4-mile-



The Missouri River floods downtown Pierre in 1952 before the Oahe Dam is complete.

Photo Courtesy of S.D. State Historical Society

long and 250-foot high rolled-earth dam created Fort Peck Lake, stretching 134 miles across eastern Montana and generating up to 185 MW of electricity. Even so, the federal government understood more work was needed to fully rein in the power of the Missouri.

Competing Visions: Pick vs. Sloan

Lewis A. Pick, an officer with the US Army Corps of Engineers, and William G. Sloan, an official with the Bureau of Reclamation, each had a vision for the future of the Missouri River Basin.

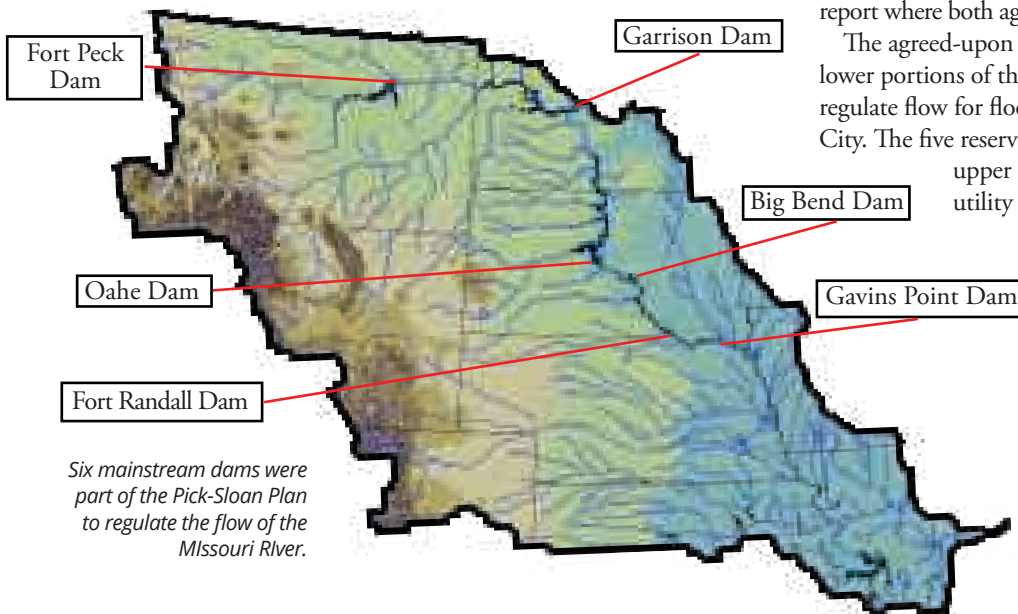
Pick envisioned large dams on the main channel of the Missouri River with a focus on flood control and navigation downstream in the lower Missouri River basin. His plan included five main-channel dams with levees from Sioux City, Iowa, to the river's confluence with the Mississippi River in St. Louis, Missouri.

Sloan, on the other hand, wanted the projects to benefit the upper Missouri River basin, with a focus on water storage for irrigation and agricultural development. Sloan recommended dozens of smaller dams with hydro-electric power plants.

The battle between the USACE and DOR was contentious, but it became clear that no side could garner enough support on its own to pass a project with price tags of about \$1 billion each.

Finally, in 1944, USACE and DOR released a joint engineering report where both agencies' goals for the basin were represented.

The agreed-upon plan would benefit both the upper and lower portions of the basin, with five hydro-power dams to regulate flow for flood control and navigation past Sioux City. The five reservoirs would store water for uses in the upper basin, including irrigation, recreation, utility systems and hydropower generation.



Six mainstream dams were part of the Pick-Sloan Plan to regulate the flow of the Missouri River.



Oahe Dam during construction in 1958.
Photo Courtesy of S.D. State Historical Society

Fort Randall Dam (1946-1954)

Location: Pickstown, S.D.

Length: 10,700 feet long – over 2 miles!

Height: 165 feet at highest point

Generating Capacity: 8 hydroelectric generating units producing up to 320 MW. (See pp. 8-9)

Completed in the 1950s, Fort Randall was the first of South Dakota's mainstream Missouri River dams to come online, generating hydropower for the region and changing the river from a threat into a resource. The Fort Randall Dam creates Lake Francis Case, named for South Dakota's US Senator and Pick-Sloan advocate Francis Higbee Case. The reservoir can store about 5.3 million acre-feet of water (enough water to flood 5.3 million acres at a depth of 1 foot).

Garrison Dam (1947-1955)

Location: Riverdale, N.D.

Length: 11,300 feet long – over 2 miles!

Height: 210 feet at highest point

Generating Capacity: 5 hydroelectric generating units producing up to 583 MW.

Garrison Dam creates lake Sakakawea, which stretches across western and central North Dakota. The reservoir is the largest on the Missouri River, holding more than 23.5 million acre-feet of water. The dam is named after the nearby town, Garrison. Controversially, the lake flooded the homes of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara tribal nations.

Oahe Dam (1948-1963)

Location: Pierre/Fort Pierre, S.D.

Length: 9,360 feet long – about 1.8 miles!

Height: 245 feet at highest point

Generating Capacity: 7 hydroelectric generating units producing up to 786 MW.

Oahe Dam sits north of Pierre and Fort Pierre, forming Lake Oahe. The reservoir can hold about 23 million acre-feet of water. Oahe Dam has the highest generation capacity, producing enough electricity to power about 600,000 homes.

The dam and lake's name came from the Oahe Indian Mission established more than 70 years before. The mission's site, as well as other communities and tribal lands, were submerged beneath the reservoir.

Gavin's Point Dam (1952-1957)

Location: Yankton, S.D.

Length: 8,700 feet long – about 1.6 miles.

Height: 74 feet at highest point

Generating Capacity: 3 hydroelectric generating units producing up to 132 MW.

The farthest downriver dam on the Missouri, Gavin's Point is a dam essential for controlling the water levels for downstream barge traffic starting at Sioux City on the Missouri River and all the way down to New Orleans on the Mississippi River. The dam creates Lewis and Clark Lake on the South Dakota-Nebraska border, with a storage capacity of 492,000 acre-feet of water.

Big Bend Dam (1959-1966)

Location: Fort Thompson, S.D.

Length: 10,570 feet long – about 2 miles.

Height: 95 feet at highest point

Generating Capacity: 8 hydroelectric generating units producing up to 439 MW.

The final mainstream Pick-Sloan dam to be completed on the Missouri River, Big Bend Dam creates Lake Sharpe, holding about 1.7 million acre-feet of water.

The Good and the Bad

A lot of good came from the Pick-Sloan Plan: affordable hydropower for communities throughout the region and water storage to mitigate drought and reduce flooding.

However, a project of such magnitude will also naturally have downsides. University of South Dakota Professor David Swanson says the disruption of

natural patterns has affected ecology for riverside habitats.

Cottonwood seedlings need wet, sandy soil to germinate – without spring floods, it's hard for new trees to establish. Today, there are fewer young cottonwoods growing.

In addition, birds like the least tern that nest on sand bars struggle to find suitable ground, affecting populations.

The reservoirs also flooded more than 1 million acres of land along the Missouri River, some held by private landowners and tribes, and displaced about 6,000 people from land where their families had lived for generations.

In South Dakota, several former communities lay beneath Lake Oahe, including parts of Polluck and Forest City.

Between Chamberlain and Oacoma, American Island was once a statewide destination for boy scouts, with its miles of forest, camp with cabins and bathhouse, racetrack. Today, it sits below dozens of feet of water in Lake Francis Case.



American Island's locally-famous animal statues were moved before Lake Francis Case flooded the island. Photo Courtesy of the Cozard Memorial Library



Tribal leader George Gillette wipes tears as land is seized for the Garrison Dam. Photo Courtesy of National Archives

BASIN & OPERATION ROUNDUP SCHOLARSHIPS

2026-2027



Melanie is a 2026 Graduate of Engels Home School. Her Parents are Paul & Debbie Engels.

Post High School Plans: Attend SMSU for Mathematics & Chemistry.



Levi is a 2026 Graduate of Marshall High School. His Parents are Bruce & Kristen Maeyaert.

Post High School Plans: Attend SMSU for Exercise Science.



Annabel is a 2026 Graduate of Marshall High School. Her Parents are Andy & Alyssia Coudron.

Post High School Plans: Attend SDSU for Animal Science/ Pre-Veterinary Medicine.



Jessie is a 2026 Graduate of Marshall High School. Her Parents are Stephanie & Mark Dejaeghere.

Post High School Plans: Attend Purdue-Fort Wayne for Masters of Education/ Elementary & Special Education.



Reece is a 2026 Graduate of Marshall High School. Her Parents are Chad & Renae Drake.

Post High School Plans: Attend SMSU for Business/ Marketing.



Alivia is a 2026 Graduate of Pipestone Area High School. Her Parents are Brian & Kim Fruechte.

Post High School Plans: Attend SDSU for Agricultural Business.

Each year, Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative, demonstrates its commitment to community by awarding scholarships to deserving students in our service area. This year we were able to award **TEN** \$500 Operation RoundUp® Scholarships to students from several area schools. The selection of the winners is based on SAT & ACT scores, grade point average, an application outlining high school/ college honors, community and school activities, work experience, future career goals, and a short essay focused on an electricity or cooperative theme. In conjunction with our Power Supplier Basin Electric Cooperative, we were also able to present **TWO** additional \$1,250 Scholarships.



TANA GILLUND

Operation RoundUp Scholarship

Tana is a 2026 Graduate of Minneota High School. Her Parents are Cody & Vicki Gillund.

Post High School Plans: Attend Mitchell Tech for Radiologic Technology.



MADISON HENNEN

Operation RoundUp Scholarship

Madison is a 2026 Graduate of Minneota High School. Her Parents are Andy & Emily Hennen.

Post High School Plans: Attend SDSU for Exercise Science.



JOELLE OTTO

Operation RoundUp Scholarship

Joelle is a 2026 Graduate of Canby High School. Her Parents are Bill & Jodi Otto.

Post High School Plans: Attend Lake Area Technical for Nursing.



JACK RYBINSKI

Operation RoundUp Scholarship

Jack is a 2026 Graduate of RTR High School. His Parents are Jess & Josh Gums and John Rybinski.

Post High School Plans: Attend U of M Morris for History.



GAVIN SCHREURS

Operation RoundUp Scholarship

Gavin is a 2026 Graduate of RTR High School. His Parents are Tory & Jodi Schreurs.

Post High School Plans: Attend Mankato State University for Biology/Pre-Dental.



BRENNEN THOOFT

Operation RoundUp Scholarship

Brennen is a 2026 Graduate of Marshall High School. His Parents are Brian & Jill Thooft.

Post High School Plans: Attend SDSU for Consumer Behavior.



To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to your event. Please call ahead to confirm date, time and location of event.

JUNE 4-6
Black Hills Quilt Show
 Thurs. 5-8 p.m.
 Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
 Sat. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Rushmore Hall
 at the Monument
 Rapid City, SD

JUNE 5
Northern Bull Riding Tour
 Prairie Village
 Madison, SD

JUNE 6
Bulls 'n' Pulls
Antique Tractor Pull
 Prairie Village
 Madison, SD

JUNE 10
BFest Concert Series & Farmers Market
 Landree Wilson Performing
 Museum Park
 Bruce, SD
 605-627-5671

JUNE 12-14
South Shore 125th Anniversary Celebration
 South Shore, SD
 605-756-4130
www.southshore-sd.com

JUNE 13
Journey Into Uncovering Historic Pickstown
 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
 Pickstown, SD
 605-487-7299

JUNE 13
Luce Pioneer Day
 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
 Rope & Candle Making, Butter Churning, Dutch Oven Cooking
 Lake Herman State Park
 Madison, SD
 605-880-5077

JUNE 18-21
Hartford Jamboree Days
 City Park
 Hartford, SD
 605-941-0809
www.hartfordjamboreedays.com

JUNE 19-20
Estelline Rodeo Days
 5:30 p.m. Mutton Bustin'
 6 p.m. Rodeo (Both Days)
 Estelline, SD
www.estellinerodeo.com

JUNE 19-20
Farley Fest
 Milbank, SD
 605-432-6656
www.FarleyFest.com

JUNE 20
Grace's Gas Guzzlers
 Car Show & Vendor Fair
 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
 202 Second St. SE
 Watertown, SD
 605-237-8005

JUNE 24-26
Bruce Honey Days
 Bruce, SD
 605-627-5671

JUNE 24-27
Crystal Springs Rodeo
 Clear Lake, SD
 605-874-2996

JUNE 26-27
Buckhorn Rodeo
 Britton, SD
 605-880-5077

JULY 2-4
USA 250th Celebration at Mount Rushmore
 Rapid City, SD
www.nps.gov

JULY 8
Tracy Area Gardens & Quilts Tour
 2-7:30 p.m.
 Lakes Area - Shetek, Sarah, Gavin
 Rain Date: July 9
 Tracy, MN
 507-629-3252
tracy.area.garden.quilts@gmail.com

JULY 11
40th Annual Spearfish Canyon Half Marathon & 5K
 Start: 7 a.m., Savoy, SD
 End: City Park, Spearfish, SD
 Register: www.nhcasa.org

AUG. 1-2
51st Annual Pioneer Power Threshing Show
 MN Machinery Museum
 Hanley Falls, MN
 507-828-5437

AUG. 4-6
Farmfest 2026
 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Gilfillan Estate
 Morgan, MN

Note: We publish contact information as provided. If no phone number is given, none will be listed. Please call ahead to verify the event is still being held.