

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



The success of the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally requires many megawatts of power provided by member-owned electric cooperatives, including lighting the main stage at the Buffalo Chip

Photo by Travel South Dakota

The Rally

Keeping the Sturgis Rally juiced up
Pages 8-9

High-flying fun at Catfish Bay
Pages 12-13

Summer Season Reminders

Town celebrations, outside activities, do-it-yourself projects are in full swing this time of year, so we would like to remind everyone to be safe when working around electric lines and electricity. If your project includes digging, please contact 811 and have your underground utilities located.



Tim O'Leary
General Manager

Electrical Safety

Our insurance provider sends out monthly claim updates that they are seeing in the electric cooperative network. In May, fifteen new public contact claims, with four fatalities, were reported across the service territories of the 800 cooperatives. The four fatalities were the result of an electrical contractor contacting electric lines while working on an irrigation controller, an individual contacting a power line while installing a flagpole, a child contacting a line while climbing a tree and a painter contacting a line after losing control of his ladder. Each of these losses are tragic and provide a reminder to the dangers of working around power lines.

You will notice that we try to include a least one electrical safety article in our newsletter each month. We do our best to try and time the articles with different activities that are happening when the newsletters are sent out. If you would like more of this type of information, you can visit our website at: www.llec.coop and click on the Safe Electricity icon at the top of our home page. The link will take you to the Safe Electricity.org website. Our friends at Safe Electricity have more tips on working safely around electricity under their education tab.

Summer Power Demand

Last month's newsletter had an article on pages 12-13 on how electric cooperatives are preparing for electric demands this summer. This section of the newsletter is the same in all of the newsletters that go out to electric co-op members in South Dakota and western

Minnesota. The article did a good job of explaining what Regional Transmission Organizations (RTOs) are and that we have two of them in our area. The Midwest Independent System Operator (MISO) and the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) both provide electric generation and transmission services in our area. MISO is the predominate provider in MN and SPP predominantly serves the Dakotas. However, Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative and the City of Tyler are two outliers and we both receive services from SPP.

This is an important distinction as we look at the two different RTOs. A recent generation study was completed for this year's summer energy needs and the MISO market was identified as a market that had "insufficient firm resources" to meet the needs of electric consumers during peak electric demands this summer. Jeff Gladis - 1510300 The projected shortfall was due to higher, volatile natural gas prices, coal, and nuclear generation (baseload generation) retirements without the installation of new generation, significant new generation coming from variable resources (wind and solar) and increased consumption.

The same study looked at SPP resources and determined that it expected "to have enough generating capacity to regional needs through the summer".

While no one can predict what extreme weather that may happen over the summer or if power plants need to be taken down for repairs, SPP expects to meet the electric demand in its market area.

Member Communication

If something comes up this summer or in the future, your electric cooperative will communicate with you and work to keep the impact to a minimum. Keep reading our newsletter for updates and check out our Facebook page for what is happening at your electric cooperative.

Thank you for allowing us to serve you and have a safe and enjoyable summer season!

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

LYON-LINCOLN ELECTRIC

(ISSN 1540-6989)

Board of Directors

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

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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

Staff and Personnel

Journeyman Linemen:
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Ross Birath
Dan Tutt
Tyler Blomme
Tyler Sand
Nathan Pavek
Sam Rohde – Apprentice Lineman
Wade Thooft – Operations Staff
Assistant
Alan Fischer – Warehouse
Coordinator/Work Order Clerk

www.llec.coop

Lyon-Lincoln Electric hours from
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7:00 AM – 4:30 PM Mon. thru Fri.

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927-6276; Fax (507) 247-5508.

Jessica Gums, Editor

SMALL CHANGE THAT CHANGES LIVES — OPERATION ROUND UP — OPERATION ROUNDUP June 2022 Grant Awards

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Lyon-Lincoln Electric Trust, Inc. was held June 7th, 2022. The board reviewed applications and the following grant requests were approved. The next meeting will be held August 30th, 2022. Applications for grants can be found at www.llec.coop under the "Your Cooperative" tab. The next round of applications will be due August 19th, 2022.

BALATON FIRE DEPARTMENT

\$1,000 toward the purchase of a
thermal imaging camera



LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF MINNESOTA

\$2,000 towards the replacement
of the meal site freezer



LINCOLN COUNTY FAIR

\$1,000 towards Lincoln County Fair
events & Activities



LYON COUNTY FAIR

\$1,500 towards Disability
Awareness at the Lyon County Fair



YELLOW MEDICINE COUNTY FAIR

\$500 towards the modernization and
promotion of displays for the
Conservation Building



JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF LINCOLN COUNTY

\$1,000 towards the 2022-2023 Junior
Achievement curriculum



WHAT IS OPERATION ROUNDUP?

Operation RoundUp® is a program made possible by Lyon-Lincoln Electric members who round up their monthly electric bill to the next dollar. The extra cents go directly into a Trust that is administered quarterly in grants to community organizations. A board of trustees adheres to specific guidelines to ensure your dollars are spent wisely.

Electrical safety basics for children

The back-to-school season is a time when parents and school children fall back into the familiar routine of getting up early, getting dressed, grabbing breakfast, preparing lunch and shuffling out the door each day.

It's a time when students return to a learning mindset, ready to take on new ideas, knowledge and information.

Parents should seize the opportunity to teach school-age children a valuable and potentially lifesaving lesson: Respect electricity.

Here are several electrical safety basics every child should know:

- Mixing water and electricity can be deadly. Teach children not to use electric toys or other devices near water or in the rain.
- Plugging multiple devices into a single outlet or power strip can create sparks and even cause a fire if that outlet can't handle the load. Teach kids to plug into surge-protected power strips or to use one device at a time and unplug the rest.

When they unplug those devices, they should grab them by the plug, not the cord. Yanking a cord out of an electrical outlet can damage the appliance, the outlet or the plug.

- Electrical cords can be strangling hazards and might cause electrical burns if they are misused. Make sure youngsters keep cords away from their mouths and necks. It's best to hide cords so they aren't a temptation.

- Electrical outlets are receptacles for electrical plugs only. Children should know from an early age that it's a no-no to put foreign objects or fingers into power plugs. Sticking any other items into an electrical socket can lead to electric shock or death. Use childproofing outlet covers.

- Flying kites and climbing trees are never safe activities near power lines. If a tree has a power line running through it - or if it's even within reach of the line - it's not a safe place to play. If a kite gets caught in a power line, the child should not tug on it to get it loose. The string could conduct electricity and seriously hurt the child.

- Electrical substations are fenced off to keep children and animals out of the area. If a toy or small pet gets inside the fence, the child should inform a parent or teacher, who can call a trained worker to come and retrieve it.

COOPERATIVES HELP OUR MEMBERS SOLVE PROBLEMS



Electric co-op member services personnel focus their attention on making sure co-op members get the power they need when they need it. They help homeowners and businesses solve problems and find solutions to operate more efficiently. A group of co-op representatives recently took a guided tour of the Riverview Dairy near Watertown to learn how the dairy functions and how the local co-op can provide better service to the facility.

You can find out more about the many ways our electric cooperatives serve our members by visiting Cooperative Connections Plus. Simply scan the QR code at right.



Swim safely

Alayna Smith

Alayna, age 10, alerts both the young and old alike to refrain from swimming when any thunderstorms are around. Alayna is the daughter of Myles and Amber Smith and they are members of H-D Electric Cooperative based in Clear Lake.

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.

TASTY SUMMER SALADS

SHELL MACARONI SALAD

Ingredients:

1 7-oz. box of shell macaroni,
cooked, rinsed and cooled
2-3 fresh tomatoes, chopped
1/3 green pepper, chopped
3 celery ribs, sliced thinly
1/4 c. chopped onion
1 cucumber, seeded & chopped

Toss ingredients together; set
aside.

Dressing

1/2 c. canola oil
3/4 c. sugar
1/2 c. vinegar
3/4 c. catsup
Dash of lemon juice

METHOD

Mix dressing ingredients well
with wire whip and add to
veggies and macaroni.

Joan Antonen, Arlington

TUNA AND EGG SALAD

Ingredients:

3 6-oz. cans tuna packed in water
3 eggs hard boiled, peeled and
chopped
2 small dill pickles diced
1 large celery rib diced
1/4 cup red onion minced
1 tbsp. lemon juice or red wine
vinegar
2 tsp. garlic powder, optional
1/4 tsp. salt, to taste
Ground black pepper to taste
1/2 cup plain Greek yogurt, 2%+
fat
2 tbsp. mayo

METHOD

Drain cans with tuna well by
pressing hard on the lid while
draining. Transfer to a large bowl
and separate into flakes with a
fork. Add chopped and peeled
hard boiled eggs, pickles, celery,
red onion, lemon juice, garlic
powder (if using), salt, pepper,
yogurt and mayo. Stir well with a
fork and refrigerate. Serve cold in
a sandwich or over salad greens.
ifoodreal.com

GARDEN VEGGIES 'N ROTINI

Ingredients:

3/4 c. oil
3/4 c. white vinegar
3/4 c. white sugar
1 tsp. garlic salt
2 tbsp. onion flakes
1 tbsp. mustard
Bring the above ingredients to a
boil and remove from heat.
Cook 4 cups colored rotini noo-
dles. Rinse and chill.
Cut up the following in chunky
pieces:
1 tomato
1 cucumber
assorted peppers
1/2 red onion

METHOD

Stir veggies together with the
rotini and dressing. Chill before
serving.

Ginny Jensen, Volga

NANCY'S MACARONI SALAD

Ingredients:

Dice:

1 onion
1 green pepper
1-2 carrots
1 cup celery
2 cups Velveeta Cheese

Add:

1 can peas
1 - 16 oz. pkg. macaroni cooked
and drained

Dressing:

1 cup sugar
1 pint mayo
1 cup white vinegar
1 - 14 oz. can evaporated milk

METHOD

Mix together gently and
refrigerate, best overnight. Add
any type of meat, boiled eggs etc.,
as desired.

Nancy Nelson, Mission Hill

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 2022. All entries must
include your name, mailing address,
phone number and cooperative name.



BOARD NEWS

May Board Meeting Minutes

Win Money

Find Your Name & Member Number and Win \$

The tradition of listing member names and numbers in the newsletter continues in the Cooperative 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 Cooperative Connections, Nathan Krog and Trent & Amber Altheide spotted their names and will receive an energy credit. Once again, there are two new names and numbers hidden in this issue. Good Luck!

Energy Saving Tip

An easy way to save energy is to seal air leaks and holes where plumbing pipes run through walls in your home. You can also check wall-mounted cabinets for plumbing holes or air gaps in the back. Fill any holes or gaps with spray foam. Wear protective gloves and use a damp rag for cleanup.

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative was held on Monday, May 23, 2022. Directors present were James Rokeh, Jared Dritz, Galen Grant, Scott Johnson, Merv Anderson, Sandy Ludeman, Dale Fier and Kathy Schreurs. Absent was Director Mary Gunnink. Also present at the 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 before the meeting was called to order.

President Ludeman called the meeting to order and routine business was conducted including approval of the April 25, 2022 meeting minutes, a review of the check schedule, applications for memberships, and shares to be cancelled.

Kristi Jensen, Finance Manager, gave the Financial and Statistical Report for the period ending March 31, 2022. The Board was also presented data concerning the 2022 Capital Credit Retirement by East River Electric Power Cooperative, Inc..

Lyle Lamote, Line Superintendent, reviewed with the Board the April Outage Report. There was an April Safety Meeting completed on April 12, 2022 on the topic of Cyber Security Training which was given by Jake Schaefer, Cyber Security Analyst with East River Electric. Mr. Lamote then advised the Board of what had occurred with the May storm that had taken place in Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s service area. Mr. Lamote indicated that the linemen are performing annual maintenance and tree trimming, the Hwy 68 road job would require the linemen to install a 3-phase line, County Roads 33 and 68 require the installation of underground lines, and that pole inspections had been completed in May.

Brian Jeremiason, Manager of Marketing and External Relations, gave his monthly report. Mr. Jeremiason advised the Board that On May 9, 2022, Jenny Gross from East River Electric and Mr. Jeremiason visited the 4th grade classes in Minneota, MN. They worked with the

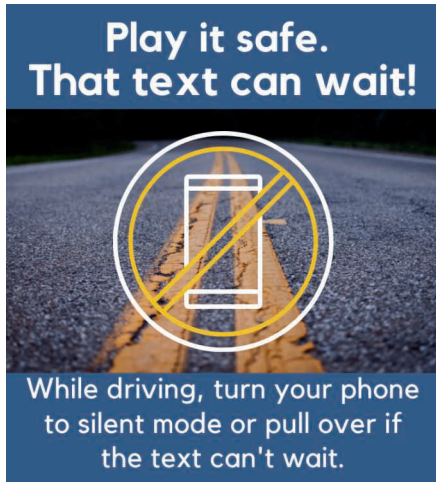
students to build and test wind turbines made from various materials. The students enjoyed the presentation and learned about Cooperatives and were able to test their designs to see what could be learned. Mr. Jeremiason also advised the board that work continues on updating the Cooperative's Emergency Response and Disaster Recovery Plan.

General Manager Timothy O'Leary then gave his manager's report; some of the items reviewed were as follows: The Board reviewed the April power bill and sales to members and compared those figures to budgeted amounts, looked at line loss for the system, presented the past due information, and gave a comparison of letters sent and past due amounts between April, 2021 and 2022. Mr. O'Leary reported on the East River Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. MAC Meeting and then reviewed with the board upcoming meetings, events, and notices.

The Board reviewed the March Cyber Security Program Report dated May 4, 2022 and then watched the East River Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. Monthly Video Report which included the Basin Summary. There was general discussion concerning the Annual Meeting to be held on June 1, 2022. There was also discussion concerning the elections being held for the Cooperative Response Center, Inc. which involved a district/voting ballot for Board of Directors Election. The directors reported on training sessions and meetings attended and reviewed and discussed upcoming meetings and educational workshops to be held.

President, Sandy Ludeman, pointed out and recognized Director, Merv Anderson, due to this being his last meeting he would be attending as a director. Merv Anderson had served 27 years on the Board and 10 of those years as President. The Board and President, Sandy Ludeman, thanked Merv for his contribution to the Cooperative and his service on the Board of Directors.

With there being no further business to come before the board, a motion was made and carried to adjourn at 11:50 o'clock A.M.



Save A Life: avoid distractions while driving

Jessica Gums
Executive Assistant

Some temptations are hard to resist. For me, it can be especially challenging to turn down that last piece of chocolate cake.

While driving, we typically hear that “ding” on our phone, alerting us to a text or call coming through,

and we sometimes feel the urgent need to check it. We know we shouldn't, but we reason that we're going to make an exception—just this once.

So, why do we indulge in behavior we know to be wrong, dangerous and in many states, illegal? Call it hubris. According to AAA research, most people feel they are better-than-average drivers. After all, we have busy lives and are accustomed to multitasking. But mounds of research and thousands of deaths every year prove otherwise.

August is Back to School Safety Month. As a new school year begins with young drivers and school buses back on the road, I thought it would be a good time to remind folks of the dangers of distracted driving.

The reality is that using a phone while driving creates enormous potential for injuries and fatalities. Distractions take a motorist's attention off driving, which can make a driver miss critical events, objects and cues, potentially leading to a crash.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, one of every 10 fatal crashes in the U.S. involves distracted driving, resulting in more than 3,000 deaths annually. I find this statistic heartbreaking considering so many of these accidents could easily be avoided if we'd simply put down our phones while driving.

Distracted driving is considered any activity that diverts our attention, including texting or talking on the phone, and adjusting the navigation or entertainment system. Texting is by far one of the most dangerous distractions. Sending or reading one text takes your eyes off the road for an average of five seconds. At 55 mph, that's like driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed.

In addition to refraining from texting while driving, we can help keep the roads safe by moving over for first responders and other emergency vehicles. Additionally, if you see utility crews conducting work near the roadside, I'd encourage you to move over when possible and give them extra space to perform their work safely.

At Lyon-Lincoln Electric, safety is foremost in everything we do—for employees and the members of the communities we serve. We routinely remind our crews of the dangers of distracted driving, and we hope you'll have similar conversations with your teens who may be new to the roadways and are especially susceptible to the lure of technology.

Let's work together to keep everyone safe on the roads. Remember: that text can wait and waiting just might save a life.

May Outage Report (10 or More Consumers)

5/12/22- 49 consumers were off 1 hour and 35 minutes in Alta Vista, Limestone, & Nordland Townships. The cause was a broken cutout on a transformer.

5/12/22- The following consumers experienced various outages due to East River having broken transmission poles from the windstorm that occurred on that date:

- 232 consumers were off 2 hrs. 5 mins. in the Lake Benton Substation Area.
- 597 consumers were off 5 hrs. 50 mins. in the Ivanhoe Substation Area.
- 604 consumers were off 8 hrs. 20 mins. in the Tyler Substation Area.
- 1510 consumers were off 17 hrs. in the Amiret, Dudley & Russell Substation Area.
- 309 consumers were off 17 hrs. 45 mins. in the Lynd Substation Area.
- 347 consumers were off 24 hrs. 10 mins. in the Ghent Substation Area.
- 359 consumers were off 26 hrs. 15 mins. in the Marble Substation Area.

5/13/22- 14 consumers were off 1 hr. 20 mins. in Amiret Township. The cause was a bird on the riser pole.

5/18/22- 18 consumers were off 40 mins. in Lake Marshall & Lynd Townships. The cause was an open OCR.

5/30/22- The following consumers experienced various outages due to East River having broken transmission poles from the windstorm that occurred on that date:

- 656 consumers were off 17 mins. in the Ghent & Lynd Substation Areas.
- 381 consumers were off 1 hr. 10 mins. in the Amiret Substation Area.
- 666 consumers were off 1 hr. 35 mins. in the Russell Substation Area.
- 463 consumers were off 1 hr. 15 mins. in the Dudley Substation Area.
- 50 consumers were off 11 hrs. 20 mins. in Custer & Monroe Townships.
- 47 consumers were off 14 hrs. 30 mins. in Amiret & Sodus Townships.
- 20 consumers were off 5 hrs. 30 mins. in Lyons Township.

5/30/22- 47 consumers were off 2 hrs. 45 mins. in the City of Arco. The cause was a tree that went thru the line from the windstorm.

CO-OPS KEEP THE RALLY ROLLING



Electric co-ops are committed to keeping The Rally energized

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

The frenetic atmosphere that has come to be associated with the annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally can be loud, chaotic and - well let's just say - very colorful.

But behind those vivid scenes are electric cooperative employees working hard to make sure the Rally has the juice required to keep the lights glaring, the amps blaring, the air conditioners humming and the blenders blending.

The three local co-ops that serve the Black Hills and surrounding area are Butte Electric, West River Electric and Black Hills Electric. In conjunction with wholesale supplier Rushmore Electric in Rapid City and power generator Basin Electric based in Bismarck, N.D., the co-ops deliver much of the electricity used by campgrounds, restaurants, shops, concert stages, biker bars and other entertainment venues.

The power providers are diligent about keeping pace with the increasing growth of The Rally, which is rebounding from a temporary drop in attendance brought on by the coronavirus pandemic over the past two years.

Corey Trapp, chief engineering officer at Rushmore Electric, said power demand can increase significantly during The Rally. For instance, he indicated the area north of Sturgis served by Butte Electric that includes Full Throttle and other sites can jump from 1-2 MW to 8-9 MW during the event.

At the Buffalo Chip, West River Electric has nearly 40 meters located across the 600-acre spread serving scores of bars, campgrounds and cabins, as well as the main stage. Power use skyrockets from about 30 KW to more than 4.2 MW.

This year marks the 82nd installment of The Rally. Ten years ago, organizers were concerned about the potential future of the event if younger riders didn't start joining in on the fun. According to data gathered by local government agencies, Mount Rushmore National Park and other sources, attendance is back on the upswing.

An estimated 555,000 riders participated in the Rally last August, up nearly 14 percent from 2020 and an increase of 9.5 percent over the five-year average from 2016 to 2020.

Statistics show that nearly 30 percent of attendees were first-timers in 2021, which is welcomed news for promoters who work year-around to keep The Rally rolling, including

RALLY FACTS

- 🏍️ 555,000 – No. of 2021 participants
- 🏍️ 54 – avg. age in 2019
- 🏍️ 46.5 – avg. age in 2021
- 🏍️ 52% - campground attendees
- 🏍️ 18% - hotel attendees
- 🏍️ \$81,005 - avg. household income
- 🏍️ \$382 - spent per day
- 🏍️ 85% - motorcycle owners
- 🏍️ 81% - Harley owners
- 🏍️ \$1,090,398 - raised for charity

the city of Sturgis, the South Dakota Department of Tourism, the Black Hills and Badlands Tourism Association and scores of business owners who depend on the seasonal revenue to sustain their operations.

The increased buzz of activity keeps the V-twin economic engines purring throughout the Black Hills area, but delivering the power has its own set of challenges that may not be apparent to partiers. Electric cooperative officials report that global shortages in materials and supplies make it difficult to meet the increase in power demand, but they're committed to doing everything possible to meet that demand.

"We're seeing delays in equipment necessary for infrastructure upgrades, but we know how important electricity is for The Rally to run successfully," said Brett Fosheim, director of operations at Butte Electric based in Newell. "A lot of visitors and business owners are

An estimated 555,000 visitors enjoyed the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally last year. As attendance climbs, electric cooperatives are committed to delivering the power needed to keep the party going. *Photos by South Dakota Travel*

depending on us, so we're prepared every year to step up to the plate with power that's affordable, reliable and there when everybody needs it."

Fosheim said just as organizers work all year long to plan and promote the 10-day event, electric cooperatives also anticipate the rise in electricity demand and coordinate with their common power generator, Basin Electric, to fill the need and handle peak loads. Butte Electric serves Full Throttle, Days Inn Campground and the Sons of Silence Campground, among other venues.

Because electric cooperatives are created by their members to serve their members, they've been delivering electricity since the early days of The Rally. The annual event traces its roots back to 1938 when a group of Indian Motorcycle enthusiasts led by local franchise owner Clarence "Pappy" Hoel got together to race one another, pull off some riding stunts and party together around a common interest in the brand.

What started as a quaint occasion called the Black Hills Classic with just

nine racers and a sparse crowd has become an international attraction.

Except for the World War II years between 1939 and 1941, The Rally has been a much-anticipated mainstay attracting visitors from across the planet. During the war, organizers suspended the event due to gas restrictions in support of the war effort.



While the current supply shortages mentioned by Fosheim have kept power providers on their toes and doubly prepared for The Rally, he said cooperatives are committed to delivering quality service not only during the event but long after the riders have peeled out of town.



Lyon-Lincoln Electric Hosts 83rd Annual Meeting

After a 2-year absence of in-person meetings, the 83rd Annual meeting of the member-owners of Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative was held at the Tyler Headquarters on June 1st, 2022. The evening started off with welcoming our membership to a porkchop dinner prepared by the Lincoln County pork producers and side dishes provided by The Country House in Lake Benton. A bounce house obstacle course was also set up for the children in attendance.

During the business meeting, five members were on the ballot to fill three seats on the board and represent their fellow member-owners in setting policy for the cooperative. This is the most important part of the meeting as it gives an opportunity

for members to participate in the democratic process of their cooperative.

In Districts 1 and 2, incumbents Kathy Schreurs and Jim Rokeh were re-elected to the board. In District 3, Mike Longtin, who ran unopposed, was newly elected to the board. The cooperative would like to thank Districts 1 and 2 candidates, Josh Osland and Pat Verly, for vying for a board position and being active cooperative members.

After the election, cooperative staff provided updates of the past year including the cooperative's financial report and discussed initiatives that the cooperative is exploring in the future. Operation RoundUp® and Basin Scholarship winners were

then announced. When the meeting concluded, it was time for the popular door prize drawings for children and adults alike. Included in the drawings were a children's bicycle and fishing gear together with electric grills, energy credits, LED yard lights, and numerous gift certificates from our local businesses, just to name a few.

Thank you all for attending the annual meeting! Member participation is an important principal of the cooperative business model.

Its participation like this that has made us a strong organization for 83 years which will continue to thrive in the future.







FAMILY FUN AT CATFISH BAY

Summer fun for the entire family awaits at Catfish Bay Water Ski Park in Sioux Falls. *Photos by Billy Gibson*

Pigs fly and family fun abounds at Catfish Bay Water Ski Park

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

If you stop by Catfish Bay, you probably won't see a single catfish during your stay. But you will definitely see a pig flying, a chicken hurtling through the air and water skis sprouting up from a pocketful of magic seeds.

Catfish Bay Water Ski Park, located just off I-90 in Sioux Falls, is a family entertainment venue where a squad of highly skilled skiers leap and spin and build four-tier human pyramids as they skim across the water's surface.

Billed as "The Greatest Show on H₂O," the event attracts spectators from miles around who show up each Friday evening during the summer months to see the high-flying theatrics reminiscent of Florida's famed Cypress Gardens. The show features ski jumpers dressed as chickens, Hee Haw-inspired corn pone humor and a daredevil in a pig costume elevating 30 feet into the air astride a water-propelled fly board.

The show is the brainchild of Jim

Bruns, an idea that spawned from his mind as "a God thing." While he was a college student in the early '90s, Bruns joined the Sioux Falls Water Ski Club and honed his skills enough to turn pro.

It was during college that he hatched a plan to establish a show similar to those being staged at SeaWorld and other similar sites. First thing he needed was a lake. He found the perfect spot when a contractor dug out a 25-acre borrow pit adjacent to the interstate. He bought the pit and – voila! – one man-made lake...just add water.

Second thing he needed was a performing cast. Bruns gathered some of his fellow skiers of all ages and sizes, pulled together a program and then plowed forward for a few years determined to make the show a success. Just when he began wondering if he was going to be able to keep the labor-intensive venture alive, he experienced another epiphany. He needed to rededicate the program to building youth, strengthening families and developing leaders. He formed a

mission statement: "MV2 – Mission, Vision and Values."

"It was a simple plan from the start," Bruns said just before the start of the season-opening show on Memorial Day. "But in 2007 I hit a wall. I sat down and prayed about it and came up with MV2. Now I have so many stories of kids who have come out here and learned a skill and learned about teamwork and goal-setting. They learn how to overcome obstacles."

One of those youngsters is Beth Bruggeman, who serves as assistant show director. A recent college graduate, she has been involved in the program for 10 years. She was a 13-year-old gymnast and cheerleader when she decided to try out for the ski team and now she's a star in the show with boundless energy, a beaming smile and a scar on her eyebrow as her personal badge of courage and grit.

"One of the things I like about it is there are people who participate of all skill levels who are anywhere from 6 to 60 years old. You don't find groups with that kind of diversity. You get to form different kinds of connections and friendships," she said.

Bruns' own children, James and Amara, are two other stars of the show. Amara, 13, professes to be the more gushingly dramatic. A student at O'Gorman Junior High, Amara has been part of the act since she was 2, riding on her dad's shoulders. Today she barefoots, swivels, climbs the pyramid and charms the crowd with her effervescent smile.

"I like entertaining people and making them feel like they've come to a special place," she said.

Beside Bruns, Jeremiah Newman is another example of the motto: the family that skis together stays together. He and his children, 14-year-old Marissa and 12-year-old Tyler, are involved in all aspects of the show. He's a member of the military and a former international professional skier who still competes around the region and specializes in performing flips and twists on an air chair hydrofoil.

"This is such a family-friendly environment. It's priceless. It keeps me active and it keeps our family close. Instead of sitting on the sidelines watching my kids, I get to be out there with them," he said. "We talk about the importance of making a life-long commitment to fitness and good nutrition and things that will serve them well along the way."

While the skiers are preparing for their next set, attention turns toward the stage area and a charming recurring character named Norman, who always comes up with some crackpot scheme that never fails to fail. Bruns explains that the Norman character stands as a metaphor for anyone who has had a dream and felt the frustration of failure.

"The thing about Norman that makes him different is that he never loses his enthusiasm and keeps on trying," Bruns said. "His motto is to dream big and never give up."

Bruns is living out the dream he had as a younger man. To this point, Norman has never revealed his last name. But it could very well be Bruns.

Below, Catfish Bay performers pull off a "four-stack" configuration. At right, the character known as "Norman" rides a flying pig.





LOGIC BEHIND THE LINES:

Co-op's construction practices explained to provide you reliable, affordable power

How does Lyon-Lincoln Electric Coop keep its distribution system economical and reliable? It takes careful planning and preventive maintenance.

As an overview, power distribution is simple.

- Transmission lines bring power into substations.
- Three-phase power lines leave the substations and branch out into multi-phase and single-phase power lines to serve individual memberowners.
- Transformers and secondary lines come into play until, finally, a switch is flipped and power is delivered to the member.

Decisions are made to ensure that a distribution system is a balanced network of technology, redundancy, and ruggedness to withstand the weather.

- Oil Circuit Reclosers (OCRs) are strategically placed within the system to help limit outages. If a tree branch hits a line, the OCR will blink three times to give the fault a chance to clear itself. This prevents sustained outages, plus dispatching trucks and line crews to restore power. Christian & Leah Sanders - 1524100
- Transformers are sized to prevent over and underloading. New software can compare transformer loads to meter data to ensure that transformers are as efficiently sized as possible.
- In addition, transformers are on an inspection schedule so that potential problems can be eliminated with preventive action.

Our members' load is also a factor in deciding whether or not to construct new three-phase lines, but it is not the only factor.

- Three-phase lines may also be built to tie different parts of the system together. This enables our co-op to backfeed areas during outages.
- That means if power cannot reach a portion of the system from the usual direction, it can be re-routed to feed from another direction. This reduces outage times.
- If an area is prone to outages, we have a number of options to try to reduce the issues.
- If trees are a problem, we use tree-trimmers to provide more clearance.
- Special equipment is also used to prevent animals from causing outages, as well. For example, pole wrap keeps animals from climbing poles and getting into areas that can cause outages.

How does Lyon-Lincoln choose between overhead and underground lines?

- We try to use underground as often as possible when it comes to reducing outages. Sometimes, underground is not the best option due to various circumstances or obstacles.
- In that case, overhead lines are built to more rigorous standards: bigger poles and wire and shorter spans.

Even during the winter season, we are working to ensure that the distribution system is as robust as possible.

- Our linemen perform line patrol and drive the system, marking down potential problems and taking notes on any equipment or poles that need replacement during the construction season.

This is just some of the logic behind the lines that Lyon-Lincoln electric uses to make sure our member-owners receive reliable, affordable power.

SHARE the ROAD with Farmers

Be safe.
Be courteous.

Farm season means sharing the road with large farm equipment. Farmers must move slowly in large equipment, but public roads are often the only available routes.

When you find yourself following or meeting large farm equipment on the road, do the following to keep everyone safe:

- 1 Be alert and cautious, and give large farm equipment and other slow-moving vehicles space.
- 2 Do not pass if you are in a "No Passing Zone," or in any area where it is not safe to do so, such as intersections, bridges and railroad crossings, among others.
- 3 Be careful when you do get the chance to pass. Oftentimes, farmers will move their equipment over when it is safe to do so.
- 4 Do not tailgate.
- 5 Make sure the tractor is not trying to make a left turn before you pass on the left.

Share the road with care. Farmers are just trying to get to and from their job, too.

Source: Texas Table Top
(Texas Farm Bureau)

Safe
Electricity.org®

MINNESOTA
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Visit the Touchstone Energy
Cooperatives booth August 2-4 at
Farmfest 2022 & enter for a
chance to win a grand prize!



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Cooperative, Inc.**

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Bring this coupon to Booth #2301

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Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

*Must be a member of one of the participating electric cooperatives to win.

YEAR-TO-DATE COMPARISON

	April- 2021	April- 2022
Total Revenue	\$3,602,207	\$3,934,516
Cost of Power	\$2,056,614	\$1,969,616
Operating Expenses	\$1,608,907	\$1,604,226
Operating Margins	\$(63,314)	\$360,674
KWH's Purchased	34,968,708	39,133,098
Services in Place	4,128	4,132
Miles of Line	1,670	1,671
Revenue per Mile	\$2,157	\$2,356

REGISTER TO WIN!

Bring this coupon and mailing label to the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives booth at Dakotafest or the South Dakota State Fair to win a prize!

Your Phone Number: _____

Your E-mail Address: _____

AUGUST 16-18
Dakotafest

Photo Credit: AFBF photo/Philip Gerlach



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.

To view the publication's master event calendar, scan the QR code below:



Or visit <https://sdrea.coop/cooperative-connections-event-calendar> to view more upcoming events.

JULY 28-31
Lincoln County Fair
Lincoln County Fairgrounds,
Tyler, MN, lincolncountyfairmn.com

JULY 29-31
Badlands Astronomy Festival
Ben Reifel Visitor Center,
Interior, SD, 605-433-5243

JULY 29-31
Bruce Honey Days
Various Locations, Bruce, SD,
605-627-5671

JULY 29-31
Paha Sapa Cowboys and Indians Art Festival
Outlaw Square, Deadwood, SD,
605-578-1876

JULY 30
South Dakota Chislic Festival
Prairie Arboretum, Freeman,
SD, sdchislicfestival.com

AUGUST 5-6
Foothills Days and Rockin' Ribfest
Citywide, Wessington Springs,
SD, 605-539-1929

AUGUST 5-7
Sioux River Folk Festival
Newton Hills State Park, Canton,
SD, facebook.com/SDFOTM/

AUGUST 6-7
Pioneer Power Threshing Show & Flea Market
For show information call 507-530-6470 or 507-828-9666
For flea market info call 507-768-3522

AUGUST 5-13
Sioux Empire Fair
W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds, Sioux Falls, SD, siouxempirefair.com

AUGUST 5-14
Sturgis Motorcycle Rally
Main St., Sturgis, SD,
sturgismotorcyclerrally.com

AUGUST 10-14
Lyon County Fair
524 Fairgrounds Rd., Marshall, MN, lyoncountyfairmn.com

AUGUST 12-14
Fort Pierre Trader Days
Various Locations, Fort Pierre, SD, 605-412-8549

AUGUST 15-21
Brown County Fair
400 24th Ave. NW, Aberdeen, SD, browncountysdfair.com

AUGUST 19-20
Harvest Festival
Various Locations, Elkton, SD,
605-542-2681

AUGUST 19-21
Yankton Riverboat Days
Citywide, Yankton, SD,
riverboatdays.com

AUGUST 24-28
Corn Palace Festival
604 N Main St., Mitchell, SD,
605-995-8430

AUGUST 24-28
Kool Deadwood Nites
Citywide, Deadwood, SD,
605-578-1876

AUGUST 25-28
Prairie Village Steam Threshing Jamboree
45205 SD Hwy. 34, Madison, SD, 605-256-3644

AUGUST 26-27
Sizzlin' Summer Nights
Main St., Aberdeen, SD,
605-226-3441

AUGUST 26-28
Fall River Hot Air Balloon Festival
Various Locations, Hot Springs, SD, fallriverballoonfest.com

AUG. 30-SEPT. 4
Sturgis Mustang Rally
Thunderdome, Sturgis, SD,
sturgismustangrally.com

SEPTEMBER 1-5
South Dakota State Fair
890 3rd St. SW, Huron, SD,
sdstatefair.com

Note: Please make sure to call ahead to verify the event is still being held.