

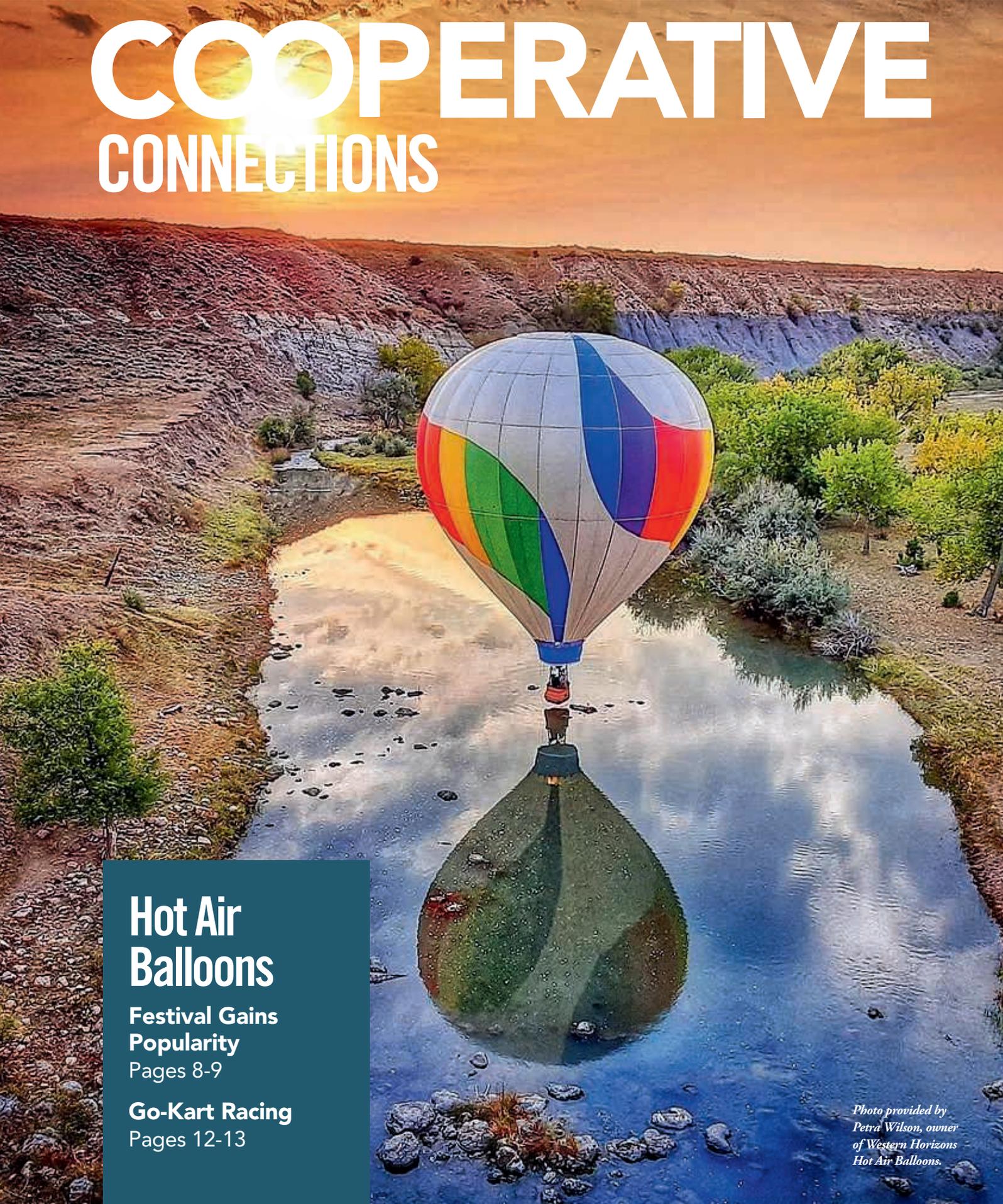
# COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

## Hot Air Balloons

**Festival Gains  
Popularity**  
Pages 8-9

**Go-Kart Racing**  
Pages 12-13

*Photo provided by  
Petra Wilson, owner  
of Western Horizons  
Hot Air Balloons.*



# Summer Thoughts

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.

Our insurance provider sends out monthly updates on claims that they are seen in the electric cooperative network. In May, seventeen new public contact claims were reported across the service territories of the 800 cooperatives. Each contact accident provides a reminder on the dangers of working around power lines. If your project includes digging, please contact 811 and have your underground utilities located.



**Tim O'Leary**  
General Manager

You will notice that we try to include at 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](http://www.llec.coop) and click on the Safe Electricity tab at the top of our home page. The link will take you to the [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org) website. Our friends at Safe Electricity have information under their education tab where you can find more tips on working safely around electricity.

With the extension of tax credits for solar and a push from salespeople that have been visiting our area and calling our members, we have decided to include a few questions that members considering solar options should ask when visiting with solar vendors. See page 14 in this newsletter for this information. One other thing that we like to remind our members is that we are here to answer any questions that you may have about installing solar and wind to offset your electric purchases. We have answers to whether you will need to upgrade your electric service, what you

will be paid for excess generation, and what happens to any special rate (heat/ac) that you might currently receive. Ultimately, we want you to have answers to your questions, so please reach out and ask us.

**“Ultimately, we want you to have answers to your questions, so please reach out and ask us.”**

This year's legislative session in Minnesota had a number of energy bills that passed which will ultimately affect the cost of electricity in the future. We worked with our statewide trade organization, the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA), to help educate legislators on the impact certain bills will have on affordability and reliability. Most of the discussions fell on deaf ears as the majority party passed their bills along party lines without accepting any amendments. This can be expected in the highly partisan atmosphere in St. Paul, but we must continue to hold both parties accountable and focused on making sure that electricity continues to be affordable and reliable in the future.

I will be using my next few newsletter articles to discuss some of the bills that passed the Minnesota legislature and the impacts that can be expected. It really did seem like a bumper sticker session as bills were passed for the next election cycle and for catchy campaign slogans. One thing that seems to be forgotten in St. Paul and Washington, DC is the amount of time that is needed for utilities to build transmission/distribution lines, generating plants, and in getting permits to construct these projects. I will be covering this and more in future articles.

**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

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

#### Staff and Personnel

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

### www.llec.coop

Lyon-Lincoln Electric hours from May 1 to September 30, 2023 are 7:00 AM – 4:30 PM Mon. thru Fri.

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Jessica Gums, Editor

## OPERATION ROUNDUP

TURN YOUR COINS INTO CHANGE



Pictured: Elizabeth Taylor, Secretary/Treas., receives a certificate of appreciation for her 6 years of service to the ORU Board from Heidi Fier, President.

### JUNE 2023 GRANTEES

#### Lincoln County Fair

\$1,000 towards Lincoln Co. Fair events & activities

#### Lyon County Fair

\$1,500 towards disability awareness at the Lyon Co. Fair

#### Prairie Home Hospice

\$1,000 towards a back up ready generator for Fieldcrest Assisted Living

#### Tracy Lions Club

\$1,000 towards the "Help Tuck Them In" project that provides beds/bedding for children in need

#### Tyler Area Community Club

\$250 towards the purchase of new flag poles and flags on Main Street Tyler

The next round of applications will be due July 18th, 2023.

### HOW OPERATION ROUNDUP WORKS

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.

### JUNE BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Lyon-Lincoln Electric Trust, Inc. was held June 6th, 2023. The board then reviewed applications and grant requests were approved. A certificate was then presented to Elizabeth Taylor, Secretary/Treas., for her years of service on the ORU board, as her last term has come to an end. The next meeting will be held August 29th, 2023. Applications for grants can be found at [www.llec.coop](http://www.llec.coop) under the "Your Cooperative" tab.

### 2022-2023 BOARD MEMBERS

- Heidi Fier, President
- Michelle Williams, Vice President
- Elizabeth Taylor, Secretary/Treas.
- Diana Nielsen, Director
- Katy Vos, Director
- Judy Hayes, Director
- Kayla Werkman, Director
- Ann Longtin, Director
- Greg Kohler, Director

# Working Out in the Heat

Exercising outdoors is a great way to enjoy the sunshine and warmer weather of summer. But you'll need to take some extra precautions to stay safe. Here are some do's and don'ts for working out when temperatures climb.

### **DO: Stay hydrated**

Drink plenty of water before, during and after your workout to prevent dehydration and help regulate body temperature. Nicole Thompson of the American Council on Exercise recommends slowly drinking water or sports drinks about four hours before exercising. Aim for 1 ounce for every 11 pounds of body weight – so 10 ounces for a 110-pound person or 20 ounces for a 220-pound person.

Weigh yourself before and after working out to determine how much fluid you need to replace. The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics recommends drinking 2-3 cups of water for every pound lost.

### **DON'T: Drink products containing alcohol**

Alcohol is a diuretic, so it contributes to dehydration.

### **DO: Wear lightweight and breathable clothing**

Choose light-colored and loose-fitting clothes made of moisture-wicking materials. This'll help keep you cool and dry.

### **DON'T: Wear dark colors or heavy fabrics**

Dark-colored clothing can absorb heat and trap it against your body.

### **DO: Wear sunscreen**

The key number to look for on your sunscreen is the sun protection factor. An SPF of 15 filters out about 93% of UVB rays, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, while an SPF of 30 will filter out around 97%. Look for "broad spectrum" on the label to protect against UVA and UVB rays.

Apply sunscreen 15 or 20 minutes before going out (check the instructions on the label). Reapply every two hours – or more frequently if you're sweating a lot. Don't forget about your ears, lips and any bald spots on your scalp – they need protection, too.

### **DON'T: Work out during the hottest times of the day**

The sun is at its strongest between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., so try to schedule workouts for earlier in the morning or later in the afternoon. Remember, you can always work out inside and in an air-conditioned area if needed.

### **DO: Know the signs of heat-related illness**

Symptoms of heat exhaustion include:

- Nausea and dizziness
- Headaches
- Feeling weak

A weak or rapid pulse

Cold, clammy skin

If you experience any sign of heat exhaustion, move to a cool place, loosen your clothing, put cool and wet cloths on your body or take a cool bath, and sip water, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says. Get medical help if your symptoms don't go away after an hour, if your symptoms worsen or if you're throwing up.

Symptoms of heatstroke include:

A body temperature of 103° F or higher

Hot, dry, bright red or damp skin

Labored breathing

A fast, strong pulse

Headache, dizziness, nausea or confusion

Loss of consciousness

Heatstroke is an emergency. If you suspect it, call 911 immediately.

### **DON'T: Overdo it**

Adjust your workout intensity to account for the heat and listen to your body's cues. Shorter workouts are good when temperatures rise. Allow your body to get used to the heat. Then you can gradually increase your time outdoors and exercise intensity.



## Don't pull the cord!

### **Gabrielle Clement, Age 10**

Gabrielle Clement advises people it's not safe to pull the cord when disconnecting appliances from an outlet. Gabrielle is the daughter of Dustin and Michelle Clement from Box Elder, S.D., members of West River Electric Association.

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.

# Savory Summer SALADS

## GRAPE SALAD

Ingredients:

- 2 lbs. red seedless grapes
- 2 lbs. green seedless grapes
- 1-8 oz. cream cheese (softened)
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup chopped pecans

### METHOD

Wash and dry grapes. Mix cream cheese and sour cream. Add sugar and vanilla. Mix well. Fold in grapes. Place in 9x13 pan. Sprinkle with brown sugar and pecans.

**Angie Ruiters**  
Sioux Falls, S.D.

## CHICKEN SALAD

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup plain lowfat yogurt
- 2 tbsp. mayonnaise
- 1 tsp. parsley flakes
- 1/2 tsp. seasoned salt
- 1/4 tsp. pure ground black pepper
- 1/2 rotisserie chicken, cut into bite-size chunks (about 2 cups)
- 1/2 cup thinly sliced celery
- 1/4 cup chopped red onion

### METHOD

Mix yogurt, mayonnaise, parsley, seasoned salt and pepper in large bowl. Add chicken, celery and onion; toss to coat well. Cover. Refrigerate at least 30 minutes or until ready to serve. Serve in sandwiches or on salad greens.

[mccormick.com](http://mccormick.com)

## CORN CUCUMBER SALAD

Ingredients:

- 2 cans whole kernel corn (drained)
- 1 cup diced, unpeeled and seeded cucumbers
- 1/4 cup chopped red onion
- 1/3 cup mayonnaise
- 2 tbsp. chopped fresh cilantro
- 2 tbsp. grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 tbsp. lime juice
- 1 tsp. paprika
- 1/2 tsp. garlic salt
- 1/4 tsp. ground cumin

### METHOD

Mix corn, cucumber and onion in large bowl. Set aside. Mix remaining ingredients in small bowl until well blended. Add to corn mixture; toss lightly to coat. Cover. Refrigerate 2 hours or until ready to serve.

[mccormick.com](http://mccormick.com)

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 2023. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

# May Board Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative was held on Monday, May 22, 2023. Directors present were James Rokeh, Kathy Schreurs, Jared Dritz, Galen Grant, Mary Gunnink, Scott Johnson, Dale Fier, and Mike Longtin.

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. Vice-President, Dale Fier, then called the meeting to order and routine business was conducted including approval of the April 24, 2023 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, 2023. The Board then reviewed a letter that had been received from National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation concerning the Cooperative System Integrity Fund. The Board was provided information from East River Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. concerning the 2023 Capital Credit Requirements in the amount of \$95,519.16 consisting of the balance of capital credit retirements in 2002, 2003 and a portion of 2004. The board

was then presented a document requesting information in connection with the preparation of Return of Organization Exempt Form Tax (Form 990) for the year ended December 31, 2022.

Lyle Lamote, Line Superintendent, gave the Outage Report to the Board for the month of April, 2023. He indicated to the Board that there was a Safety Meeting held on April 4, 2023 concerning CT (Current Transformer) & PT (Potential Transformer) training. Shawn Marthaler, Safety Instructor with MREA conducted the Safety Meeting. Mr. Lamote then gave an update that the linemen were presently performing the following tasks: assisting in a house move, performing tree trimming on the West side of the District, installing underground 3 phase lines of approximately 4 miles for the Marble Substation, setting zone poles for the East side of the District, working on underground 3 phase lines 2 miles north of the Lake Benton Substation, and installing underground lines on the north side of Lake Benton.

Brian Jeremiason, Manager of Marketing and External Relations, reviewed his report with the board which included the following: First responder EV safety training was held at the MERIT Center in Marshall, Minnesota on May 16, 2023, an overview on his attendance at the

STAR Energy Distributed Energy Resources Summit, and discussion concerning Wind Easements and Solar Panels.

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, and reported on East River's MAC and REED meetings that he attended. Mr. O'Leary advised the Board on Town Hall Meetings that will be held by State Senator, Gary H. Dames and State Representative Chris Swedzinski in the Cities of Tracy, Canby, and Marshall, and then shared with the board upcoming meetings, events, and notices.

The Board reviewed the April Cyber Security Program Report. Then recessed for lunch at 12:15 P.M. and reconvened at 12:37 P.M. During the lunch recess the Board viewed the East River Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. video report which included the Basin Summary. After reconvening there was general discussion concerning the District Meetings and the Annual Meetings with no action.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Vice-President, Dale Fier, adjourned the meeting at 12:50 P.M.

Years of Service Awards



**Brian Jeremiason**  
 Manager of Marketing & External Relations  
 20 years of Employment



**Al Fisher**  
 Warehouse Coordinator/  
 Work Order Clerk  
 10 years of Employment



**Tyler Blomme**  
 Journeyman Lineman  
 10 years of Employment



**Tyler Sand**  
 Journeyman Lineman  
 10 years of Employment



**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, Mark King & Dale Dwire 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**



Did you know ceiling fans can make a room feel 4 degrees cooler? To save energy through ceiling fan use, remember to raise your thermostat a few degrees while fans are turned on. Ceiling fans can help improve comfort year-round. In the summer, operate ceiling fans in a counterclockwise direction. Reverse the direction to clockwise during winter months and set fans on a low speed so warm air can circulate from the ceiling to the lower levels of the room. Remember, ceiling fans cool people, not spaces. Be sure to turn them off when you leave the room.

Source: energy.gov

**Get smart about home cooling and heating**



Cooling and heating your home typically account for a large portion of energy bills. Smart thermostats can help keep your cooling and heating costs in check, with ENERGY STAR®-certified models saving about 8% on annual energy costs.

Now that smart thermostats are more affordable - **as little as \$70!** This simple upgrade makes for a fun, efficient weekend project. Smart thermostats offer a variety of bells and whistles, but the average model will allow you to set custom temperature schedules, adjust the settings from anywhere from your phone, and over time, learn your cooling and heating preferences.



## TAKING TO THE SKY

Balloons light up the night during the night glow event of the festival.

### Fall River Hot Air Balloon Festival Gains Popularity

**Jocelyn Johnson**

[jocelyn.johnson@sdrea.coop](mailto:jocelyn.johnson@sdrea.coop)

It's a picturesque and dramatic spectacle that's awed most people for several hundred years. Yet, spectators and pilots alike have not tired of the image. Hot air balloons have that quality of enchantment. And what better way to be enchanted than to see dozens of these balloons floating up into the sunrise of a South Dakota sky?

The annual Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce Fall River Hot Air Balloon Festival is attracting nearly 30 balloons and thousands of spectators on Aug. 25-27, 2023. The event is taking place at the airport outside of Hot Springs, S.D., where it will celebrate its 8th year of growing popularity. Festival sightseers can pack all-day-fun into their festivities by visiting the vendors, obstacle courses,

bouncy houses, and performances in Hot Springs by Magician Jared Furnau and the Wild Blue Band.

Petra Wilson, a local commercial pilot, founded the festival in 2016 before opening her own flying business – Western Horizons Hot Air Balloons.

“The way I got introduced to ballooning is a tale of serendipity,” said Wilson. “Almost 20 years ago, my husband and I attended a hot air balloon festival in Peoria, Ill., where we are asked to become crew members for a weekend. On the last flight of the weekend, he asked us if we wanted to go for a ride. The ride was absolutely stunning and from that point on we were hooked.”

Wilson became a private pilot in 2014 and a commercial pilot in 2017. In 2015, Wilson and her husband moved to Hot Springs, where she discovered she was the

only hot air balloon pilot flying in the area.

I introduced many different people to ballooning by inviting them out to watch and even crew,” Wilson said. “Some of those people became my students and eventually became hot air balloon pilots in the Hot Springs area.”

When asked how she started the festival, Wilson replied, “I decided this area was such a beautiful place to fly that I wanted to share it with all my ballooning friends and their friends, as well as locals who might appreciate the beauty of the balloons in the sky, so what better way to do this than having a balloon festival.”

The festival started with the partnership between Wilson and Olivia Mears, Executive Director for the Chamber of Commerce in Hot Springs.

Mears said, “Folks from South Dakota, California, Nebraska, Colorado, and more attend this festival. We attract private pilots who fly for their own enjoyment and commercial pilots who are licensed to carry passengers.”

Tamie Shrum, current balloon-meister for Fall River Hot Air Balloon Festival, is a commercial pilot overseeing the safety and regulation of the participating balloons. She travels the world to fly, including six countries and 37 states. Shrum owns three of her own balloons and earns her living flying passengers and training students how to fly.

“I like to do long jump flying, which is long distance flying,” said Shrum. “My longest distance is 137 miles in a three-hour flight with a top speed of 78 mph.”

Shrum explained that a considerable amount of studying goes into the preparation for a long jump flight. Everything matters – the time of year, time of day, location, and weather patterns.

“We work off of a microscopic level,” Shrum said. “A regular person might say, ‘It’s not that windy today,’ but a balloon pilot might say, ‘It’s too windy to fly today.’”

Describing how balloons fly, Shrum said, “In layman’s terms, hot air rises and cold air sinks. You put heat in the

envelope, making it hotter than ambient temperatures which allows it to lift the massive weight it’s carrying.”

“We use a burner with regular propane,” Shrum continued. “The amount of propane needed changes based upon ambient temperature, altitude of flight, and how much passenger weight is being carried.”

Balloons are simplistic in design but can be challenging to fly.

“You don’t steer a balloon... while airplanes fly against the wind, balloons fly with the wind, which can be unpredictable,” Shrum explained. “Sometimes you land in a park and sometimes you land in main street.”

“I’ve flown over Pikes Peak in Colorado



Commercial Pilot Tamie Shrum looks below on other balloons while flying.

and in Japan along with many other places,” Shrum said. “I’ve been fortunate to sightsee all over the world from 1,000 feet in the air while others are sightseeing from the surface...but South Dakota is one of the most gorgeous places to fly in.”



Commercial Pilot Petra Wilson inspects her balloon.

# LLEC 84<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

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## A run through of your 2023 Annual Meeting

The 84<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the member-owners of Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative was held at the Tyler Headquarters on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023. 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 four seats on the board and represent their fellow member-owners in setting policy for the cooperative. Michael Jorgensen - 861100. 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, 2, and 3, incumbents Scott Johnson, Galen Grant, and Dale Fier were all re-elected to the board. In District 2, Joel Buyck ran unopposed for the one-year term and will fill the open seat left by the retirement of Sandy Ludeman. The cooperative would like to thank District 1 candidate, Kelly Sik, for vying for a board position and being an active cooperative member.

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 a Summer fun basket together with electric grills, energy credits, LED yard lights, and numerous gift certificates from our local businesses, just to name a few. Its participation like this that has made us a strong organization for 84 years which will continue to thrive in the future.

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

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# ANNUAL MEETING





# RACING FAMILY FUN

Go-kart racers in Aberdeen are placed in divisions by age and skill to keep the races competitive. The track usually hosts races twice a month during the summer months. *Photo by Scott Waltman*

## Go-kart Racing at Aberdeen Track is a Family Affair

**Scott Waltman**

Kevin Horn didn't set out to drive to Aberdeen several times a summer so he could race.

Instead, after seeing races on TV, the Waubay mechanic bought a go-kart for his then-9-year-old daughter. But while she was driving, the kart skidded on some wet grass and she hit the kart trailer. After that, she turned the keys over to Dad.

That was about 11 years ago. Horn took his daughter's number 9 and flipped it to make a 6, and he's been racing ever since.

Like others who race at the Aberdeen Karting Club track at the Brown County Fairgrounds, his story has a tie to family, even if it didn't work out exactly as he thought it would.

Karting, racers and organizers say, is a family affair.

Brody Griffin of Watertown is 10 and started karting three years ago.

He makes the rounds, mostly to the closest tracks in Aberdeen, Brookings and Miller. He races just about every weekend during summer, and the allure is simple. Griffin said he just likes driving.

He was named rookie of the year his first season and finished second in his division his second season in Aberdeen.

But it's not all zipping around the track and trying to pass other drivers. Griffin said he helps work on his kart with his father.

That makes sense to Landon Schott, a 24-year-old racer from Aberdeen who is one of the track's most successful drivers. Now that he's a little older, helps with public relations and social media for the track.

When Schott started racing, he said his father made it clear to him that he would be helping work on the kart and had to keep it clean. Karting can be a big financial investment, and his dad wasn't going to spend heaps of money if his son wasn't going to pitch in and be engaged.

Schott, too, said he appreciates the friendly and family atmosphere of karting.

Sponsorships are critical to both the Aberdeen track and its racers, he said. He wouldn't have been able to travel across the country racing without



Josiah Combellick serves as the event's flagman. *Photo by Scott Waltman*

having sponsors since he started driving in 2006, he said.

The Aberdeen track doesn't have any employees, and the Aberdeen Karting Club is a nonprofit group, so contributions are important, Schott said.

Rick Cartney is the vice president of the Aberdeen Karting Club and has been involved with the track since it was founded in 1996. His first race was in Aberdeen that first year, and now he gets to the track to start prep work around 9 a.m. on race days. Races usually start around 4 p.m. and last into the night.

For Cartney, the payback comes from the smiles on the faces of young racers.

"Mainly, it's for the kids," he said.

They do their best racing when they don't win, but they learn, grow and mature, Cartney said.

The Aberdeen track is between an eighth and a 10th of a mile long and is great for young racers who are just

starting out, he said.

There are races in Aberdeen a couple of times a month during summer, with the schedules of other tracks in the region taken into consideration so drivers can make it to as many races as possible. Generally, there are 30 or 40 drivers in Aberdeen, most of them young people, Cartney said.

Starting at the Aberdeen track has served Schott well. He has advanced to grand national events with both the International Karting Federation and Maxxis Kart Racing, finishing as in the top five, but never quite nabbing a championship. Last December, Schott said, he traveled to Daytona, Fla., and raced with about 70 other drivers, never finishing outside of the top 14.

"I guess maybe I'm just an adrenaline junkie," Schott said.

In 2013, as a junior driver, he won a Maxxis regional championship. The event drew drivers from across the nation and is called the Maxx Daddy, he said.

Schott said that and winning an end-of-season state championship in 2021 on his home track in Aberdeen are, at least to date, two of the highlights of his career.

He also won the state championship in 2015 in Brookings.

The state karting championships used to be in Brookings, but have been in Aberdeen in recent years. They return again this year on Aug. 12.

That event will likely draw about 200 drivers from South Dakota and surrounding states, Cartney said. A heavy bronze trophy in the shape of Mount Rushmore goes to the winner.

It will be yet another chance for the karting community to gather. Both Schott and Horn said they have made friends traveling the karting circuit. It's one of the most enjoyable parts of racing, they said, and Cartney agrees.

"These people are like a second family," he said.



Landon Schott helps prepare a go-kart before the races begin in Aberdeen on Saturday, June 17. Schott is one of the most successful racers from the Aberdeen Karting Klub. *Photo by Scott Waltman*

# Are you thinking about a solar project?

## Questions to ask solar contractors before signing a contract

As with any major home improvement project, purchasing from the right installer/contractor is every bit as important as the product you are purchasing. Due diligence is critical to ensure you get a quality system, for a fair price, and that it's installed correctly and on time.

Ask these questions to be sure the contractor knows the business thoroughly and has a number of satisfied customers. Also, be sure to request copies of insurance documents, certifications and licenses, so you know that the contractor and installers have gone through required training. Be sure to call former customers and check out other installations the contractor has completed. In addition, make sure to contact us at Lyon-Lincoln Electric to make sure that you have up to date information on our interconnection requirements and distributed generation rates and policies.

### Questions about the contractor and/or a company's background:

- How long have you been in business?
- Are you licensed to do business in my state?
- How many PV systems have you installed in this area? Can you provide a list of consumer references in my area? Can I talk with former customers and also see successful installations?
- Who will do the installation at my site? Are they employees or subcontractors? If you involve subcontractors, do they work with a number of other employers, too? Have these subs worked on many of your installations?
- Have you ever been involved in a legal dispute involving a solar installation? If so, what was the outcome?

### Questions about the installation at your home or business:

- What size and type of system do you recommend for my site? Why?
- Are there any steps I must take before the installation - such as removing trees or replacing my roof?
- What brand(s) of systems do you install? What advantages do these brands offer over other options? Are the systems manufactured in the U.S. or elsewhere?
- What warranties do you and the manufacturer offer? Do you offer a warranty on installation?
- What tax credits, rebates and other incentives will this installation qualify for? Who files the paperwork for any/all of these incentives?
- How much of my energy usage will this system provide? What will the payback period be?
- Will permits be needed for this installation?

- Who obtains permits and pays any fees?
- Is it possible the installation may cause my roof to leak? If so, does your company take responsibility for repairs?

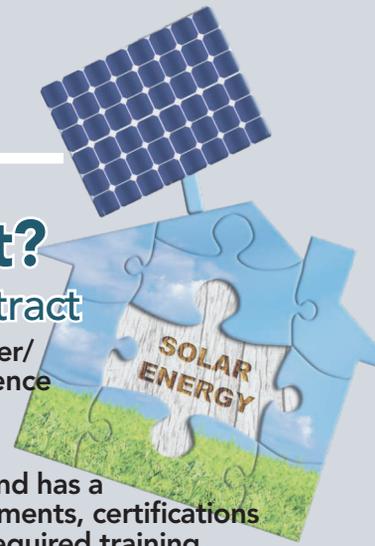
### Questions about the bid/contract:

- Is this bid an estimate or a fixed price? What is the process you will follow if you find unexpected problems with this installation and want to charge extra to fix the problems?
- Does the bid include the total cost of the project, including components, materials and labor?
- Does the bid include warranty information, as well as how to place a claim?
- Does the bid include payment options, as well as financing details?
- Does the bid include details about who will file paperwork for tax credits, rebates and other incentives?

### Questions about payment:

- How much will the down payment be? When will it be due?
- What is the payment schedule?
- How long after work is completed will the final payment be due?
- Do you offer financing or have a relationship with a bank that offers financing?
- What do you wish everyone knew about electrical safety at home?

Lyon-Lincoln wants to be your source for energy and information. Since solar power generation is rapidly becoming more widely available, we put together these questions to help make sure you get the information you need. Please contact our office for any additional information.



## May Outage Report

(10 or more consumers)

5/9- 13 consumers were off 1 hour and 5 minutes in Verdi Township. The cause was a broken pole hit by a farmer.

5/10- 14 consumers were off 3 hours and 15 minutes in Rock Lake Township. The cause was a bad insulator. Chris Schreiber - 1339000.

5/13- 18 consumers were off 1 hour and 55 minutes in Diamond Lake and Drammen Townships. The cause was an underground fault.

5/25- 25 consumers were off 2 hours and 35 minutes in Limestone and Royal Townships. The cause was a raccoon on the pole.

## YEAR-TO-DATE COMPARISON

	April- 2022	April- 2023
Total Revenue	\$3,934,516	\$3,917,754
Cost of Power	\$1,969,616	\$2,035,635
Operating Expenses	\$1,604,226	\$1,531,295
Operating Margins	\$360,674	\$350,824
KWH's Purchased	39,133,098	38,829,994
Services in Place	4,132	4,123
Miles of Line	1,670	1,670
Revenue per Mile	\$2,356	\$2,346



**Visit Lyon-Lincoln, along with other  
Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, at Farmfest 2023  
and enter for a chance to win a grand prize!**

**FARMFEST 2023 • AUGUST 1 - 3 • REDWOOD FALLS, MN**

*Bring this coupon to Booth #2301.*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

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



## 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 14-17  
**Turner County Fair**  
680 E 2nd St,  
Parker, SD  
605-297-4428

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.

**JULY 21-23**  
**Winner Elks 54th Annual Rodeo**  
Winner, SD  
605-842-5830

**JULY 28-29**  
**Farley Fest**  
Lake Farley Park  
Milbank, SD  
www.farleyfest.com

**JULY 28-30**  
**Clear Lake Days**  
Clear Lake, SD  
clearlakedays.com

**JULY 29**  
**BBQ Pit Row and Car Show**  
Winner, SD  
605-842-1533

**JULY 30**  
**Bergen Threshing Bee**  
9 a.m.  
Bristol, SD  
605-237-0310

**AUG 5-6**  
**Pioneer Power Threshing Show**  
MN Machinery Museum  
Hanley Falls, MN  
507-828-9666

**AUG 10-13**  
**Custer County Fair**  
Hermosa, SD

**AUG 11**  
**Northern Bull Riding Tour Finals Bull-a-Rama**  
Geddes, SD  
605-680-2763

**AUG 13-14**  
**Twin Brooks Threshing Show**  
Featuring Allis Chalmers  
Twin Brooks, SD  
605-880-2884

**AUG 19**  
**Yankton Extreme Bull Riding**  
7:30 a.m.  
Yankton Rodeo Arena  
Yankton, SD  
605-760-2153

**AUG 21**  
**30th Annual Bishop's Cup Golf Tournament**  
Minnehaha Country Club and  
The Country Club of Sioux Falls  
Sioux Falls, SD  
605-988-3765

**SEPT 2**  
**Hidewood Valley Barn Dance**  
7 p.m.  
47236 183rd St  
Clear Lake, SD

**SEPT 4**  
**Hidewood Valley Steam Threshing Show**  
Steam Whistle Blows  
1 p.m.  
47236 183rd St  
Clear Lake, SD

**SEPT 8-10**  
**James Valley Threshing & Tractor Show**  
World's Largest Steam Traction Engine  
Andover, SD  
605-868-3242

**SEPT 16**  
**SD Coin & Stamp Convention**  
Scherr-Howe Area  
Mobridge, SD

**SEPT 22-24**  
**Coal Springs Threshing Bee**  
Meadow, SD  
605-788-2229

**SEPT 23**  
**Springfield Dakota Senior Meals Fall Festival**  
9 a.m.  
Springfield Community Building  
Springfield, SD

**SEPT 29-30**  
**Junkin' Market Days**  
Ramkota Exhibit Hall  
Sioux Falls, SD  
605-941-4958

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