

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Mitchell Technical College launches careers in a wide range of fields including training for linemen like Lacreek Electric's Matt Kruid.
Photo by Billy Gibson

Tech Training

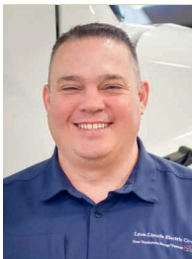
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Promoting tribal tourism
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2023 budget & year-end weather update

2023 Budget

Staff presented the draft 2023 budget to the board on December 12th. The budget includes next year's construction work plan, capital budget and operating budget. We use the budgeting process as an opportunity to set priorities for the upcoming year and as a roadmap for us to follow. It allows us to make corrections throughout the year if things do not or are not going as expected.



Tim O'Leary
General Manager

Let's start with the sales and purchased power cost budget, since I usually get a question about electric rates for the upcoming year. The last rate change took place on January 1, 2017 and we are not expecting the need to change rates in 2023. Basin Electric, one of our power suppliers, provided the cooperative with two bill credits during 2022 due to larger than expected sales to non-members and high commodity prices for Dakota Gas Company. The bill credits will allow us to move revenue deferral dollars we expected to use in 2022 to 2023. These dollars will allow us to meet our financial ratios in 2023, but we will need to make changes in rates in the near future. Another item that has allowed us to keep rates constant in 2023, is that we are expecting wholesale purchased power costs to remain constant in 2023.

The National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, NRUCFC, will be presenting the results of our recent revenue requirement, cost of service, and rate study to the board in January. This will guide us as we look at any rate changes in the near future.

Operation crews will continue to be busy in 2023 as they complete line inspection, maintenance, and construction projects throughout the area. The lineman will complete yearly overhead line and 60 miles of underground line inspections, remove for maintenance 140 oil circuit reclosers, update system maps, complete sectionalizing recommendations and trim trees during the winter months or during the time that doesn't allow new construction to happen.

We are planning \$2,153,000 in construction projects during the upcoming construction season. Projects include replacing overhead lines to underground lines to improve safety, construction of 27 new services, 200 pole replacements, 8 miles of underground line replacement and 4 miles of additional underground line to reach the new Marble Substation. The projects will replace existing lines to improve reliability across the system.

In addition to our own crews, we will contract with outside contractors to repair and refill 140 oil circuit reclosers, complete pole inspections in Lyons, Sodus and Monroe Townships, locate underground lines, provide safety meetings, right of way spraying in Lincoln County, and testing of cooperative and personal protective equipment.

We are seeing long lead times and increased prices on nearly all of the materials and equipment used to build and maintain the distribution lines that serve our member-owners. We encourage members that are looking at building projects in 2023 to contact us as soon as possible.

December Weather

The week of December 12th brought ice, snow, and extremely cold weather to the area. The ice and wind caused us to lose nearly 75 poles (57 three phase and 28 single phase as of December 21st). Crews from Nobles and Redwood Electric Cooperative's were able to bring in poles and materials to help with the restoration efforts on December 15th. We are very fortunate to have neighbors that are will to send crews to help when we are in need and our crews will be happy to return the favor when it happens in their area as well. Thank you to all the crews and the patience of our members as crews work during the extreme December weather conditions.

East River also lost a transmission pole south of the Marble Substation which caused a 5 hour outage to all members served off of that substation. East River crews experienced travel difficulties and iced up equipment while they worked on switching their network to bring in power from the north. Thank you to the East River crews that worked through the difficult conditions and our members for their patience.

The snow and drifts are getting deep, so we want to remind everyone to be careful when they are moving snow or out snowmobiling or enjoying the snow by watching out for guy wires and electrical cabinets that could be buried in the snow. Most of the cabinets will have a flag attached to them and the guy wires will have a bright yellow cover. In some instances, the flags or covers may be damaged. Please let us know if you observe a cabinet without a flag or guy wire without a cover and we can schedule a time to get one installed.

Please stay tuned to our newsletter as we look to post upcoming member meetings and director candidate opportunities and requirements.

YEAR-TO-DATE COMPARISON

	Oct.- 2021	Oct.- 2022
Total Revenue	\$8,613,309	\$8,965,088
Cost of Power	\$4,937,100	\$4,968,539
Operating Expenses	\$3,380,982	\$3,701,157
Operating Margins	\$295,227	\$295,392
KWH's Purchased	79,009,880	83,031,326
Services in Place	4,133	4,122
Miles of Line	1,671	1,671
Revenue per Mile	\$5,155	\$5,368

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

LYON-LINCOLN ELECTRIC

(ISSN 1540-6989)

Board of Directors

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

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 are:
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM, Mon. thru Fri.

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Jessica Gums, Editor

Thinking about running for the LLEC Board?

Here are some things to consider:

Every year, Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative holds District meetings in each of the three director districts. The meetings are held to nominate two individuals from each district to represent the district on the ballot that will be voted on at the cooperative's annual meeting by the entire membership. You will be receiving district meeting notices in March to let you know where your meeting is located. So, if you are interested in being nominated for a director seat, please contact the office and we will give your name to the nominating committee.

To let prospective board members know what commitments and expectations are to be held if they are elected to serve on the cooperative's board of directors, we have provided the following information below.

If you would like a more detailed list of director expectations, please contact the cooperative's office at 800-927-6276.

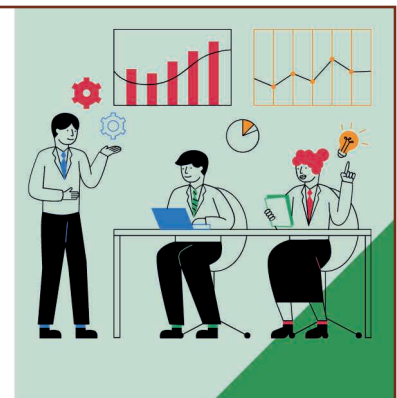


**Lyon-Lincoln Electric
Cooperative, Inc.**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

DIRECTOR EXPECTATIONS

- **Expected to attend regular monthly board meetings (4th Monday of each month)**
- **Expected to attend district, annual and other special meetings as needed**
- **Encouraged to attend director seminars or other outside meetings that provide necessary education on matters relating to financing, electric rates, power requirements and legal issues of concern to rural electric members**
- **Other outside meeting activities may include East River Electric, Minnesota Rural Electric Association, Basin Electric, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, CFC, CoBank, Cooperative Network or Midwest Electric Consumers Association.**
- **The elected director provides an important and necessary link between the member-owners and management staff of the cooperative**
- **The director also serves as an extension of the rights and responsibilities of the cooperative member. Joining with other directors of the cooperative, they try with honesty, consistency, and good conscience to make decisions and set policy for the cooperative which are in the best interest of the cooperative and the members as a whole.**



Check out this handy electrical fire check list

Electrical Fires do not have to happen. Use this checklist to help you find and fix electrical fire hazards in your home before they can start a fire.

Smoke Alarms – Smoke alarms save lives!

- ✓ Do you have enough smoke alarms?
- ✓ Are they working?
- ✓ Do you test them?

Switches and Outlets – Be on the look-out for signs of trouble.

- ✓ Are they working?
- ✓ Do they make crackling, buzzing, or sizzling sounds?
- ✓ Are they warm to the touch?
- ✓ Do plugs fit snugly?

Cords – Never use damaged cords.

- ✓ Is there fraying or cracking?
- ✓ Are they pinched or pierced?
- ✓ Do you use extension cords all the time?
- ✓ Are cords getting enough air?

Lamps and Appliances – Use them safely.

- ✓ Are you using the right bulbs?
- ✓ Do you use space heaters safely?
- ✓ Are appliance cords protected from damage?

Electrical Panel – Know the basics.

- ✓ Do you have AFCIs?
- ✓ Have you tested your AFCIs?
- ✓ Are all circuit breakers and fuses the proper size?



KEEPING UP WITH ELECTRIC METERING TECHNOLOGY



South Dakota's electric cooperatives recently held an electric meter school in Pierre where more than 45 co-op employees learned about the latest technology in residential and industrial kilowatt hour metering processes. Metering is a key component of providing reliable, safe and affordable power to cooperative members all across the state.

To view scenes from this important training program and learn more about how electric cooperatives work to improve our communities, visit Cooperative Connections Plus by scanning the QR code at right.



Take care when flying kites

Jaclyn Koistinen

Jaclyn Koistinen, 11, is already thinking ahead to spring when kite-flying is a popular activity. She warns kids and adults both to take care when putting that kite in the air. Jaclyn is the daughter of Patrick and Jenilee Koistinen, members of H-D Electric 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.



BRUNCH SWEET BRUNCH

CRAB QUICHE**Ingredients:**

- 1 (6 oz.) can crab meat (rinsed and drained)
- 1 c. shredded cheddar cheese
- 1/4 c. chopped green onion (or fresh chives)
- 4 eggs.
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. dry mustard
- 1 c. milk (or half-n-half)

METHOD

Grease or spray pie pan. Combine crab, cheese and onion. Press into pie pan and up the sides. Whisk together the milk, eggs, salt and mustard. Pour mixture into pan. Sprinkle with paprika. Bake in 400 degree oven about 30 minutes or until set. Let set 5 minutes before cutting and serving.

Elaine Rowett, Sturgis

PRALINE PECAN CRUNCH**Ingredients:**

- 1 (21 oz.) box Quaker Oat Squares cereal (about 8 c.)
- 2 c. pecans
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1/2 c. light corn syrup
- 1/4 c. margarine
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda

METHOD

Heat oven to 250 degrees. Mix cereal and pecans in 9x13 inch pan. Set aside. Mix corn syrup, brown sugar and margarine in glass bowl. Microwave on high 1-1/2 minutes. Stir. Microwave 1 to 1-1/2 minutes more or until boiling. Stir in vanilla and baking soda and pour over cereal mixture. Stir to coat evenly. Bake 1 hour, stirring every 20 minutes. Spread on baking sheet to cool. Break into pieces and store in airtight container.

Nancy Stenson, Fort Pierre

CINNAMON APPLE BRUNCH BAKE**Ingredients:**

- 1 can (21 oz.) apple pie filling
- 1/2 cup firmly packed light brown sugar
- 3 tbsp. butter, melted
- 2 tsp. McCormick® Ground Cinnamon
- 1 1/2 tbsp. McCormick® All Natural Pure Vanilla Extract
- 1 can (12 oz.) refrigerated biscuits
- 1/2 cup chopped nuts

METHOD

Preheat oven to 350°F. Mix apple pie filling, brown sugar, butter, cinnamon and vanilla in medium bowl. Spread 1/2 of the apple mixture in 2-quart shallow baking dish. Cut each biscuit into quarters. Arrange biscuit pieces, points up, over apple mixture. Spread remaining apple mixture over biscuits. Sprinkle with nuts. Bake 35 to 40 minutes or until golden brown. Let stand 5 minutes before serving.

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.

November Board Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative was held on Monday, November 28, 2022. Directors present were James Rokeh, Kathy Schreurs, Jared Dritz, Galen Grant, Scott Johnson, Mary Gunnink, Sandy Ludeman, 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. President Ludeman then called the meeting to order and routine business was conducted including approval of the October 24, 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 September 30, 2022. Ms. Jensen then reviewed Lyon-Lincoln Electric's Capital Credit General Retirement for 2022 with a total actual refund of \$653,373.61. Mr. O'Leary then gave the Board an update on the finalization that had been completed with FEMA for the Lincoln County Storm that occurred on May 12, 2022. The amount that was submitted to FEMA was \$63,315.07. FEMA will pay 75% of this amount and the State of Minnesota will pay the remaining 25%. Parker Van Zee from Eide Bailly reviewed the Audit Report thru August 31, 2022 and 2021 that had been completed for Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc. by Eide Bailly. He

reviewed with the Board the Independent Auditor's Report Letter which concerned the report on financial statements, management's responsibility for the financial statements, auditor's responsibility, opinion, report issued in accordance with Government Auditing Standards.

Lyle Lamote, Line Superintendent, advised the Board that on outages for the month of October. He also reviewed with the Board the October Safety Report that was held on October 4, 2022 concerning the topic of Annual Compliance. Brandon Cruz from Star Energy Services was at the Cooperative to do the Annual Compliance. Mr. Lamote then reviewed projects being conducted for Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc. and projects that linemen were presently working on and they were as follows: The linemen were setting poles by Amiret, the 4 miles of 3-phase underground line at the Marble Substation was completed, and EIR finished the OCRs for the Russell Substation.

Brian Jeremiason, Manager of Marketing and External Relations, reviewed with the board his report which included information on the Cooperative's Tesla Model Y being utilized as part of the Co-op's in the Classroom Program and provided an update on LED and heat pump rebates to date.

General Manager Timothy O'Leary then gave his manager's report; some of the items reviewed were as follows: The Board reviewed the October power bill and sales to members and compared those figures to budgeted

amounts, looked at line loss for the system, and informed the Board of a call with CFC regarding the Revenue Requirements Study and discussed the next steps in the Cost-of-Service Study. Mr. O'Leary reported on East River's MAC meeting that he attended, then reviewed with the board upcoming meetings, events, and notices.

The Board reviewed the October Cyber Security Program Report, discussed the Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. Annual Meeting, and reviewed the Director Districts for District 1, District 2, and District 3. The Board then recessed for lunch at 11:59 o'clock A.M. and reconvened at 12:32 o'clock P.M. During the lunch recess the Board viewed the East River Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. video report which included the Basin Summary. The directors reported on training sessions and meetings attended and reviewed and discussed upcoming meetings and educational workshops to be held.

With there being no further business to come before the board, a motion was made and carried to adjourn at 2:04 o'clock P.M.

November Outage Report

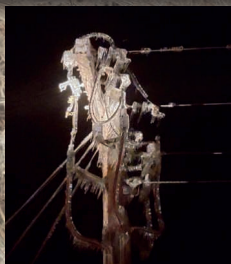
(10 or more consumers)

11/08/22- 47 consumers were off 2 hours and 50 minutes in the Townships of Fairview and Grandview. The cause was a bad arrester on riser pole.

Mid-December freeze out

Old Man Winter blew into Lyon-Lincoln Electric's service territory the week of December 12th. A major winter storm moved through Southwest Minnesota, with a mix of snow, ice and wind, leaving our system vulnerable to their effects. LLEC crews, along with neighboring cooperatives Redwood Electric Cooperative and Nobles Electric, battled the wintry mix and long hours as they worked to replace broken poles, damaged equipment, and restore power to all services.

No matter the weather forecast, our crews will be ready. We encourage you to follow our Facebook page and website for timely updates and important information. As a friendly reminder, if you need to report an outage or an emergency contact our office at 800-927-6276.



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, Camille Snobl & Kyle Magnuson 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

Do you have a home office? Set equipment like printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use. In addition to saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life. Another way to save in the home office is to use energy efficient lamps for task lighting. Small lamps use less energy than whole-room lighting.

Source: energy.gov



Mitchell Tech facilities were used for the annual electric cooperative rubber gloving school last summer. *Photo by Billy Gibson*

Mitchell Tech prepares linemen to deliver the 'right stuff' for members

Billy Gibson

editor@sdrea.coop

It's rare that you find a cooperative lineman in the state of South Dakota who hasn't been through the training program at Mitchell Technical College.

Mike Puetz doesn't remember all the names and faces, but his mentorship has played a key role in turning loads of wannabe linemen into highly skilled craftsmen over the past 25 years.

Puetz serves as head of the lineman training department at MTC and is giving some thought to hanging up his hooks in the next year or so. When he reflects on his teaching career, he swells with pride at how the program has improved exponentially over time.

There have been many milestones in the emergence of the lineman education program rising to become one of the best of its kind in the country.

Back in 2018, for instance, the power line construction and maintenance school was named winner of the inaugural Siemens-Aspen Community College

STEM award. The honor is given by the Aspen Institute to eight colleges nationwide that provide "outstanding preparation" for students in high-demand jobs and provides selected schools with \$50,000 to apply toward scholarships and other forms of financial assistance.

"That was definitely a shock," Puetz said. "There's a lot of good programs out there, and for us to be chosen for that prestigious award was unbelievable. We work hard to be able to say we have a very strong program, and that just gave us some validation that we're moving in the right direction. It's icing on the cake."

Mark Patterson, manager of loss control services at the South Dakota Rural Electric Association based in Pierre, has worked with Puetz for 15 years. He's hard-pressed to find many co-op linemen who haven't trained under Puetz.

"Mike has been around so long, and I'd estimate about 80 percent of the electric co-op linemen out there today have been trained by him," Patterson said. "They do a fantastic job of teaching the fundamentals, whether a student ends

up at a municipal, an investor-owned or a co-op. And our superintendents do an exceptional job of working with the graduates to help them gain the field experience they need to serve our members with a mindset of safety and efficiency."

Over the years, Puetz said, MTC has not only distinguished itself among similar programs but has also greatly expanded its array of academic and technical career tracks. There are tracks for construction and manufacturing, business and service industries, health sciences, engineering technologies and agriculture and transportation.



Sioux Valley Energy's Cole Anderson learned his trade at MTC.



At left, Mike Puetz has trained hundreds of future linemen. Above, Mitchell Technical College is well equipped to give electric linemen the real-world skills they need to succeed. *Photo by Billy Gibson*

Cole Anderson is a lineman at Sioux Valley Energy based in Madison. He graduated from the training program four years ago and recalls why he selected MTC to learn the ropes of line work.

"I had an uncle who was a lineman in another state and I knew that's what I always wanted to do," said Anderson, a graduate of Chester Area High School. "I started looking at schools and noticed they had limited positions open and they were always taken very quickly. That told me how good their reputation was."

Anderson received his certification in May of 2018, joined the cooperative as a 1,000 hour lineman, and eventually worked his way into a journeyman position.

Oddly enough, he met Puetz a year before he enrolled at MTC. While still in high school, Anderson was on a tour of the facility when he happened to encounter Puetz in the hallway. The two shook hands and after a brief conversation, Puetz said: "If I don't see you here next year, I'm coming to track you down."

Anderson said he finds himself frequently relying on his lineman education and remembering the things Puetz taught him, including those lessons that don't necessarily have to do with line work.

"I think he's awesome. He's big on work ethic and he always told us that no matter what we did in life, a good work ethic will allow you to accomplish your goals and stand out from the rest," Anderson said. "He also had a thing about belts. You had to wear a belt. If he saw you and you didn't have one on, he'd take his off and give it to you."

Anderson and his wife, Sarah, recently built a new home outside of Madison and are expecting a baby boy in March. He said he's grateful for the outstanding

instruction he received during his education phase and is also thankful to have a position at an outstanding organization within the electric cooperative system.

"I just feel fortunate. It's been a great experience all the way through," he said. "I think it's a privilege to be able to do a job I enjoy and to work with professionals who know their craft, and an organization that is focused on delivering the highest quality service to its members."

For more information about MTC, visit www.mitchelltech.edu.



MTC is a prime training ground for future co-op linemen. *Photo by Billy Gibson*



Lyle Lamote

Line
Superintendent

Winter storms can bring bitterly cold temperatures, high winds, and even ice and snow. Such weather can cause hazardous road conditions, downed power lines, and extended power outages. To prepare yourself for winter storms, make sure to pay attention to weather forecasts and understand the difference between the warnings provided by the National Weather Service.

“Heavy snow and accumulating ice can easily bring tree limbs down onto power lines, cutting off power to homes and businesses,” says Lyle Lamote, Lyon-Lincoln Electric’s Line Superintendent.

If power lines go down because of a winter storm and the electricity goes out, first notify us at the Co-op of the outage. Have an emergency kit prepared for your home before a storm strikes to help you and your family weather the storm and the outage safely and comfortably. Some of the items this kit should include are bottled water, non-perishable food, flashlights, a weather radio and extra batteries.

If you are using an alternative heating source during a power outage, be sure to know how to use it safely and that you have all supplies for it gathered. To help you and your family stay warm during an outage, dress warmly, cover windows at night, close off unneeded rooms, and place draft blocks at the bottom of doors. Douglas Groenhoff - 662001.

When the power is restored, there will be a power surge. To protect your circuits and appliances, switch

off lights and unplug appliances. Leave one light switched on as a quick reminder that the power is restored.

Due to the potential for a winter storm to bring down power lines, individuals should only venture outside if absolutely necessary. Downed power lines could be submerged in snow and ice, making them difficult to see. Therefore, stay indoors if possible. If you must go outside, use caution and treat all downed and hanging lines as if they are energized. Stay away, warn others to stay away, and immediately contact us at Lyon-Lincoln Electric.

“A power line does not need to be sparking or arcing to be energized,” Lamote says. “It’s best to assume all low and downed lines are energized and dangerous. Lines that appear to be dead can become energized as crews work to restore power, or sometimes from improper use of emergency generators.”

If travel is necessary, be especially cautious driving, and keep an emergency kit in your vehicle. Its supplies should include a windshield scraper, a first aid kit, a cell phone charging adaptor, booster cables, a blanket, and a flashlight with extra batteries.

Never drive over a downed line because that could pull down the pole and other equipment, causing additional hazards. If you see a downed line, do not get out of your car. The safest place is inside the vehicle.

We hope you will not have to endure an extended power outage this winter. If you do, a little knowledge and preparation can make the experience less stressful.

For more information on electrical safety and weathering winter storms, visit SafeElectricity.org.



UNDERSTANDING WINTER WEATHER

Winter storms can bring bitterly cold temperatures, high winds, and even ice and snow. Such weather can cause hazardous road conditions, downed power lines, and extended power outages. To prepare yourself for winter storms, make sure to pay attention to weather forecasts and understand the difference between the warnings provided by the National Weather Service.

WARNINGS: TAKE ACTION!



BLIZZARD WARNING

Advise those in the affected areas to seek refuge immediately due to high levels of snow, strong winds of over 35 mph or more, and resulting near-zero visibility to those traveling on the road.

Falling and blowing snow with strong winds and poor visibilities are likely, leading to whiteout conditions making travel extremely difficult. Do not travel. If you must travel, have a winter survival kit with you. If you get stranded, stay with your vehicle and wait for help to arrive.

WINTER STORM WARNING

Warnings Issued when hazardous winter weather in the form of heavy snow, freezing rain, or sleet or a combination of these hazards is coming or occurring. The warnings are issued 12 to 24 hours prior to the storm. Those in the range of the warning should be mindful of the impending conditions and consider canceling plans to travel outside of the home as travel may become difficult or impossible in some situations.

ICE STORM WARNING

Are usually issued for ice accumulation of around 1/4 inch or more. This amount of ice accumulation will make travel dangerous or impossible and likely lead to snapped power lines and falling tree branches. Travel is strongly discouraged.

WIND CHILL WARNING

Are issued for a combination of very cold air and strong winds that will create dangerously low wind chill values. This level of wind chill will result in frostbite and lead to hypothermia if precautions are not taken. Avoid going outdoors and wear warm protective clothing if you must venture outside.

WATCHES: BE PREPARED



WINTER STORM WATCH

Signify that stormy conditions, including heavy snow, freezing rain, or sleet, are likely within the next few days. You should be alert, as this means adverse conditions could begin within the next 12 to 48 hours.

WIND CHILL WATCH

Are issued when there is the potential for a combination of extremely cold air and strong winds to create dangerously low wind chill values.

ADVISORIES: BE AWARE



WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY

Are issued when snow, blowing snow, ice, sleet, or a combination of these wintry elements is expected but conditions should not be hazardous enough to meet warning criteria. Be prepared for winter driving conditions and possible travel difficulties. Use caution when driving.

WIND CHILL ADVISORY

Are issued when low wind chill temperatures are expected but will not reach local warning criteria. Extremely cold air and strong winds will combine to generate low wind chill readings. If you must venture outdoors, take precautions against frostbite and hypothermia.

For more information on Winter weather safety, visit [weather.gov/winter](https://www.weather.gov/winter)

NATIVE TOURISM

Native Tourism Alliance shines spotlight on tribal nation culture

Billy Gibson

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

Sure, many of the 15 million travelers who visit South Dakota each year may have marveled at the Mount Rushmore Memorial, snapped a selfie at Wall Drug or beheld the fast-moving waters in Falls Park.

But how many of them have witnessed the whirling splendor of a wacipi, the traditional Native American celebration of life? How many have paused to watch a Native artist crafting a colorful piece of beaded jewelry?

Several years ago, a blind spot was noticed in the Department of Tourism's efforts to attract visitors – not much attention was being focused on the state's nine federally-recognized tribal nations.

In an effort to address that oversight, the department teamed up with the George Washington University International Institute of Tourism Studies

and the tribes to develop a sustainable indigenous tourism industry by letting visitors know there are many points of interest available for exploration far beyond the beaten paths.

The five-year plan has been described as a “groundbreaking endeavor” and is one of the first initiatives of its kind under the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience (NATIVE) Act and was unveiled in August of 2021. More than 60 state, local and federal organizations collaborated to formulate the strategy as a catalyst for economic growth.

“I think the Alliance is a potential revenue source for our tribes, and it's a way for us to generate income, alleviate poverty and help conserve our natural resources and culture,” said Dew Bad Warrior-Ganje, a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe.

The plan identified five guiding principles:

Native Tourism Alliance

CHEYENNE RIVER SIOUX TRIBE

PO Box 590, Eagle Butte, SD 57625
605-964-4155

CROW CREEK SIOUX TRIBE

PO Box 50, Fort Thompson, SD 57339
605-245-2221

FLANDREAU SANTEE SIOUX TRIBE

PO Box 283, Flandreau, SD 57028-0283
605-997-3891

LOWER BRULE SIOUX TRIBE

PO Box 187, Lower Brule, SD 57548
605-473-5561

ONGLALA SIOUX TRIBE

PO Box 2070, Pine Ridge, SD 57770
605-867-5821

ROSEBUD SIOUX TRIBE

PO Box 430, Rosebud, SD 57570
605-747-2381

SISSETON WAHPETON OYATE

PO Box 509, Agency Village, SD 57262
605-698-3911

STANDING ROCK SIOUX TRIBE

PO Box D, Fort Yates, ND 58538
701-854-8500

YANKTON SIOUX TRIBE

PO Box 1153, Wagner, SD 57380
605-384-3641

- Unity - Reunification of the Očhéthi Šakówi Oyate through shared history, commonalities, and collaboration on developing regional tourism.
- Preservation - Promotion of art and culture in order to enhance self-identity and pride as well as preserve the culture, including language and traditional knowledge.
- Woksape - Recognition of Elders as the driving force of traditional knowledge and wisdom in the development of regional tourism and educating the youth to be stewards of the language and culture.
- Education - Creation of cross-cultural bridges and educating the World about Native American communities.
- Self-sufficiency - Development of opportunities for Tribal Nations to become self-sufficient and create pathways to enhance livelihood.

Organizers gathered together and developed detailed goals and methods to achieve those goals. Planners were forced to start from the ground floor as not much data existed to determine the present status of Indigenous tourism.

They initially identified a “rich mix” of 145 existing natural, cultural and heritage attractions and special events to promote, in addition to potential agritourism initiatives.

Nearing the halfway point in the plan’s prescribed timetable, stakeholders report substantial progress and greater interest from visitors seeking an authentic cultural experience.

Calvin Bloemendaal, who has represented the South Dakota Department of Tourism in the Alliance from its inception, pointed out several specific measures of success.

Chief among them is the creation of a nine-day motorcoach tour of tribal territory that starts in Rapid City and terminates in Bismarck. The tour, coordinated with assistance by the tourism department, will begin this summer and will be operated through Destination America and Trafalgar Tours.

“It’s one of the first tours of its kind,” Bloemendaal said. “Destination America caters to an upscale clientele of individuals who like to travel a lot and have been to a lot of places. They’re looking for something unique and interesting they haven’t seen before.”

He also mentioned the progress that has been made in building a network of support for tribal tourism and the development of themed destination experiences.

There’s also a marketing guide that is part of the department’s general ongoing promotional efforts. More than 30,000 of the helpful guides were printed and are being distributed at visitor centers, trade shows and other industry events.

“I was at a trade show in Denver and people were extremely interested in this idea and gravitating toward it. The guide is an effective tool that inspires people to visit,” he said. “We’re making a lot of headway as far as putting together pitches and itineraries to attract more tour operators to the state.”



Be prepared: Five tips to make your home more secure



These days, soaking in the daily news can make the world feel like a scary place. We have home security systems, smart doorbells and smart locks, which are good things. At the other end of the spectrum, our close-knit communities can feel safe, which can lead to complacency. Many of us can recall growing up in a home where the doors were never locked, and it felt like everybody knew everybody.

In either case, assessing your home's overall security (or lack thereof) is a good idea. Here are five safety tips to help make your home more secure:

1. Assess entry points.

Take a tour of the outside of your home and think like a burglar. Consider which windows and doors would be easy to break or climb through. Then, look through the windows and see if expensive items are on display. Make sure each window and door can lock and draw curtains or close blinds when you are not home.

2. Lock second-floor windows and doors.

"Second-story men" are burglars who prefer to break into a home on an upper story because they know that most homeowners do not tend to lock upstairs windows and doors (e.g., the door off a deck). Be sure to lock them before you leave. In addition, lock up any ladders you keep outside.

3. Lock the door to the garage.

Although it is easy to lock when you are inside your house but more of a pain to unlock when returning home, always lock the door between your garage and your home. Many people do not lock this door when they are away since the garage door is shut. However, a garage door is relatively easy to open. Home invaders can simply pry it open or use a factory-setting opener.

4. Update your garage code.

Change your garage code at random intervals instead of on a predictable schedule, such as when the clock changes due to daylight saving time. Ronald Skorczewski - 252200 (Moving the clock up or back an hour is a great time to check the batteries in smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms, however.)

5. Do not forget sliding doors.

A bar inserted at the base of a sliding door is an inexpensive safeguard. This ensures that sliding glass windows cannot be opened or jimmied without breaking the glass. This will frustrate invaders and the sound of breaking glass can buy you time to call for help.

Taking the time to think like a burglar and checking your home's entry points can help keep you and your family safe.

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

REMINDER
February 10, 2023
Deadline

Now Accepting Scholarship Applications for the 2023 year

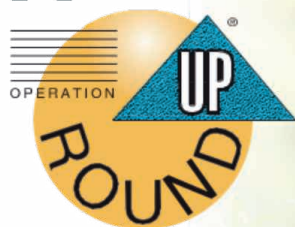
The scholarship application can be found on the Lyon-Lincoln Electric website by visiting <https://llec.coop/llec-scholarships>

Applications can also be requested from the co-op office or through your high school guidance counselor.

OPERATION ROUNDUP

TURN YOUR

COINS INTO
CHANGE



NOVEMBER 2022 GRANTEES

Tracy Area Medical Foundation

\$500 towards an ice compression system for the Therapy Department

Lyon County Salvation Army

\$1,500 towards the Red Kettle Campaign/ emergency assistance for people in crisis

Junior Achievement North-Lyon County

\$1,500 towards Junior Achievement curriculum

Lincoln Co. Horticulture Society

\$500 towards Lincoln County Fairgrounds flower garden

Avera Tyler

\$2,000 towards the purchase of enhanced EMS supplies/ new pagers

SWWC Foundation for Innovation in Education

\$1,000 towards the SWWC Student Enrichment Program

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.

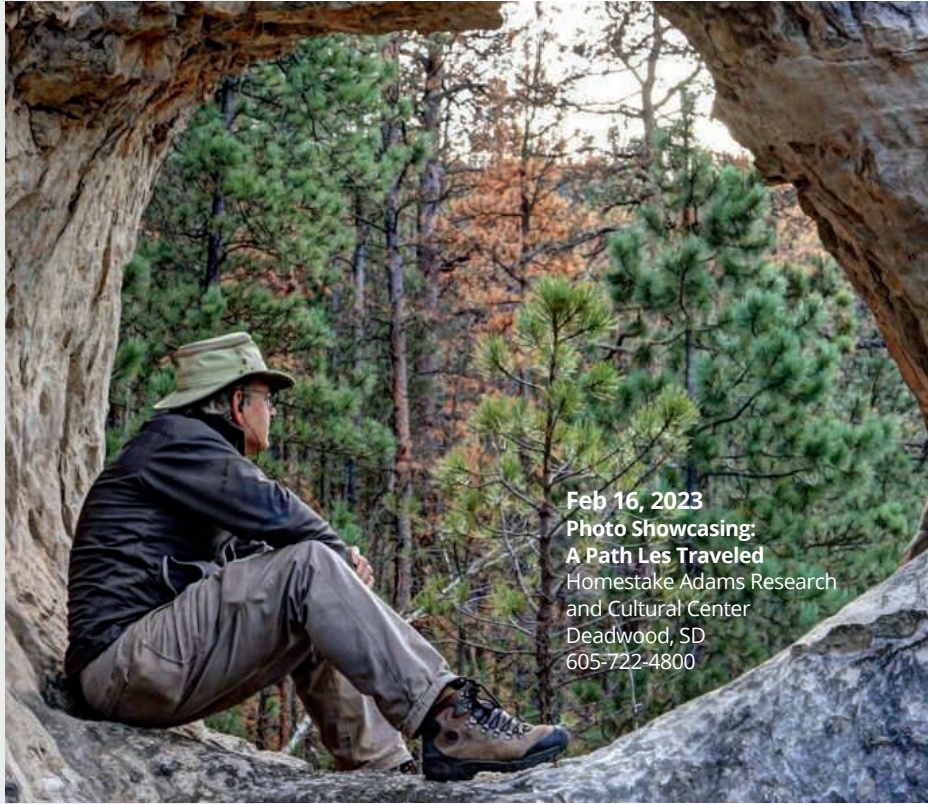
NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Lyon-Lincoln Electric Trust, Inc. was held November 30th, 2022. An election of officers was held and the results were as follows by unanimous ballot: President, Heidi Fier; Vice-President, Michelle Williams; Secretary-Treasurer, Elizabeth Taylor. The board then reviewed applications and grant requests were approved. The next meeting will be held March 14th, 2023. Applications for grants can be found at www.llec.coop under the "Your Cooperative" tab.

The next round of applications will be due March 3rd, 2023.

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



Feb 16, 2023
Photo Showcasing:
A Path Les Traveled
 Homestake Adams Research
 and Cultural Center
 Deadwood, SD
 605-722-4800

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.

FEB. 3-4
TOOTSIE

Show Dates:
 Feb. 3, 7:30 p.m.
 Feb. 4, 2 p.m.
 Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m.
 Washington Pavilion
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-367-6000

FEB. 4
Lake Hendricks Fishing Derby
 9 a.m. registration
 Hendricks City Public
 Lake Access
 Hendricks, MN
 507-828-2113

FEB. 4
James River Gobblers
Hunting Heritage Banquet
 Highland Conference Center
 Mitchell, SD
 605-999-3208

FEB. 10-11
Mardi Gras Weekend
 Mardi Gras Events & Parade
 Sponsored by Deadwood
 Chamber of Commerce
 Main Street
 Deadwood, SD

FEB. 11
Songs of Romance
 7:30 p.m.
 Washington Pavilion
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-367-6000

FEB. 16
Photo Showcasing:
A Path Les Traveled
 12 p.m.-1 p.m.
 Homestake Adams Research
 and Cultural Center
 Deadwood, SD
 605-722-4800

FEB. 24
Calamity's Shindig
 6 p.m.-9 p.m.
 Homestake Adams Research
 and Cultural Center
 Deadwood, SD
 605-722-4800

FEB. 28
BIG Career & Internship Fair
 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
 Ramkota Hotel
 Sioux Falls, SD

MARCH 4
Annual Ag Day
 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
 Washington Pavilion
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-367-6000

MARCH 18
Shamrock Shuffle Fun Run
 12 p.m.
 Main Street
 Presho, SD

MARCH 25-26
Greater Sioux Falls Model
Train Show
 Multi-Cultural Center
 Sioux Falls, SD

MARCH 30
"The Wildest Banquet
Auction in the Midwest"
 5:30 p.m.
 South Dakota Military
 Heritage Alliance
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-339-1203

APRIL 1
Mozart Requiem
 7:30 p.m.
 Washington Pavilion
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-367-6000

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