

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



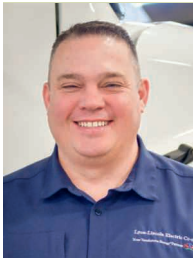
Small Town, Big Dreams

Tucker Kraft's
Road to the NFL
Pages 8-9

Electrical Safety in
Action
Pages 12-13

What's the holdup?

Spring Season & Electrical Materials



Tim O'Leary
General Manager

The calendar says that the season changed to Spring on March 20th, but someone forgot to tell Mother Nature as the cold weather, snow, and wind has continued to come in waves.

We are waiting for the snow to clear and things to dry up to start our construction season. We mention this every year, but this year it is essential. If you have a project that you may need to upgrade your service connection or to three phase power, please let us know as soon as possible.

We continue to see long lead times on distribution cable and other electrical materials. Price increases continue and are nearing a 32% increase over the last couple of years. This means that each project will cost more and may be delayed due to supply chain issues.

We are still working on the damage from the December storm and we have an application into the state for them to consider having us put 4 miles of damaged line underground. We have seen damage in the same area on the Buffalo Ridge and this improved project would help improve reliability in the area.

The December storm was the third storm that received either a state or federal (FEMA) damage declaration in 2022. The May 12th and 30th storms were federally declared storms and we were able to have expenses from the two storms reimbursed at 100% (75% FEMA and 25% State of MN). The December storm will be reimbursed at 75% since it received a state declaration.

We understand that outages can be very frustrating, and we do our best to avoid them as much as possible, but sometimes the weather has a different idea. One thing that we do emphasize is that everyone at the cooperative needs to focus on Safety 1st and Restoration 2nd. Even with ideal weather conditions our line crews work in extremely dangerous situations.

When weather conditions are bad, it is even more important that they work safely so that they can get home to their families at the end of the day.

"I would like to thank the membership for their patience and understanding during extended outage events over the past year. I would also like to thank our line crews and operations staff for going out in the severe weather conditions to restore the power to their neighbors and all the employees for their efforts to answer questions from the membership during the restoration efforts."

The cooperative held its yearly district meetings the week of April 10th and we hope that you had time to join us for the meeting in your district. During the district meetings, we have a short business meeting where the members of the district voted on director candidates to represent the district on the annual meeting ballot and then cooperative staff gave a presentation on happenings at your local electric cooperatives. We like to think of the meeting as a coffee shop conversation where there is an interaction between the membership and cooperative staff.

Please save the date of June 7th and join us for this year's annual meeting. We will have the Lincoln County Pork Producers making their famous pork chops and sides will be provided by the Country House restaurant from Lake Benton.

YEAR-TO-DATE COMPARISON		
	Jan.- 2022	Jan.- 2023
Total Revenue	\$1,151,153	\$1,086,248
Cost of Power	\$372,923	\$431,542
Operating Expenses	\$417,173	\$376,482
Operating Margins	\$361,057	\$278,224
KWH's Purchased	11,875,506	\$1,086,248
Services in Place	4,130	\$431,542
Miles of Line	1,671	\$376,482
Revenue per Mile	\$689	\$278,224

**COOPERATIVE
CONNECTIONS**

**LYON-LINCOLN
ELECTRIC**

(ISSN 1540-6989)

Board of Directors

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, Minnesota

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
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 7:00 AM – 4:30 PM Mon. thru Fri.

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 Free 1-800-927-6276; Fax (507) 247-5508.

Jessica Gums, Editor



A STORMS FURY:

**STAY SAFE DURING
AND AFTER**

Do not plug a portable generator into a wall outlet and never use one in an enclosed area, garage or carport. Place it at least 20 feet from all doors and windows.

Make sure you have carbon monoxide (CO) alarms installed throughout your home and ensure they are in working order. Using a portable generator in an enclosed space or too close to a structure can cause death from CO poisoning.

Read and follow all manufacturer’s instructions when using a generator. Remember to have it inspected regularly and keep it well-maintained.

Once the storm has cleared, it is tempting to rush outside, assess the damage and start cleaning up. However, do not go outside after (or during) a storm if there is a power outage.



There could be a downed power line you cannot see, which can cause electrocution. The downed line could be covered by water, snow, tree limbs or other debris.

In case there are downed lines, wait until power is restored before you go outside. David Dybsetter - 63900. If you can see from inside your home that a power line is down, call 9-1-1 or your electric utility to report it.

Once it is safe to go outside, be careful when cleaning up debris. Do not trim trees/branches within 10 feet of a power line. Be sure to look up and look out for overhead power lines before carrying a ladder. Carry a ladder horizontally instead of vertically.



Learn more at SafeElectricity.org

Workplace Safety: Avoid Common Electrical Hazards

Contact with or exposure to electricity is one of the leading causes of workplace fatalities. Follow these tips to avoid electrical injury:

Overhead Power Line Contact

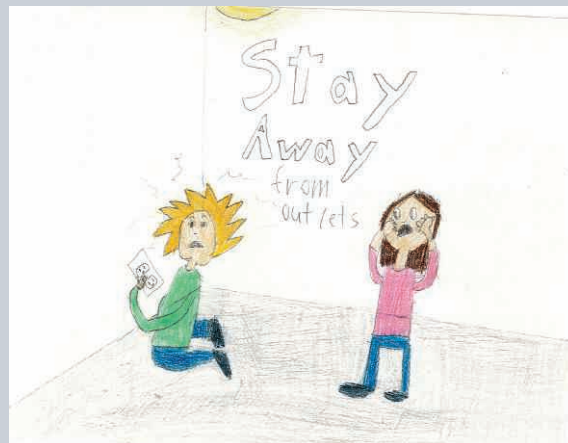
- 46% of all electrical fatalities are caused by contact with overhead power lines
- 57% of overhead power line fatalities were in non-electrical occupations
- Always assume all lines are live and dangerous
- Always look up; be aware of overhead power lines
- Keep yourself and equipment at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines
- Do not touch anything that is in contact with overhead power lines
- Carry equipment, including ladders, horizontally to avoid contact with power lines
- Stay at least 35 feet away from downed lines

Accidental Contact with Energized Conductors or Parts

- 45% of all electrical fatalities were caused by working on or near energized conductors or parts
- 74% of these fatalities were in electrical occupations
- Always test for voltage before you perform work. Be sure to also test the area around the equipment you are working on to avoid accidental contact with energized equipment
- Always perform a site and risk assessment before conducting work. Hazards exist on and near the equipment you are working on
- When possible, turn off power before conducting work
- Follow proper lockout / tagout procedures
- Avoid complacency. Every job is different, make sure you follow the hierarchy of controls and other electrical safety work practices on every job

Electrical Safety in the Workplace

- 69% of all electrical fatalities involved non-electrical occupations
- Know when to say when. If you feel unsafe performing a job, say something
- Be aware of potential electrical hazards in the workplace. Avoid electrical rooms and other potentially hazardous areas
- All electrical work should be completed by qualified workers with proper training
- GFCI protection should be installed where electricity and water may come in contact
- Five sources accounted for 92% of all electrical fatalities
 - Overhead power lines
 - Unexpected contact with electricity
 - Working on energized parts
 - Ground faults
 - Damaged wiring



Power Line Safety

Serena Dekrey, age 9

Serena Dekrey, age 9, gives wise advice to readers on electrical safety. She cautions us to be careful around power outlets. Serena is the daughter of Don and Cassandra Dekrey, members of Sioux Valley Energy based in Colman, S.D.

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.

COMFORTING CASSEROLES

PHEASANT CASSEROLE

Ingredients:

- 1 pheasant
- 1/2 cup melted butter
- Bacon grease
- 1/2 cup flour
- 4 cups milk
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper

METHOD

Mix flour, salt, pepper, and roll pieces of pheasant in the mixture. Brown in bacon grease. In separate pan, mix butter, milk, and 6 T flour. Stir and bring to a boil. Pour over the pheasant that had been put in a baking dish with bacon laid over it. Bake until tender.

Gail Klipfel
Ellendale, N.D.

TACO CASSEROLE

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 pounds ground beef
- 1 package taco seasoning mix
- 1 can (16 ounces) pinto beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 can (15 ounces) tomato sauce
- 1 can (11 ounces) whole kernel corn, drained
- 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
- 1 cup crushed tortilla chips

METHOD

Preheat oven to 400°F. Brown meat in large skillet on medium-high heat. Drain fat. Stir in seasoning mix, beans, tomato sauce and corn. Bring to boil. Reduce heat to low; simmer 5 minutes. Spoon into 2-quart baking dish. Sprinkle with cheese and tortilla chips. Bake 5 to 10 minutes or until cheese is melted. Serve with assorted toppings, if desired.

mccormick.com

CHICKEN, BROCCOLI, AND RICE CASSEROLE

Ingredients:

- 1 lb. chicken tenders
- 1 cup long grain rice
- 1 1/2 cups chicken stock
- 1 cup milk
- 2 tsps. garlic powder
- 2 tsps. onion powder
- 1 1/2 tsps. whole rosemary leaves, crushed
- 1/2 tsp. ground black pepper
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 2 cups broccoli florets
- 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese

METHOD

Preheat oven to 400°F. Spread chicken and rice in greased 2-quart baking dish. Mix stock, milk and seasonings in medium bowl with wire whisk until well blended. Slow pour over chicken and rice. Cover with foil. Bake 45 minutes. Remove foil. Stir in broccoli. Sprinkle with cheese. Bake, uncovered, 15 minutes longer or until rice has absorbed all the liquid and broccoli is tender.

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.

February Board Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative was held on Monday, February 27, 2023. Directors present were James Rokeh, Kathy Schreurs, Jared Dritz, Galen Grant, Mary Gunnink, Scott Johnson, Dale Fier, and Mike Longtin. Sandy Ludeman presented a letter to the Board resigning his directorship effective February 25, 2023 which was accepted by the Board at the January 23, 2023 Board Meeting.

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 January 23, 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 December 31, 2022. The Board was presented a letter from the United States Department of Agriculture indicating that Rural Utilities Service approved the amendment of the Revenue Deferral Plan from \$300,000.00 to \$600,000.00 and to have this amount amortized between 2023-2026. The Board then reviewed the 2022 Margin Allocation Estimates and the Margin Stabilization Return provided by East River Electric Power Cooperative, Inc..

Lyle Lamote, Line Superintendent, gave the Outage Report to the Board for the

month of January, 2023. Mr. Lamote also reviewed the January Safety Report. He indicated that Ben Pahl from Terex out of Watertown, South Dakota, came to the headquarters of Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc. to complete the in-service training for the new Terex bucket truck with the cooperative line crew.

Warehouse Coordinator & Work Order Clerk, Al Fischer, together with Lyle Lamote, gave a report concerning vehicle pricing and the inventory update. Mr. Fischer advised the Board that the good news was that Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc. would start the construction season fully stocked with material to complete the planned upcoming construction projects.

Brian Jeremiason, Manager of Marketing and External Relations, reviewed his report with the board, some of the items reviewed were as follows: Mr. Jeremiason reviewed the Annual Distributed Energy Resources Filings, the review of the 2022 Cogeneration Report, provided an update on applications for the Basin/Operation RoundUp Scholarship Programs, EV First Responders Training has received a positive early response, provided an updated version of the Electric Water Heater Pricing Sheet, and then reviewed with the Board the gifts that were going to be available for the 2023 District/Annual Meetings.

General Manager Timothy O'Leary then gave his manager's report; some of the items reviewed were as follows: The Board reviewed the January 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 meeting that he attended. Mr. O'Leary then reviewed with the Board a MREA legislative update, a Nominating Committee update, and shared with the board upcoming meetings, events, and notices.

The Board recessed for lunch at 12:07 P.M. and reconvened at 12:31 P.M. During the lunch recess the Board viewed the East River Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. video report which included the Basin Summary.

The Board then reviewed the January Cyber Security Program Report, 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 1:21 P.M.

February Outage Report

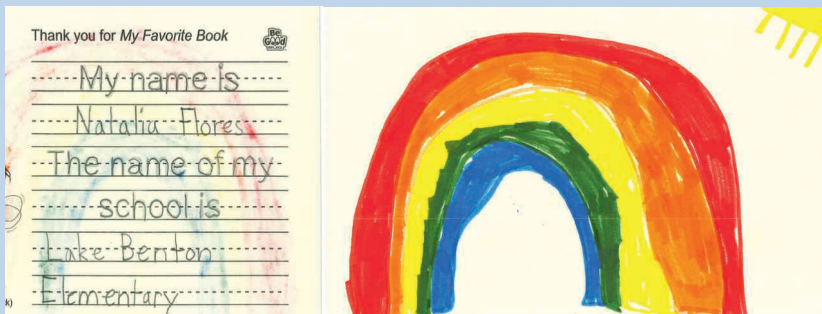
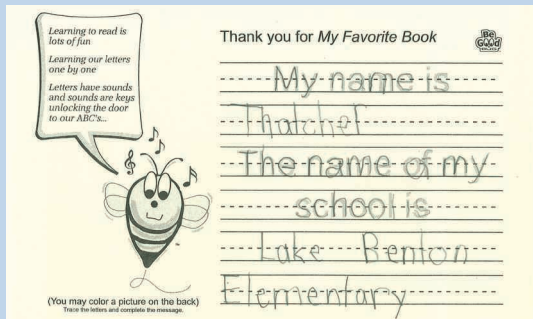
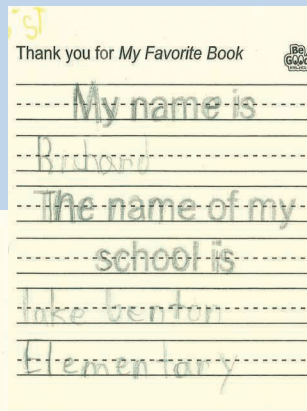
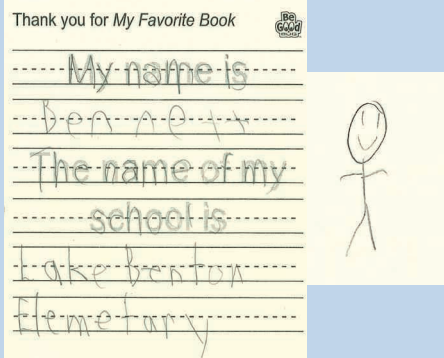
(10 or more consumers)

2/8- 27 consumers were off 1 hour in Drammen and Diamond Lake Townships. The cause was a broken jumper on an Ocr in the Lake Benton sub.

2/27- 20 consumers were off 3 hours and 20 minutes in Drammen and Diamond Lake Townships. The cause was a burnt up terminator on riser pole.



Lyon-Lincoln Electric donates My Favorite Book to children in area schools biennially to help promote being a good steward to not only themselves but also their communities. Pictured are some Thank You's that were recently received from the Lake Benton Public School.



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, Angie Lovre & Matthew Millner 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

The location of your thermostat can impact your HVAC system's ability to maintain an ideal indoor temperature. For maximum accuracy, thermostats should be placed in the center of the home, away from air vents, plumbing pipes and exterior doors. Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your thermostat, which can cause the HVAC to run longer than necessary. Avoid installing thermostats in rooms that tend to feel warmer or colder than the rest of the home. Do not place furniture in front of the thermostat, which can block air flow and result in inaccurate readings.

Source: energy.gov

TUCKER KRAFT



SMALL TOWN, BIG DREAMS

Kraft refuses to go down amongst a group of Redbird defenders.

Tucker Kraft's Road to the NFL

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sirea.coop

With a population of 500 residents, Timber Lake, S.D., may seem similar to many small-town communities across the state. The town is known for its scenic beauty, outdoor recreational opportunities, and rich history. However, what really sets Timber Lake apart from the rest is a homegrown NFL prospect: Tucker Kraft.

At an impressive 6-foot-5 and weighing 254 pounds, Kraft has proven himself to be South Dakota's latest up-and-coming football star. Ask any fan of college football and they will tell you that Kraft has the size and skill set to make waves on a professional level.

Luckily, Kraft's talents haven't gone unnoticed. During his latest breakout season as SDSU's All-American tight end, Kraft left an impression on NFL

scouts with his ability to outrun opponents, snatch incredible catches and charge through multiple tackles. A top contributor in nearly every game, Kraft led the Jackrabbits to their first-ever FCS National Championship. The historic season quickly cemented Kraft's place as a top tight end in the NFL Draft.

Kraft recalls the moment everything fell into place: "I just realized that when I had the ball, no one could touch me," he said. "I knew after that season that I was completely capable of playing with the pros."

Timber Lake High School head football coach Ryan Gimbel says he is not surprised to see his former stu-



Tucker Kraft

dent and player on the doorstep of the NFL. Countless hours in the weight room and gym, he said, revealed Kraft to be a student-athlete with incredible drive.

“Seeing the raw natural talent of Tucker spoke for itself and what he could accomplish, but he also had the dedication to take it to that next level,” said Gimbel. “To me, it wasn’t a surprise, and that was our running joke when he left high school – ‘I’ll see you playing on Sundays.’”

Kraft’s journey to the NFL, however, was not without its fair share of adversity. Growing up in Timber Lake, Kraft lost his father to a plane crash when he was only 12 years old. Kraft overcame the childhood tragedy with his two brothers and mother by working tirelessly on and off the field. Honoring his father’s legacy, Kraft followed in his father’s footsteps to become an All-American college star like his father had done before him.

“My brothers took a big part in raising me after my dad died,” said Kraft. “My mom, my aunts and uncles all played a role, but I pride myself on getting a lot of things done independently.”

Steely determination has carried Kraft to the highest level of football, and not even dramatic injury has been able to slow him down. In November Kraft officially declared his name in the NFL draft. Kraft’s friends and family cheered him on as he showed off his incredible strength and skill on national television at the NFL Combine. There, Kraft proved his ability to play alongside the likes of Dallas Goedert, Riley Reiff and South Dakota’s other pro footballers.

“I was kind of star-struck walking in,” said Kraft. “Sitting down with the head coaches of the NFL franchise, you realize that you are at this level now. This is a job interview.”

The NFL Combine, however, will

not be the last of Kraft’s time on national television. Ranked as the sixth top tight end, Kraft’s eyes are set on the draft in April. And, although he hails from somewhere small, Kraft plans to loom large on the field as a starting player with great potential.

“I want to go to a team that’s going to use me, whether I’m on the line of scrimmage in the trenches with the big guys or catching balls and getting yards after the catch. I want to make an impact on a team, day one.”

Whatever happens in April, Kraft’s hometown is ready to cheer him on. According to Gimbel, most of Timber Lake is ready to don colors and jerseys that they are not used to wearing to support their hometown kid.

“The buzz in our town has just erupted,” said Gimbel. “Our community, school, and family friends – they all want to see him be successful in the opportunity that he has worked for.”



NFL prospect Tucker Kraft evades a tackler, leading SDSU to a 31-7 win last November against the Illinois State Redbirds.

Improving your yard?

Know what's
above & below
before you start



When the temperature warms to signal the arrival of spring, many of us begin planning improvements to our outdoor spaces. This could include adding or maintaining a swimming pool, building a deck, adding a patio or assembling play equipment for your family to enjoy. However, it is important to plan for safety prior to adding an outdoor structure or improving your yard.

Power Line Awareness

Being aware of power line locations near your home is vitally important for your and your family's safety. Even drop-down lines — the lines that bring power to a home — have voltages running through them and can be dangerous. Always look up and around for power lines, recognizing too that electricity can jump or transfer even without direct contact, before starting any outdoor project. Also know what's below before starting any digging job.

Lyon-Lincoln Electric and Safe Electricity offer these tips to keep in mind while working in your yard:

- Assume that all power lines are always energized and keep at least 10 feet between a power line and you or any item you are holding. Wayne & Marian Livingston - 676201.
 - Perform a hazard assessment of the work area, noting all power line locations.
 - Call 8-1-1 or your state's underground utility locator service to mark underground utilities as part of planning and before any digging. The service is free.
 - Utility locators do not mark private lines, however. Private underground lines—typically installed by the homeowner or a contractor—include, but are not limited to:
 - Irrigation or septic system lines.
 - Lines that service outbuildings (electric, gas, water, communication).
 - Lines between the meter and your home.
 - Lines to other outdoor items like grills or hot tubs.
- *Private lines need to be marked by an independent locating service.

- Once underground utilities are marked, the 8-1-1 “Call Before You Dig” service recommends that the area within 18 to 24 inches of either side of the marked lines be dug by hand with a fiberglass-handled shovel, not by machine.
- Do not install tree houses, playsets or swing sets, pools or decks and any associated structures within 25 feet of a power line. Consider the height and reach of play equipment (including the arc of a swing) and all deck and pool structures in relation to power lines.
- Educate your children about power line safety and how electricity can jump. Teach them to never touch a power line or get too close to one — either directly or with a toy or object — before sending them outside to play. This is especially important if they climb trees, fly kites or use remote-control (RC) devices, such as an RC airplane or drone.
- Use extreme caution when moving ladders and operating long-handled tools, such as pool skimmers, around trees and power lines.
- Also use extreme caution and look up and around for power lines when you are elevated, whether it be on a ladder, a boom lift, scaffolding or your roof.
- When planting and trimming trees, keep in mind that specialized tree trimming experts certified by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in utility clearance are the only persons legally allowed to trim within 10 feet of power lines.
- For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Please contact us with questions about specific power line clearance recommendations concerning decks, pools and play structures in your yard.

5 STEPS TO SAFER DIGGING:

1. **Pre-mark the proposed dig area with white paint or flags.**
2. **Call 811 or go online to submit your locate request before you dig. There is no charge for the service.**
3. **Wait the required amount of time (typically two business days).**
4. **Respect the marks and do not move any flags.**
5. **Dig with care. Avoid digging on top of or within 18–24 inches on all sides of utility marks, which may mean moving your digging project to another part of your yard.**





ELECTRIC SAFETY IN ACTION

In a controlled demonstration, Journeyman Lineman Brady Gaer uses life-size equipment on the high voltage demonstration trailer to educate students about electricity.

Empowering the Public to Stay Safe

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sirea.coop

Electric safety is a topic that South Dakota students are excited to engage with. They often ask questions like, “What should you do if your tractor equipment touches a power line?” or “How can birds sit safely on a power line?” or even “What does it look like when something comes in contact with high voltage?”

These are some of the most popular questions Oahe Electric’s Chief Financial Officer Valerie Marso has not only been answering but also demonstrating for more than 20 years.

“They always just have tons of questions,” said Marso. “It’s always fun to hear what they come up with next.”

It’s not just for entertainment, however. Oahe Electric and its employees are committed to realizing their goal of zero accidents at home and at work. Part of preventing tragedy starts with educating the public, especially youth, on how to stay safe around electricity.

In the last year alone, Oahe Electric traveled to nine different schools and led demonstrations for more than 900 students. For Marso, verbal communication is only half the battle when it comes to educating students

about electric safety. The real impact, she said, comes from showing them.

“The visuals and the noise that the high voltage makes really lands in a way that you just can’t convey with words,” said Marso. “It can scare the students a little bit, but I think it gives them a healthy respect for electricity.”

Co-op across the state, including Oahe Electric, use three different interactive safety demonstrations to hone their message about safety: Power Town, Co-ops in the Classroom and the high voltage demonstration trailer.

One of the most popular, Power Town, is a small-scale, tabletop model of a few quaint houses attached to a small power grid. The miniature electrical system shows students how electrical current moves through

various items they may encounter in their daily lives, presented in a fun and easy-to-learn format. Line-workers, who work on the real equipment every day, lead the demonstration and teach students about personal protective equipment worn by co-op employees to complete their jobs safely.

Co-op in the Classroom is yet another powerful initiative South Dakota co-ops engage in to promote safety across the state. Working in conjunction with East River's Education and Outreach Program, co-ops meet the students where they are in the classroom to teach local youth the importance of respecting electricity through hand-on lessons that engage and excite the audience.

Lastly, the high voltage demonstration trailer is a portable unit that carries life-size equipment from events to local schools. It's a demonstration that always leaves an impression. Within a safe environment, students get to see actual equipment, such as utility poles, electrical conductors and distribution transformers, in action. Each hour-long demonstration shows what can happen when objects such as animals, trees, ladders and even fruit come into contact with power lines.

"This is equipment that our linemen work on every day, so they are comfortable showing these students how energy works," said Marso.

These demonstrations not only

entertain, but also promote a healthy and safe environment for co-op members and the public. During one of Oahe Electric's latest outreach events, Marso recalled listening to a small group of kids talk about how they sometimes sit on "the green boxes." They were referring to underground transformers. It became a teachable moment that left an impact on both the students and teachers.

"We told them to never touch them," she said. "You never know what going on in there, and it's always better to be safe than sorry. It was at least one person who took something home and actually used it. Moments like that show we are really making an impact with these students."



Oahe Electric Power Supply Specialist Steve Long teaches electric safety using Power Town, a miniature model used in safety demonstrations.

The Cooperative Model:

How One Distributor is Helping Lyon-Lincoln Address its Supply Chain Challenges- Part 2

Matt Brandrup

President & CEO, RESCO

Continued from the April 2023 edition of CO-OP Connections-

RESCO continues to focus on ways to assist our cooperative members in procuring the materials, products, and equipment needed to maintain and grow their operations.

Here are a few ways we're accomplishing this:

Competitive Pricing

High inflation impacts all of us, from food items to the very electrical supplies your cooperative needs to power its members' homes, businesses, and farms. While we cannot dictate pricing, the strength of our cooperative and the relationships we have with our manufacturer partners enables us to offer our members extremely competitive pricing on the materials we provide Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative. Additionally, in terms of price margins, we only charge enough to cover our own costs. We're a not-for-profit -just like Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative- and any excess margins RESCO earns are returned to its members.

Record Inventory to Combat Longer Lead Times

Although we're still encountering longer lead times with some products, we've taken steps to counter this trend by boosting our inventory capabilities.

The practice of cooperatives maintaining a minimal number of supplies in their warehouses is no longer feasible, at least not in the short-term. We've been advising our cooperative members to house an adequate inventory stock of supplies needed for routine maintenance,

emergency situations, and planned projects. To help manage on-site inventory, RESCO account managers have been collaborating closely with our cooperative members to help identify both current and future needs and making recommendations on supplies and quantities.

RESCO has been very proactive the past several years in procuring adequate and reliable inventory for our members. As of the writing of this column, we currently are housing a record amount of inventory (approximately \$45 million) at our seven warehouses to help ensure members have access to what they need, when they need it. Because of the strength of our cooperative model and the support of our members, we will continue to grow our inventory throughout 2023 and for many years to come.

Increased Product Allotment for Members

Despite the disruptions in the economy over the past few years, current economic conditions are relatively strong. This includes both the residential and commercial building sectors, which, in turn, boosts demand for electrical supplies, materials, and equipment, especially transformers. Demand is currently outpacing supply, and we expect this to continue into 2023 as manufacturers build back their operations to accommodate this demand. Transformers in particular are an important component in your cooperative's operations, as electricity cannot be delivered to newly-constructed houses and businesses without them.



Matt Brandrup, president and CEO of Rural Electric Supply Cooperative (RESCO), stands in front of ERMCO three-phase transformers and single-phase padmount transformers. Photo courtesy of RESCO.

To help our electric cooperative members with their transformer needs in 2023, we've secured an increased production allotment from our transformer supplier, ERMCO -ERMCO is also a cooperative by the way- which will allow us to meet most of our members' needs next year. Being a cooperative themselves, ERMCO is prioritizing electric cooperatives first in its annual production allotment over for-profit utilities. This is a prime example of how the cooperative model and RESCO's 'Members First' approach is benefitting electric cooperatives in Minnesota and throughout the 10-state territory we cover.

As the saying goes, "There's strength in numbers." Thanks to the partnerships we have with Lyon-Lincoln and other cooperative members, our combined purchasing power is helping to ensure the delivery of reliable energy to consumers throughout the Upper Midwest.

OPERATION ROUNDUP

TURN YOUR COINS INTO CHANGE



Tyler Ambulance crew members

MARCH 2023 GRANTEES

Minneota Post Prom Committee

\$100 towards After-Prom food, games, and other activities for students

RTR Post Prom Committee

\$100 towards After-Prom food, games, and other activities for students

True Friends

\$1,200 towards outdoor enrichment programs for individuals with disabilities

Tyler Fire Department

\$2,500 towards personal protective equipment (PPE) & Turnout Gear

The next round of applications will be due June 13th, 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.

MARCH BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

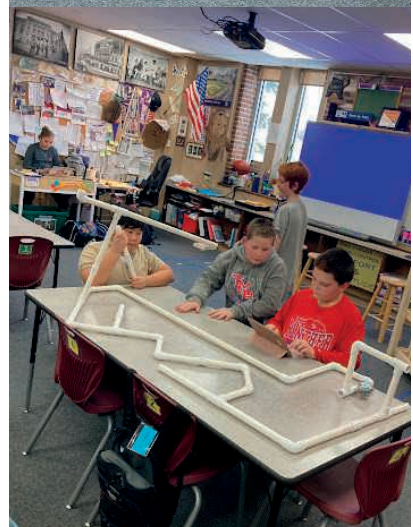
The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Lyon-Lincoln Electric Trust, Inc. was held March 14, 2023. The board reviewed applications and grant requests were approved.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, June 6th, 2023 at 7pm. Applications for grants can be found at www.llec.coop under the "Your Cooperative" tab.

PAST GRANT RECIPIENTS

Pictured at top are Tyler Ambulance crew members showing off their new pagers. Pictured at right are Tracy Area Public School students participating in the Robotics & Engineering Program. Both were funded by LLEC Operation RoundUp Grant Funds.

Tracy Area Public School students



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



May 28, 2023
Back When They Bucked
 Days of '76 Arena
 Deadwood, SD
 800-344-8826

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.

MAY 6
Cinco de Mayo Fiesta
 Lake Farley Park
 Milbank, SD
 605-432-6656

MAY 17
Norwegian Independence Day
 6 p.m.
 Vivian, SD
 605-222-3296

MAY 20
Buggy Museum Open House
 10 a.m.
 Stockholm, SD
 605-938-4192

MAY 20
Booth Day
 10 a.m.
 Booth Fish Hatchery
 Spearfish, SD
 605-642-7730

MAY 20
Frühlingsfest and Spring Market
 1 p.m.
 Main Street Square
 Rapid City, SD
 605-716-7979

MAY 25
Wine Walk
 5 p.m.
 Downtown Businesses
 Aberdeen, SD
 605-226-3441

MAY 26-28
Hidden Treasure Heritage Festival
 Lead, SD
 307-259-4484

MAY 27
Back When They Bucked All-Day Rodeo
 9 a.m.
 Days of '76 Event Complex
 Deadwood, SD
 605-717-7642

MAY 27
Norwegian Constitution Day
 11 a.m.
 Lake Norden, SD
 605-874-2171

JUNE 3
Health Connect of South Dakota: The Human Race 5K
 9 a.m.
 Sertoma Park
 Sioux Falls, SD

JUNE 11
River Honoring Community Potluck
 5 p.m.
 Clay County Park River Shelter
 Vermillion, SD
 605-670-0540

JUNE 16-18
Fine Arts In The Hills Show & Sale
 Main Street
 Hill City, SD
 605-574-2810

JUNE 18
Father's Day Fishing
 10 a.m.
 Palisades State Park
 Minnehaha County, SD
 605-594-3824

JUNE 21
2023 McCrossan Boys Ranch Golf Classic for Kids
 Central Valley Golf Course
 Hartford, SD
 605-339-1203

JUNE 23
Flandreau Fridays
 5 p.m.
 Downtown Flandreau
 Flandreau, SD

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