

# BUSINESS POWERUP



## Developing Strong Communities

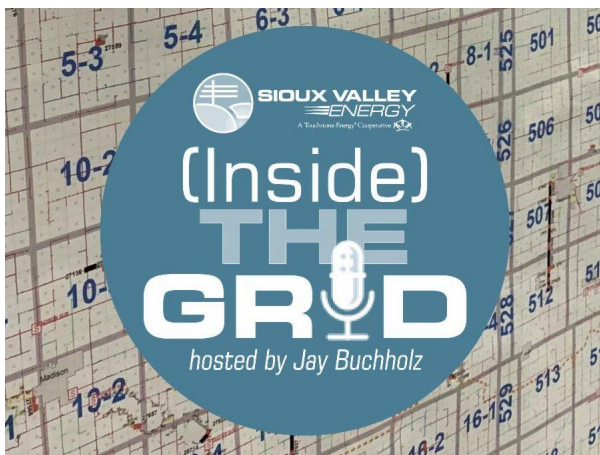
Electric cooperatives around the country are working with key accounts and on economic development efforts, much as we do here at Sioux Valley Energy.

In the latest episode of our [Inside the Grid](#) podcast, we were on the road in February talking with economic development and key account experts from electric cooperatives in other states. We discuss the goal of the Inside the Grid podcast as well as the importance of meeting our key accounts members' needs. And, in this month's newsletter, we also learn more about what our own Rural Electric Economic Development (REED) Fund does in South Dakota and Minnesota.

If you have suggestions for future issues or wish to discuss your operation's current and future energy needs, please contact me at [jay.buchholz@siouxvalleyenergy.com](mailto:jay.buchholz@siouxvalleyenergy.com) or call my cell phone at 605-940-2053.

You can find previous issues of *Business PowerUP* [here](#).

## Inside The Grid Podcast



In this month's [episode of Inside The Grid podcast](#), I visit with cooperative key account and economic development experts from North Carolina and Florida. We talk about the importance of meeting our key accounts members' needs. The three of us were panelists at the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives' NEXT Conference in California in early February 2022. In a fun twist, I hosted the Inside the Grid podcast during that panel discussion.



**Jay Buchholz, CKAE**  
Sioux Valley Energy  
Key Account and Community  
Relations Executive



**Ryan Nance**  
Economic Development Director  
North Carolina's Electric  
Cooperatives



**Tina Rushing**  
Government Accounts & Energy  
Services Coordinator  
Choctawhatchee Electric  
Cooperative (CHELCO)

## Building Strong Communities

We asked Eric Fosheim, Economic Development Manager at East River Electric Power Cooperative in Madison, S.D., to [answer a series of questions](#) about the role the Rural Electric Economic Development (REED) Fund plays in fostering community development in South Dakota and western Minnesota. Here are his answers:



**Eric Fosheim**  
East River Electric Power  
Cooperative Economic  
Development Manager

### Q&A with Eric Fosheim



The REED Fund has been powering economic development in rural communities since 1996. Loans that support [housing development](#) are available to both nonprofit and private developers for multi-family rental housing, single family homes for sale or rent, improvements and renovations of property for resale or rental. REED does not make home loans to owner occupants.

All borrowers are encouraged to integrate energy efficiency in facilities and construction. Purchase of electricity from a REED member cooperative is NOT required to receive financing. For more information, check out [Eligibility](#) and [Application](#), for qualifications and to obtain an application.



## REED Fills the Need

Check out [this story](#) about the REED Fund and its work with the Blue Dragon Academy in Garretson. The story appears in the March 2022 issue of [Sioux Valley Energy Cooperative Connections](#).

# TELL US WHO POWERS YOU!

Let's celebrate a member or employee you know who goes above and beyond to help others. **They could win up to \$3,000!**

Nominate your local hero at **[WHOPOWERSYOUCONTEST.COM](http://WHOPOWERSYOUCONTEST.COM)**



Date	District	Director	Location
February 22	5	Weinacht	Taopi Hall, Colton, SD
February 24	8	Leuthold	Grand Prairie Event Center, Luverne, MN
February 28	1	DeGreef	Elkton Community Center, Elkton, SD
March 10	9	Johnson	Pipestone Area High School, Pipestone, MN
March 17*	6	Fish* & Rogen	Brandon Valley High School, Brandon, SD
March 22	3	Heinemann	William J Janklow Comm. Center, Flandreau, SD
March 24	7	DeMent	West Central School, Hartford, SD
March 28	2	Vostad	Sioux Valley School, Volga, SD
March 29*	10	Roskamp	Edgerton Public School, Edgerton, MN
March 31*	4	Daniel	Dakota Prairie Playhouse, Madison, SD

*Sioux Valley Energy will follow all applicable local, state, and federal COVID-19 mandates that are in place at the time the meeting is held. Currently, masks are optional and social distancing, along with regular hand washing, is encouraged. If you feel sick or have been in close contact with someone that has been diagnosed with COVID-19 recently, please do not attend the meeting.*



## District Meetings

Members attending a district meeting will receive a **\$25 bill credit**. Only one bill credit is allowed per membership. You must attend the meeting to receive the credit.

**Menu:**  
Bacon wrapped chicken breast, cheesy hashbrowns, green beans and cookie

Visit our Website

**Jay Buchholz, CKAE** | Key Account and Community Relations Executive  
C: 605-940-2053 | [Jay.Buchholz@siouxvalleyenergy.com](mailto:Jay.Buchholz@siouxvalleyenergy.com)  
Sioux Valley Energy | 1-800-234-1960 | [www.siuoxvalleyenergy.com](http://www.siuoxvalleyenergy.com)

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