

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Local art teacher's mural commemorates dedicated Burke lineman.
Photo by Jacob Boyko

Rural Murals

Small Communities Showcase History and Culture Through Mural Art

Pages 8-9

Blizzard Bags

Pages 12-13

Power Supply Costs Increasing



Tim McCarthy
General Manager/
Chief Executive
Officer

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com

The power grid is a very complex system. The parts you see close to home such as meters, green boxes, lines, poles, etc. are just a small portion called the distribution system. There are two more levels to the electric cooperative system that ultimately helps get electricity to your home. Those two levels are transmission and generation.

Most of the transmission lines and substations you see scattered across the landscape are owned and maintained by our power suppliers East River Electric Power Cooperative and L&O Power Cooperative (L&O). That infrastructure is part of the second tier of the electric cooperative system. The third tier is the power generator. That is Basin Electric, headquartered in Bismarck North Dakota. Basin produces power at its generating facilities and that power is then transmitted through high voltage power lines to transmission lines and substations owned by East River and L&O. From there, that power is transmitted through the distribution system and voltage is “stepped down” to a level that is appropriate for your homes and businesses.

Now, that is a vast oversimplification of the system, but it gives you an idea of what it takes to get electricity from the power generator to your home or business at the end of the line. We have had significant increases in our distribution costs over the last four years or so and that has had an impact on our rates – some of that impact we were able to mitigate through cost saving measures and delay of

work. However, our wholesale power supplier, Basin Electric, announced a rate increase which, as I have mentioned in my last several columns, will result in a direct pass-through to our members. In short, there will be a rate increase in 2025, and that adjustment will likely start in January.

Basin Electric’s power supply rate increase is driven by the following four factors:



LOAD GROWTH AND INVESTMENTS IN RELIABILITY:

Basin Electric is making significant investments in new generation and transmission facilities to support member load growth across its entire system, and it’s critical to invest in existing facilities to maintain reliability. To accommodate this growth, Basin Electric is investing approximately \$8 billion over the next 10 years in transmission and generation assets to ensure reliable electricity for our members.

DECREASED SURPLUS SALES IN WESTERN MARKETS:

Market dynamics have been impacted by changes in the generating fleet in the western part of the United States. Increasing amounts

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSINGS

Sioux Valley Energy’s offices will be closed on the following dates for the holidays.

- THANKSGIVING** – Thursday, Nov. 28 and Friday Nov. 29
- CHRISTMAS** – Tuesday, Dec. 24 and Wednesday, Dec. 25
- NEW YEARS** – Wednesday, Jan. 1

Please report outages to our 24-hour dispatch center at 800-234-1960 or through the Smart Hub app.

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

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(USPS No. 497-440)

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WHAT'S DRIVING MY RATE INCREASE?



Load Growth and Investments in Reliability

Decreased Surplus Sales in Western Markets



Impacts of Inflation

Volatility of Power Markets



Manager's Column, **CONTINUED**

of hydro and renewable energy generated in the western market is often lower priced than what our wholesale power supplier (Basin Electric) can produce it for. This limits Basin Electric's ability to sell excess generation to the western markets.

IMPACTS OF INFLATION:

There have been cost increases for internal labor, contracted labor, materials, and maintenance, in addition to higher costs of borrowing money (higher interest rates) and increased insurance premiums.

VOLATILITY OF POWER MARKETS:

Power markets have become more volatile, resulting in dramatic price movements. Increasing intermittent generation such as wind and solar, swings in natural gas prices, and increasing electricity demand are primary contributors to volatility. While this is managed through generation and hedging, the cost of this is increasing.

Here at home, Sioux Valley Energy has also been facing upward pressure on the cost of materials, equipment, labor, and financing but we hope to hold our distribution costs as steady as possible. We are still working on the details of the rate increase but hope to get that information to you soon.

HOLIDAY FOOD SAFETY TIPS

Rachel Dotson

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture

It's the time of year when many families will be gathering around the dining room table savoring the flavors of their favorite holiday meals. Check out how to keep your holiday meals safe this season with a few tips from Land-grant University Extension Services.

Shopping Safely

Before shopping, check the ingredients you have at home and verify their expiration date. It is helpful to prepare a shopping list before going shopping. Make sure you have sufficient room in your refrigerator for all purchased food items. Cold foods that need refrigeration or freezing should be purchased last.

Oklahoma State University Extension advises while shopping, keep raw meat, poultry and seafood away from other foods in your grocery cart. Placing raw meat, poultry and seafood in plastic bags can be a good method to separate them from other foods. Ask a cashier to place your raw meat, poultry and seafood in a separate bag.

Safe Food Handling Practices

- When it comes to preparing meats, washing poultry and meats at home is no longer necessary and is not recommended by the USDA. University of Connecticut Extension recommends thawing meat in a refrigerator or in a cold-water bath.
- Defrost meats in the refrigerator for approximately 24 hours, depending on size, or submerge meat in its original package in cold water and allow 30 minutes of thawing time for every pound.
- Rinse fruits and vegetables thoroughly under cool running water and use a produce brush to remove surface dirt. Even wash prepackaged greens to minimize bacterial contamination.
- While preparing food, use two cutting boards: one for preparing raw meat, poultry and fish, and the other for cutting fruits and vegetables, cooked food or preparing salads.
- Don't forget to also wash hands with soap and water before and after handling food.

Storing Leftovers

Bacteria grows when the food is left out for more than

two hours at room temperature. Divide leftovers into smaller portions and store in shallow containers in the refrigerator. University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension advises reheating cooked leftovers to 165 degrees. Use a food thermometer to measure temperature accurately. Sauces, soups and gravies should be reheated by bringing them to a boil. When microwaving leftovers, make sure there are no cold spots in food where bacteria can survive.

Multistate Approach for Food Safety

Food-borne illnesses affect 48 million Americans each year. Research and education have led to major advances in food safety; however, challenges remain. Many methods that use heat or chemicals to ensure food safety are not 100% effective and can damage food color, texture, flavor and nutrients.

Researchers at 32 Land-grant Universities are collaborating on innovative solutions for food safety and quality.

Their work is helping meet consumer demand for minimally processed, additive-free food items with longer shelf lives, higher nutrient content and less potential to cause food-borne illnesses.



Farm Safety "Always Be Alert"

Clyde Manas, Age 8

Clyde Manas warns farmers and ranchers to be careful with their equipment around power lines. Thank you for your picture, Clyde! Clyde's parents are Terry and Lacey Manas, members of Bon Homme Yankton Electric.

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.

Holiday DELIGHTS

EASY CRANBERRY SALAD

Ingredients:

12 oz. fresh cranberries
 20 oz. crushed pineapple, drained (reserve juice)
 1/2 cup pineapple juice (from reserved juice)
 2 cups sugar
 3 oz. pkg cranberry jello (may also use cherry jello)
 1/4 cup maraschino cherries, finely chopped

Method

Boil cranberries with pineapple juice and sugar. When berries pop, remove from heat. Add dry jello, pineapple and cherries. Refrigerate. Keeps for up to two weeks in the refrigerator.

Elaine Rieck
 Harrisburg, S.D.

CAKE BATTER DIP

Ingredients:

8 oz. softened cream cheese
 8 oz. thawed cool whip
 1/3 2/3 cup milk
 1 box Funfetti cake mix (unprepared)
 Sprinkles

Method

Add whipped topping and cream cheese to a large mixing bowl and beat with a hand mixer until smooth and creamy.

Add cake mix and 1/3 cup milk and stir with a wooden spoon until combined. Dip will be very thick, so add more milk, a little at a time, until you get to your desired consistency. I used about 2/3 cup for my dip.

Garnish with sprinkles and serve with whatever dippers you prefer (graham crackers, animal crackers, vanilla wafers, pretzels, fresh fruit, etc.)

Kayla Beaner
 Centerville, S.D.

OPEN-FACED HOT TURKEY SANDWICHES

Ingredients:

1 container (12 oz.) turkey gravy
 8 slices cooked turkey
 1 loaf baguette bread, (12 in. long)
 1 cup fresh spinach leaves
 1 cup prepared stuffing, warmed
 1/2 cup cranberry sauce

Method

Cook gravy and turkey slices in large skillet on medium high heat until heated through.

Cut baguette in half length wise, then cut each piece in half. Place bread, cut side up, onto four serving plates.

Top bread evenly with spinach, turkey, stuffing, any remaining gravy and cranberry sauce.

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 2024. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

Get Credit for Improving Efficiency



Sheila Gross
Energy Services
Specialist

For info on beneficial electrification and other technologies, contact Sheila Gross at sheila.gross@siouxvalleyenergy.com to learn more. Check out our rebates and incentives here:



Sioux Valley Energy strives to be your trusted energy resource to help you, our member-owners, save money and increase the efficiency and comfort of your home. According to recent U.S. Census data, the age of the average home in South Dakota and Minnesota is 43 years old. Learn more about the resources available through the Cooperative and federal tax credits if you have an older home that could benefit from efficiency upgrades or if you need to replace aging equipment. Start your journey to an energy efficient home today!

Through 2032, federal income tax credits are available to homeowners that allow up to \$3,200 annually to lower the cost of energy efficient home upgrades to an existing home by up to 30%. A tax credit up to \$2,000 is available on the costs to upgrade to any combination of air-source heat pumps including ducted and non-ducted (mini-split) systems, heat pump water heaters and biomass stoves/boilers. Up to \$1,200 is available for any combination of home envelope improvements (windows, doors, insulation, electrical panel) plus furnaces, boilers and central air conditioners. You can combine these home upgrades to reach the maximum credit limit each year which allows you to prioritize and plan your home efficiency projects at a pace that works for your home and budget. You need to claim the tax credit for the year in which the upgrade was made on IRS Form 5695. Products must meet ENERGY STAR® requirements for the north climate zone. You can claim these credits regardless of your income level. You must owe taxes to claim a credit and the amount you claim is limited to the amount you owe. It's a good idea to check with your contractor and tax preparer for eligibility.

Geothermal heat

pumps are eligible for a separate tax credit of 30% on expenditures for new construction or an existing home and are not counted against these limits. There are also federal tax credits available for electric vehicles, renewable energy, businesses and more. For specific details, visit energystar.gov/about/federal-tax-credits.

Contact 800-234-1960 or visit our website at www.siouxvalleyenergy.com to check out the efficiency programs and incentives offered through Sioux Valley Energy including:

- Rebates for geothermal and air-source heat pumps (including mini-splits) and a reduced electric heat rate.
- Low interest financing for heat pump equipment and weatherization improvements.
- Energy audits that include inspection of insulation, windows and doors with the use of infrared imaging and blower door testing.
- Special upfront pricing on large capacity lifetime-tank warrantied Marathon® water heaters sold at your local SVE service center. Participation in load management required, some restrictions apply.
- Rebates for the purchase of electric vehicles and off-peak charging rates.
- Sign up for the Time of Use Rate and save by shifting your usage to off-peak times.

Are you leaving money on the table?



Grab Those Federal Energy Efficiency Incentives!

If you've recently made home weatherization improvements or energy efficiency upgrades you may be eligible for a federal tax credit or rebate.

For specific details, visit energystar.gov/about/federal-tax-credits

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THE COUNTRY COOKIN' cookbook

Submit to be entered into a drawing for 1 of 2 \$100 Visa gift cards

Submit recipes to graphics@eastriver.coop or contact your local co-op for more information.

NEW NUMBER FOR PAY BY PHONE

Paying your electric bill by our secure automated phone system has been an option for members for a while. As of September 5, the **NEW NUMBER** for members to call **TO PAY BY PHONE** is **855-939-3536**. Members should hear "Welcome to Sioux Valley Energy's IVR billing system" when calling. If you do not hear that first, hang up and dial again.

Sioux Valley Energy also offers other payment methods, especially through SmartHub. Learn more by scanning the QR code.

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

Scan to Register to Win!

SIoux VALLEY ENERGY A TrueSource Energy Cooperative



RURAL MURALS

Small Communities Showcase History and Culture Through Mural Art

Jacob Boyko

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Lemmon

Visitors from all over the map flock to Lemmon each year to explore the town's plethora of fascinating exhibits, from the Petrified Wood Park to the life-size steampunk-style sculptures by local artist John Lopez.

But of all the town's unique offerings, there's one stand-out exhibit that ties everything together: Boss Cowman Square.

Lopez's life-size metal sculpture of cowboy legend George Edward Lemmon is the focal point of the square. The Boss Cowman clutches the reins of his steampunk stallion, his eyes fixed on the horizon watching for stray cattle.

"Dad Lemmon," as the town's founder is so fondly known among locals, settled the town in 1906 between the Grand River and North Dakota border. It would soon be a stop along the incoming Chicago Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad, which Dad Lemmon had been recruited to platte westward.

The sculpture is accompanied by a background mural depicting a scene far away from the bustling saloons and general stores of early Lemmon. In the scene, saddled-up cowboys under the careful

watch of the Boss Cowman sculpture guide a meandering herd hundreds of heads long across a river – no problem for Dad Lemmon, whose roundup skills and knowledge of the land were legendary across the West.

In 2015, as Lopez dreamt of what would one day be Boss Cowman Square, he recruited the help of two Nigerian artists, Dotun Popoola and Jonathan Imafidor, to help bring the vision to life.

"We studied a few materials and made sure all the elements were well captured, like the kinds of trees, the way the river looks and the butte in the background," Imafidor recalled about the 2016 project.

One obstacle that posed a challenge for the traveling artists – beside the shock of South Dakota's cold spring weather – was the slight differences between the cattle they knew in Nigeria and the cattle of the American West.

"We are representational artists and we've done a lot of drawings of cows, so we kind of had an idea of what the cattle should look like," Imafidor explained. "But in Lemmon, the kind of cattle that are found in the region are a little different than what we have in Nigeria. I remember when we started painting the cattle ... John Lopez told us, 'I don't think you can find those here.' Then he brought some material for

Cowboys keep a herd of longhorns moving at the bank of the Missouri River. Visitors will notice the sculpture of Dad Lemmon turned around to keep an eye on the progress. *Photo provided by John Lopez.*

us so we were able to see the difference and then we made the corrections."

After about a month of work, the mural was completed and the Boss Cowman Square was unveiled to the public in July 2016.

Burke

In Burke, K-12 art teacher Kate Witt isn't shy about brightening up her community. The mom of four has designed and painted four murals around town, including one depicting the town's beloved utility worker, Rich Bailey.

Rich's wife, Margaret Ann Bailey, commissioned the mural after Rich's passing in 2023. The mural shows the lineman hanging onto a utility pole as he works on the power lines.

"When we came here in 1970, there wasn't a bucket truck or anything," recalled Margaret Ann. "So he climbed everything, whether it was blizzarding or lightning, and he made sure people had electricity."

The mural also features emergency vehicles, as Rich served for decades as a volunteer firefighter and an emergency medical technician. Parked beneath the lines, the rusted white pickup truck Rich drove around town that over the years became synonymous with himself.

"With this mural specifically, I felt I had

a big important job,” Witt said. “This is a man who the town really loves, and I had a big job to make something beautiful that [Margaret Ann] was going to be proud of.”

Witt incorporated her own signature styles into the mural; her white outlines make the lineman’s silhouette stand out against the more geometrically designed Missouri River bluffs and cloudy sunset in the background.

“That’s where I have a little fun, putting in the modern twist and bold colors,” Witt continued. “I put this white line around everything which made some elements almost look like they’re stickers on a wall.”

Since Witt completed the mural last August, it’s become a point of pride for Margaret Ann who says it’s a testament to her husband’s years of dedication to his community.

“There was an older gal here in town, and she called him at 2 o’clock in the morning and said ‘my air conditioner isn’t working and it’s darn hot in my house,’” Margaret Ann recalled.

She said her husband explained that his job was to fix power lines, not air conditioners. Still, he went to flip the breaker on the woman’s fuse box anyway before going back to sleep.

“That’s the kind of guy he was, and I’m proud,” Margaret Ann said.

Tabor

Where in South Dakota can you find roses, ears of corn, a cardinal and Czech kolaches all in one mural?

Only in Tabor, probably.

Commissioned for the town’s 150th anniversary in 2022, the colorful mural on the sidewall of the local library meanders through the community’s history. From the heavy Czech influence of the earliest settlers represented by pastries and roses to the school’s original mascot, the cardinals, Robbie Jelsma worked very intentionally to portray the town in a way only a knowledgeable local artist could.

Growing up in nearby Springfield, Jelsma is no stranger to Tabor and its famous Czech Days, which draws thousands of people from across the country for the three-day celebration.

“I wanted to represent Czech Days and the Czech culture, so I did my own

research,” Jelsma said.

He incorporated roses, which are the national flower of the Czech Republic, as well as the fluffy pastries with fruit in the middle called kolaches.

He also incorporated local history—Tabor’s school mascot was the cardinal before merging with Springfield and Tyndall to form Bon Homme School District.

When he’s not painting murals, Jelsma is a highly sought-after tattoo artist specializing in more realistic styles. For him, the highlights of the Tabor mural is the level of depth and realism he achieved in his roses and clouds.

The hardest part of painting the mural is working with the elements, as there’s a laundry list of work that needs to be done on the surface before any real painting can begin: washing; smoothing; primer.

On top of that, unpredictable Midwestern weather requires a careful eye on the weather radar for any outdoor painting projects, Jelsma said.

“We started about early October so the fall was just getting started, and you never know in South Dakota if the weather is going to hold out or if you’ll get an early snow or strong wind,” he recalled about his three and a half weeks working on the project.

For Jelsma, the finished mural is as big of a point of pride for him, having been selected and commissioned for the work, as it is for the people of Tabor who get to show it off every summer during Czech Days.

“It’s cool I was thought of for the project,” Jelsma said. “It’s an art project that I think just lights everybody up a little bit when you drive down main street and you see something like that in a small town.”



Artist Robbie Jelsma puts the finishing touches on his mural ahead of the 2022 unveiling.
Photo provided by Robbie Jelsma.



Destination: S.C.

CREWS DELIVER HURRICANE RELIEF

Lineworkers from five of South Dakota's rural electric cooperatives, including Sioux Valley Energy, went to South Carolina in October to help restore power along Hurricane Helene's path of destruction.

The 18 lineworkers – eight from Sioux Valley Energy, four from East River Electric Power Cooperative, two from Oahe Electric Cooperative, two from Bon Homme Yankton Electric Association and two from West River Electric Association – left for the southeast Wednesday, October 2. They assisted Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative crews near Pickens, S.C., to restore power.

The storm made landfall in late September as a Category 4 hurricane with 140-plus mph winds. High winds and falling trees did catastrophic damage to power distribution lines. After the storm, Blue Ridge Electric reported more than 450 downed utility poles, leaving 90% of its service area, or 64,000 meters, without power.

When Blue Ridge Electric sent out a call for help, South Dakota's cooperatives answered.

"This is what electric co-ops do – we help one another in times of need. That is the benefit of the cooperative model and the principle 'cooperation amongst cooperatives,'" said Tim McCarthy, Sioux Valley Energy general manager and CEO.

"Mutual aid is one of our main principles in the co-op family," said Mark Patterson, Manager of Loss Control Services at South Dakota Rural Electric Association. "When our sister co-ops are in trouble, we're there to assist, and we're sending guys and equipment 1,200-plus miles to get there."

The convoy includes bucket trucks, skid steers, an ATV, and other equipment crews will use while making

repairs in the swampy and mountainous terrain.

Their work will include setting poles and building distribution lines.

"Sioux Valley Energy has been on the receiving end of mutual aid from other cooperatives during storm restoration, and so our lineworkers are answering the call to help Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative in South Carolina through the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. When crews left South Dakota, Blue Ridge had just over 21,000 members out of power. We thank the lineworkers for their commitment and dedication, and know they will do a great job," said McCarthy.

Lineworkers were told to expect to stay in tents, work long days, and to prepare for less-than-ideal conditions. The volunteering lineworkers are prepared to stay in South Carolina between two and four weeks.



Sioux Valley Energy crews are working in rugged terrain assisting Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative with Hurricane Helene repairs near Pickens, S.C.



Fourth EV Expo Held



About 200 people attended the EV Expo Sept. 17 at the W.H. Lyons Fairgrounds in Sioux Falls. During the expo, more than 50 people took test drives in one of 20 EVs (above left, above, and top). More than 30 EV owners participated in the car show (below), which included a Cyber Truck, (left). The event was sponsored by Sioux Falls-area utilities, including Sioux Valley Energy.



READY FOR PLAY!

In late September, several Sioux Valley Energy employees volunteered in Hills, Minnesota, to install playground equipment at the community's innovative childcare facility. The equipment was purchased in part with a Sioux Valley Energy Operation Round Up® grant and funding from the Cooperative's REVIVE 2030 program.





PREPARING FOR WINTER WEATHER

Jacob Boyko

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As we near the frigid winter months of South Dakota, it's important for you and loved ones to stay ready for an emergency.

Even though power outages are rare, a loss of electricity can affect modern lives in critical ways; In an instant, you may no longer be able to heat your home, prepare food or access critical information.

It's crucial to prepare for power outages and other general emergencies by keeping supplies in both your home and vehicles as well as making sure you and your loved ones have a plan in place.

Brad Reiners, director of communications for the state Department of Public Safety, encourages South Dakotans to stock

up on essentials like food, water and batteries prior to the winter months.

"Make sure you have enough food and water for at least three days, and each person in the household should have one gallon of water per day," Reiners said.

State DPS recommends keeping non-perishable food items like pasta, canned goods and nutritious snacks that don't require refrigeration and don't need to be heated or cooked before consumption.

"Never use gas powered generators, grills or portable stoves indoors, as they can produce dangerous levels of carbon monoxide," Reiner added.

As you prepare, remember to be proactive about your health. Have your medical prescriptions refilled in advance of a severe storm and keep a battery bank charged so you can power your cell phone in case you need to

access telehealth services, emergency services or access critical information.

In your car, keep warm blankets, winter clothes, snacks, a shovel, flashlight and a set of jumper cables in case you get stranded.

"It's also advisable to check your tires for proper inflation and tread, and make sure your windshield wipers are in good condition with freeze-resistant washer fluid," Reiners added.



Bottles of water and shelf stable dry foods are perfect long lasting emergency supplies to keep around.
Photo provided by Meals on Wheels of Western South Dakota.

If you plan to rely on a generator or wood burning stove for heat if the power goes out, check beforehand that your equipment is in safe working order, and you have enough fuel to last several days.

Keeping warm clothes, blankets and sleeping bags at the ready can be lifesaving if you're unable to heat your home.

Meals on Wheels here to help with Blizzard Bags

For senior citizens, some of this advice is easier said than done. Meals on Wheels of Western South Dakota understands that better than anyone, and they have come up with a solution.

“Blizzard Bags” have been a part of the organization’s lineup for over 20 years now and include some of the essentials seniors need when hunkering down for severe weather.

“We deliver shelf-stable meals for seniors who, especially in rural areas, may not have access to food for a while if their electricity goes out,” said Jennifer Paschke, regional manager for Meals on Wheels of Western South Dakota. “We provide five meals in those bags they can use during a loss of power or being stranded in their homes due to weather.”

The food supplied is generally items that don’t require a heat source, like packages of tuna salad and crackers, protein bars or cans with a pop-top seal so no can opener is required, Paschke said.

The bags also include water and other donated supplies like batteries and flashlights from local businesses, including some rural electric cooperatives.

“The biggest success story I know in

my area is a couple of years ago when they had tornados in Philip,” Paschke remembered. “The water we provided [in the blizzard bags] were some of the only sources of water some of those people had. Just having that food and water can be a godsend for some people.”

Blizzard Bags are available to seniors age 60 and up who are a part of the Meals on Wheels program. The bags cost roughly \$20 to put together, according to Pascke, and are funded in part by community donors. The organization provides home deliveries for seniors living in both cities and rural areas.

Anyone interested in getting service or helping with the cause can contact Meals on Wheels of Western South Dakota at (605) 394-6002.



Meals On Wheels of Western South Dakota provides blizzard bags to seniors in case weather conditions affect normal delivery. Photo provided by Meals on Wheels of Western South Dakota.

2025 DISTRICT MEETINGS SET

The Sioux Valley Energy Board of Directors approved the 2025 District Meeting schedule during their September meeting. Four elections will take place in Districts 2, 4, 6, and 10.

Members interested in running for the Board must submit a Director Petition, Conflict of Interest Statement, and Qualification Certification 60 days prior to the meeting date. Petitions must be delivered to a Sioux Valley Energy office location or postmarked by the petition deadline. Sioux Valley Energy encourages members to gather extra member signatures and to deliver or mail completed petitions in advance of the petition deadline to ensure time for member verification.

PETITION DEADLINES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- District 6 – Sunday, January 19, 2025
- District 2 – Thursday, January 23, 2025
- District 4 – Friday, January 24, 2025
- District 10 – Thursday, January 30, 2025

Petitions can be obtained at www.siouxvalleyenergy.com or by calling 800-234-1960. The Cooperative Bylaws state the qualifications needed to be a director (see below). Interested members are encouraged to contact Brenda Schelhaas, Executive Assistant. All

Date	District	Director	Location
Tuesday, February 25	8	Leuthold	Generations (Grand Prairie Event Center) Luverne, MN
Thursday, March 13	9	Johnson	Pipestone Area High School Pipestone, MN
Monday, March 17	1	DeGreef	McKnight Hall White, SD
Tuesday, March 18	5	Weinacht	Taopi Hall Colton, SD
Thursday, March 20*	6	Fish* & Rogen (Election)	Brandon Valley High School Brandon, SD
Monday, March 24*	2	Vostad* (Election)	Sioux Valley School Volga, SD
Tuesday, March 25*	4	Daniel* (Election)	Dakota Prairie Playhouse Madison, SD
Monday, March 31*	10	Roskamp* (Election)	Edgerton Public School Edgerton, MN
Monday, April 7	3	Heinemann	William J Janklow Community Center Flandreau, SD
Monday, April 21	7	DeMent	West Central School Hartford, SD

Board seats elected in 2025 will serve three-year terms. *Denotes election meetings.

SVE Bylaws: Director Qualifications

ARTICLE IV: SECTION 5. Qualifications. Any member shall be eligible to be nominated or elected or to remain a Director, provided that: (a) They are a natural person receiving electric service from the Cooperative at their primary residence or meet the qualifications for corporate representation; (b) They have the capacity to enter legally binding contracts; (c) They have been and shall remain a resident of the district for which they are or were nominated or elected for at least one (1) year prior to nomination, and continue to reside therein during their entire term as Director; (d) While a Director and during the five (5) years immediately prior to becoming a Director, they have not been convicted of a felony; (e) They or their spouse are not employed by, materially affiliated with or have a material financial interest in any individual or entity which either is: (i) Directly and substantially competing with the Cooperative, or any of its subsidiaries; or (ii) Selling goods and services in substantial quantity to the Cooperative or its subsidiaries; or having sold goods or services in substantial quantity to the Cooperative or its subsidiaries within three (3) years of seeking nomination. (iii) Possessing a substantial conflict of interest with the Cooperative or any of its subsidiaries; or (iv) They are not in any way employed by the Cooper-

ative or any of its subsidiaries nor have they been employed by the Cooperative or its subsidiaries within three (3) years of the directors nomination, and (v) They are not a close relative of any existing Director or existing employee of the Cooperative or its subsidiaries. For the purpose of this section only “close relative” shall mean a person who is either a child, grandchild, stepchild, parent, grandparent, stepparent, brother or sister, by blood or in-law, of the principal. (f) A designated representative of any non-human member such as a corporation, shall, notwithstanding that he or she does not receive service from the Cooperative at their primary residential abode, be eligible to become a Director, if: 1) He or she is an officer of said non-human member; and 2) He or she is in substantial permanent occupancy, direction or use of the premises served by the Cooperative; and 3) He or she is a permanent year round resident within the district for which the Corporation or non-human member is receiving service, and 4) Otherwise meets the qualifications set forth herein, provided, however, that no more than one (1) such person as the designated representative may serve on the Board at the same time and in the event that he or she should resign or is unwilling to so act, the directorship shall become vacant.

PENNIES ADD UP TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Operation Round Up® Program Contributes \$2.3 million to Area Groups Since 2000

Sioux Valley Energy members continue a tradition of giving through their Sioux Valley Energy Operation Round Up® Program. This quarter, groups receiving funding range from those assisting kids to a local fire department and even tax preparation assistance.



Nearly \$2.3 million has been donated to area non-profits, schools, and communities since the year 2000 when Sioux Valley Energy started its Operation Round Up® (ORU) program. The program is simple – participating members “round up” their electric bill to the next highest dollar and those “rounded up” funds are placed into a trust. Additionally, many Sioux Valley Energy employees donate from their paycheck each month. Each quarter the Operation Round Up Board of Trustees meets to review applications and consider grant requests. So far in 2024, more than \$92,600 in Operation Round Up grants has been provided and an additional \$15,000 set aside for scholarships.

Recipients of grants awarded in September 2024 can be found to the right. A list of recent grant recipients, as well as information on how local organizations can apply for funding, can be found at <https://www.siouxvalleyenergy.com/operation-round-up>.

The next deadline to apply for funding is November 20 with grants being awarded in December.

September 2024 ORU Recipients

Recipient Entity	Location	Purpose of Funding
American Heart Association	Sioux Falls, SD	funding different programs such as CPR training and other initiatives
Bethel Lutheran Home	Madison, SD	funding to purchase a convection oven and warming table
Brandon Valley Optimist Club	Brandon, SD	funding to provide an additional gaga ball pit at the Brandon Elementary
Brookings Area Camp Adventure	Brookings, SD	funding to provide camp supplies, food, field trips, t-shirts and transportation during camp week
Brookings County 4-H	Brookings, SD	funding to purchase t-shirts for children to wear for Achievement Days
Call to Freedom	Sioux Falls, SD	funding to support youth clients' substance abuse treatment, medical & mental health treatment, case management, and occupational therapy
Crooks Veterans Park	Crooks, SD	funding would be used for the electrical portion of the project
Flandreau Elementary PBIS	Flandreau, SD	funding to be used to purchase items for the SOAR store
Girl Scouts Dakota Horizons	Sioux Falls, SD	funding to cover expenses for the STEM event
Health Connect of South Dakota	Sioux Falls, SD	funding for expenses for health & safety activities at the Health Connect Festival in September
Inter-Lakes Community Action Partnership, Inc	Madison, SD	funding for the support of ICAP's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance
Junior Achievement of South Dakota	Sioux Falls, SD	funding for classroom materials for local schools
Lights at the Lodge	Pipestone, MN	funding to complete the new ice castle for the Lights at the Lodge event
Madison Volunteer Fire Department	Madison, SD	funding to cover costs of changing the radio system over from UHF to VHF
ORR Trap Team	Ramona, SD	funding to offset costs for students & families to participate in the ORR Sporting Clay Trap Team
Prairie Village Junius Schoolhouse	Madison, SD	funding to purchase materials to make rugs with looms during Jamboree Days and demonstrate making rugs for school visits
Rock Ranch	Hills, MN	funding for the construction of a horse shelter
SWWC Foundation	Marshall, MN	funding to support the SWWC Student Enrichment Program



NOV. 22-JAN.5
 Winter Wonderland
 Nightly - 5 p.m.-12 a.m.
 Falls Park
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-275-6060

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.

OCT. 26
Mortimer's Monstrous Halloween
 3 p.m.-6 p.m.
 Oakwood Lakes State Park
 605-627-5441

OCT. 26
Hartford Women of Today Craft Fair
 West Central Becker Theater
 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
 605-359-2049

NOV. 2
Fall Fling Craft Show
 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
 Dakota Christian School
 Corsica, SD
 605-366-7940

NOV. 8-9
Sioux Empire Arts & Crafts Show
 Friday, 12 p.m.-8 p.m.
 Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-332-6004

NOV. 9
Deadwood's Big Whiskey Festival
 4 p.m.-8 p.m.
 Main Street
 Deadwood, SD

NOV. 9
Christmas at the Homestead
 12 p.m.-4 p.m.
 North Sioux City, SD
 605-232-0873

NOV. 9-10
Zonta Craft & Vendor Show
 Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
 Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Ramkota Hotel
 Pierre, SD
 605-280-1511

NOV. 16
Festival of Trees
 6 p.m.
 Lead, SD
 605-584-2067

NOV. 22-23
Holiday Arts Christmas Craft Show
 Friday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.
 Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Davison County Fairgrounds
 Mitchell, SD

NOV. 30
A Hometown Christmas Market
 2 p.m.-6 p.m.
 Main Street
 Elk Point, SD

NOV. 29-DEC. 29
Trees & Trains Exhibit at SD State Railroad Museum
 Hill City, SD
 605-665-3636

DEC. 1
A Christmas Carol
 2 p.m.
 Gayville Music Hall
 Gayville, SD
 605-624-2859

DEC. 5
Christmas on the Prairie
 4 p.m.
 Main Street
 Miller, SD

DEC. 5
Holiday Festival of Lights
 4 P.M.-7:30 P.M.
 Yankton, SD
 605-665-3636

DEC. 6-8, 13-15
A Sherlock Carol
 Dec. 6-7, 13-14, 7:30 p.m.
 Dec. 8, 15, 2:30 p.m.
 Corson, SD
 mightycorson.com

DEC. 7
KJAM Parade of Lights
 5:30 P.M.
 Madison, SD
 605-256-4514

DEC. 7
Santa Day
 2 p.m.
 Stockholm Buggy Museum
 Stockholm, SD
 605-467-3940

DEC. 7-31
Garden Glow at McCrory Gardens
 5 p.m.-9 p.m.
 Brookings, SD
 605-688-6707

DEC. 14
Lake Campbell Church Cookie Walk
 9 a.m.
 Volga, SD
 605-864-9907

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