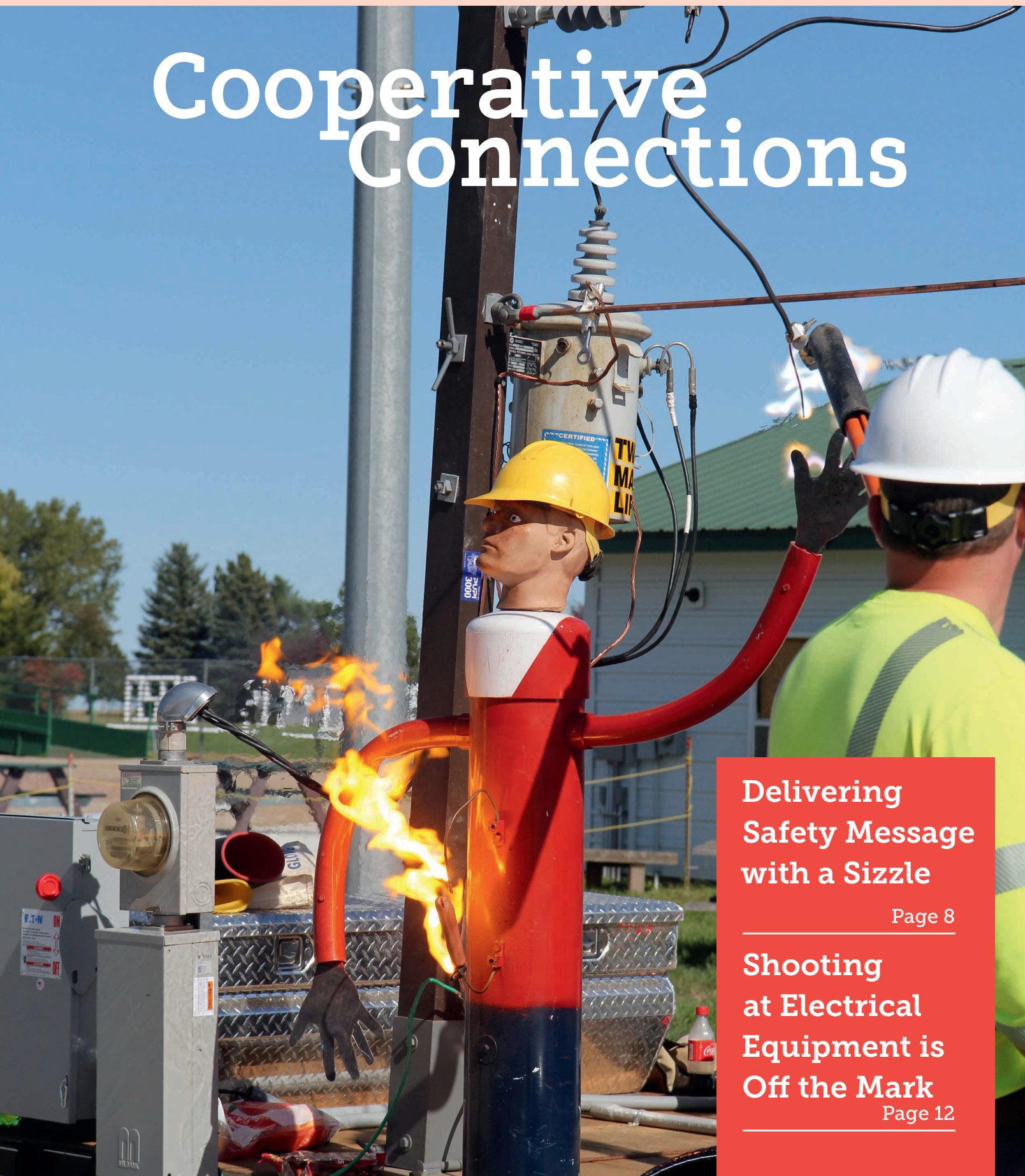


Cooperative Connections



**Delivering
Safety Message
with a Sizzle**

Page 8

**Shooting
at Electrical
Equipment is
Off the Mark**

Page 12

Free Supper • Reports • Door Prizes

Roast Beef Supper 5:30-6:30

Annual Meeting Follows

We'll see you there!

Butte Electric Cooperative, Inc.

79TH ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2019
Belle Fourche
Area Community Center

OFFICIAL NOTICE

of
Butte Electric Cooperative, Inc.
79th Annual Membership Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Membership Meeting of Butte Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be held October 22, 2019, at the Belle Fourche Area Community Center, Butte County, Belle Fourche, South Dakota beginning at 5:30 p.m. to take action on the following matters:

1. Report on the number of members present in person in order to determine the existence of a quorum.
2. Reading of the notice of the meeting and proof of the due publication or the mailing thereof, or the waivers of notice of the meeting, as the case may be.
3. Reading of unapproved minutes of previous meetings of the Members and the taking of necessary action thereon.
4. Election of Directors and bylaw changes.
5. Presentation and consideration of reports of Officers, Directors, and Committees.
6. Unfinished Business.
7. New Business.
8. Adjournment.

Thomas Brunner, Secretary

Dated at Belle Fourche, South Dakota, this 22nd of October 2019.

AGENDA

- Call to Order
- Invocation
- National Anthem
- Welcome
- Approval of Minutes
- Election
- Treasurer's Report
- President's Report
- New Business
- Door Prizes
- Election Report
- Adjourn

If you are disabled and need a special accommodation to have full and equal enjoyment of this program, call 605-456-2494 or 1-800-928-8839.

Nondiscrimination Statement

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call 866-632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington D.C. 20250-9410, by fax 202-690-7442 or email at program.itake@usda.gov

Butte Electric

Cooperative Connections

(ISSN 1531-1031)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cris Miller, Spearfish – President
 Dan Marrs, Whitewood – Vice Pres.
 Thomas Brunner, Nisland – Secretary
 Steve Smeenk, Newell – Assistant Sec.
 Daniel Hefner, Whitewood – Treasurer
 Directors:
 Thomas Casteel, Vale
 James Mortenson, Spearfish
 Chandy Olson, St. Onge
 Travis Schenk, Spearfish

STAFF AND OFFICE PERSONNEL

John Lee – CEO
 Darick Eisenbraun – Dir. of Finance
 Kim Wince – Office Mgr./Accountant
 Colleen Schreiner – Billing Clerk
 Angie Alexander – Administrative Asst.
 Lee Ann Gaer – Customer Service Rep.

OPERATIONS PERSONNEL

Brett Fosheim – Operations Manager
 Bart McLellan – Member Services Mgr.
 Adam Zvorak – Foreman
 Chuck Even – Foreman
 Dan Kenoyer – Operations Technician
 Jeff Hughes – Foreman
 Journeyman Linemen:
 Corey Hines
 Mike Davis
 Jacob Breidenbach
 James Gyles
 Brad Kari
 Elliot Rayman
 Dave Pietz
 Adam Willuweit
 John Branham
 Craig Douthit – Work Order Clerk

BUTTE ELECTRIC BEACON COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is published monthly Butte Electric Cooperative, Inc., PO Box 137, 109 S. Dartmouth, Newell, SD 57760 for its members. Families subscribe to Butte Electric Beacon Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. Butte Electric Beacon Cooperative Connections' purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to electric cooperative members on matters pertaining to rural electrification and better rural living.

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By the Community, For the Community



John Lee, CEO

jlee@butteelectric.com

When you think of October, pumpkins, Halloween and beautiful fall foliage naturally come to mind. But October is notable for another reason – it's National Co-op Month! This is the time of year when cooperatives across the country, including Butte Electric, celebrate who we are and more importantly, the members we serve.

Cooperatives are different than other types of businesses. When the market declines to offer a product or service, or does so at a very high price, co-ops intervene to fill the need.

Similar to how Butte Electric was built by members who came together to bring electricity to our community, cooperatives are conveners for the common good. Your electric co-op exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, the members of the co-op. Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the members we serve.

As a co-op, we are well-suited to meet the needs of the community because we are locally governed. Butte's leadership team and employees live right here in the community. Our board of directors, who helps set long-term priorities for the co-op, live locally on co-op lines. These board members have been elected to the position by neighbors like you.

We know our members (that's you!) have a valuable perspective. That's why we are continually seeking your input. Whether through community events, our social media channels or the annual meeting, we want to hear from you.

Our close connection to the community ensures we get a firsthand perspective on local priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments.

Another feature that sets our co-op apart from a traditional utility is one of our core principles, "Concern for Community." We partner with local organizations for events like the Butte/Lawrence County Fair, our annual Block Party, local tailgate events and other worthy programs and events. We participate in the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, where we take our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C., for a week-long immersion to experience democracy in action.

Ultimately, the larger community benefits from these programs because of you and your neighbors. You empower the co-op through your membership and through your participation in and support of these programs.

We hope you will think of Butte Electric as more than your energy provider, but instead as a local business that supports this community and powers economic development and prosperity for the people.

We will continue to learn from our members about their priorities so that we can better serve you – because your electric co-op was built by the community, for the community.

Electrical Safety Tips to Help Protect Homes and Businesses

Every year, electrical equipment, wiring, appliances and tools cause injuries and fires at both homes and workplaces.

Paying close attention to the condition of electrical equipment and taking appropriate and prompt action to correct electrical problems can help to ensure your safety and the safety of those around you.

Below are guidelines to help identify and reduce electrical hazards.

Electrical Outlet Safety

- Avoid overloading outlets with too many appliances, and ensure that electrical loads are appropriate for the circuits.
- Unplug appliances when they are not in use to conserve energy, as well as minimize the opportunities for electric shock or fire.
- Use outlets instead of relying on extension cords and power strips. Consider having additional permanent outlets installed where needed.
- Use Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) in wet/damp areas like kitchens, bathrooms and outdoors.

Electrical Cord Safety

- Inspect electrical cords to ensure that they are not frayed, cracked or damaged.
- Do not place electrical cords in high traffic areas, under carpets, or across doorways where they pose a potential tripping hazard or could be easily damaged.

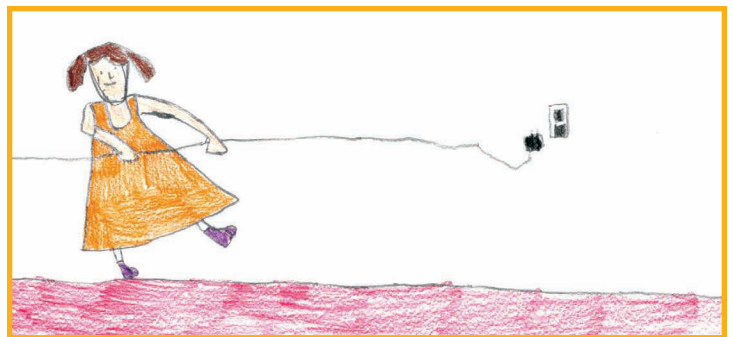
Certification and Awareness

- Ensure that all electrical products and equipment are certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), and read the manufacturer's instructions carefully.
- Allow only trained and qualified electrical workers to perform work on electrical equipment.
- Be aware of signs of electrical problems such as flickering lights and/or buzzing, sizzling or humming sounds from electrical systems.

Source: acadiainsurance.com



KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



"Never jerk cords out of the outlets; grip the plug only."

Traci Tschetter, 8 years old

Traci is the daughter of Ryan and Elaine Tschetter, Revillo, S.D. They are members of Whetstone Valley Electric Cooperative, Milbank, 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.

Slow Cooker Sensations

Slow Cooker Egg Casserole

1 (32 oz.) bag frozen hash browns	1-1/2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese
1 lb. ham, cooked and cubed	12 eggs
1 onion, finely chopped	1 cup milk
1 green pepper, chopped	1/2 tsp. salt
1 T. olive oil	1/2 tsp. pepper

Spray inside of slow cooker with cooking spray. In a small frying pan, saute onion and green pepper in oil until tender. Cool 10 minutes. Place 1/3 frozen hash browns in slow cooker. Add 1/3 ham, onion and green pepper mixture and cheese. Repeat layers, ending with cheese. In large bowl, beat eggs, milk, salt and pepper until well blended. Pour over hash browns. Cook, covered, on LOW for 10 to 12 hours or overnight until casserole is set and eggs are thoroughly cooked. Serves 12.

Mary Jessen, Holabird, SD

Cream Cheese Chicken Taquitos

2 boneless chicken breasts	8 oz. cream cheese
1 tsp. chili powder	1/3 cup water
1 tsp. garlic powder	1/2 cup shredded cheese
1 tsp. cumin	12 6-inch flour tortillas

Combine chicken, chili powder, garlic powder, cumin, cream cheese and water in slow cooker. Cover and cook on LOW for 8 hours or 4 hours on HIGH. Place 1/4 cup chicken mixture into each tortilla. Top with 1 to 2 T. shredded cheese. Roll tightly and place in a single layer on greased baking sheet. Bake at 400°F. for 10 minutes or until tortillas are slightly browned and cheese is melted.

Cortney Reedy, Tea, SD

Pork Sausage and Rice

2 boxes Uncle Ben's Wild Rice	1 (8 oz.) can of mushrooms
1 lb. seasoned pork sausage	1 (10.5-oz.) can cream of mushroom soup

Prepare Uncle Ben's rice as directed. Brown pork sausage. Combine all ingredients in slow cooker. Cook on LOW for 3 to 4 hours.

Robert Bernhardt, Aberdeen, SD

Slow Cookers Tamale Pie

2 lbs. lean ground beef	1 (4 oz.) can chopped green chiles
1 pkg. McCormick® Slow Cookers Chili Seasoning	1/2 cup water
2 (14.5 oz. each) cans stewed tomatoes, cut-up	Topping:
1 (14.5 oz.) can kidney or pinto beans, drained and rinsed	1 (8.5 oz.) box corn muffin mix
	1/2 cup shredded Cheddar cheese

Cook ground beef in large skillet on medium-high heat until no longer pink; drain. Place in slow cooker. Add Seasoning Mix, tomatoes, beans, chiles and water; mix well. Cover. Cook 8 hours on LOW or 4 hours on HIGH. For the Cornbread Topping, if using low setting, increase to HIGH. Prepare corn muffin batter as directed on package. Drop batter by spoonfuls on top of simmering chili. Cover. Cook 30 minutes longer or until toothpick inserted into center of cornbread topping comes out clean. Sprinkle with cheese. Makes 10 servings.

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 362, Total Fat 14g, Cholesterol 89mg, Sodium 9340mg, Protein 26g, Carbohydrates 33g, Dietary Fiber 4g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Mississippi Pot Roast

1 3 to 4 lb. chuck roast	1/4 cup butter
1 pkg. ranch dressing mix	4 to 5 pepperoncini peppers with some juice
1 pkg. au jus gravy mix	

Place roast in slow cooker. Sprinkle dressing mix and au jus mix on top. Place peppers on top of the mixes; add butter. Cook on LOW 8 hours. *Note: Do not add any water or broth to this. It will make enough liquid as it cooks.*

Jean Osterman, Wheaton, MN

Please send your favorite holiday, soup or brunch 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 2019. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

Financial Report

Statement of Operations – Fiscal Year Ending July 31, 2019

Assets	
Electric Plant in Service	\$68,157,345
Construction Work in Progress (WIP)	\$182,384
Total Electric Plant	\$68,339,729
Less Reserve for Depreciation	\$22,251,901
Net Electric Plant	\$46,087,828
Investments in Associate Organizations	\$6,167,319
Other Investments	\$4,594,600
Total Other Investments	\$10,761,919
Cash - General Fund	\$512,791
Cash - Construction Fund	0
Temporary Investments	0
Accounts Receivable (Less Uncollectibles)	\$1,244,220
Material and Supplies	\$1,386,668
Prepayments	\$210,474
Interest Receivable	\$29,188
Total Current Assets	\$3,383,341
Deferred Charges	\$362,400
Other Accounts Receivable	0
Total Assets	\$60,595,488

Equities	
Patronage Capital	\$19,300,201
Other Equities	\$908,005
Total Equities	\$20,208,206

Margins	
Electric Operating Margins	\$2,126,205
Fixed Charges (Interest on Long-Term Debt)	\$1,483,363
Operating Margin (After Fixed Charges)	\$642,843
G&T and Other Capital Credits	\$1,007,999
Non-operating Margin	\$270,952
Net Margins	\$1,921,794

Long-Term Liabilities	
Long-Term Debt – RUS & CFC	\$37,852,169
Capital Lease	\$132,976

Current/Non-Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$870,488
Customer Deposits	\$235,595
Taxes	\$273,179
Other Current Liabilities	\$163,258
Total Current Liabilities	\$1,542,520
Deferred Credits	\$859,617
Total Equities and Liabilities	\$60,595,488



Facts and Figures ENDING JULY 31, 2019	
Number of Members	5,010
Number of Meters	6297
Miles of Line	
Transmission Line	63.15
Underground Line	495.80
Overhead Line	802.06
Meters per Mile of Line	4.63
New Services – 2017	147
Outage Time (Minutes per meter per year)	41

Taxes Paid	
Gross Revenue Tax	
Meade County	\$15,163
Lawrence County	\$102,277
Butte County	\$42,843
City of Newell	\$924
City of Spearfish	\$101,529
City of Sturgis	\$9,891
City of Belle Fourche	\$5,470
Total	\$278,097
2018 Real Estate Tax	
Butte County	\$19,367
Lawrence County	\$4,721
Meade County	\$7,812
Total	\$31,900

Operating Revenue



Residential.....	\$8,754,100
Large Commercial ...	\$3,389,126
Small Commercial ...	\$1,539,796
Other	\$740,677
Irrigation and Grain ...	\$231,214
Seasonal	\$208,904
Total Operating Revenue:	\$14,863,817

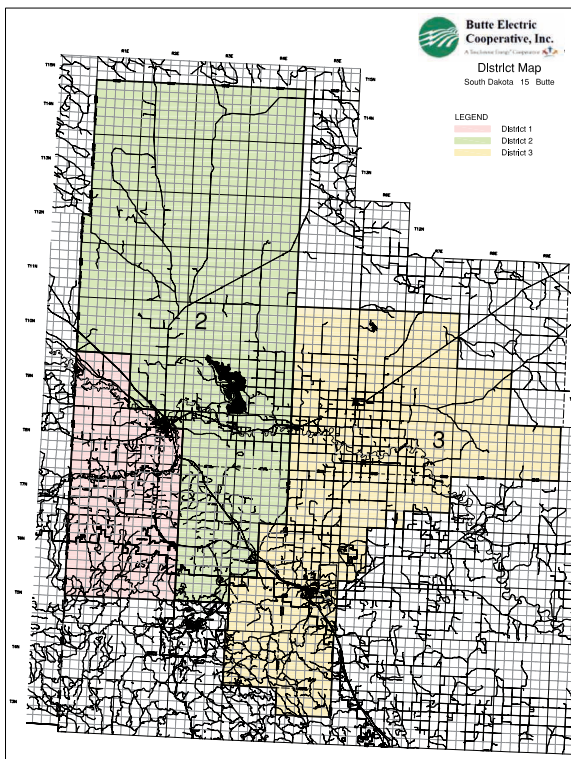
Operating Expenses



Cost of Power.....	\$6,879,805
Depreciation	\$1,831,028
Distribution Expenses	\$1,907,316
Administrative & General Expense.....	\$1,022,889
Customer Accounts Expense	\$355,828
Customer Service and Info Expense	\$290,888
Transmission Expense	\$430,622
Other	\$19,235
Total Operating Expenses:	\$12,737,611

Directors Elected by the Members to Serve

The Butte Electric Cooperative board of directors consists of nine directors, elected by the cooperative's membership, who represent one of the cooperative's three districts. Each year at the annual meeting, cooperative members elect a director to represent each district for a three-year term. This year, the director seats held by James Morenson, Dan Marris and Steve Smeenk are up for re-election..



District 1 West



James Mortenson
Belle Fourche



Cris Miller
Spearfish



Travis Schenk
Spearfish

District 2 Central



Dan Marris
Whitewood



Chandy Olson
St. Onge



Tom Brunner
Nisland

District 3 East



Steve Smeenk
Newell



Dan Hefner
Whitewood



Thomas Casteel
Vale

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES ARE



COMMUNITY
BORN

COMMUNITY
LED

FOCUSED ON
YOU



Dakota Energy lineman Brandon Moore draws an arc on the high voltage demonstration as DEC's Greg Palmer explains the dangers of getting close to electrical equipment.

CO-OPS DELIVER SAFETY MESSAGE

High Voltage Trailer Brings Safety Messages to Local Communities

Brenda Kleinjan

editor@sdrea.coop

The hum of electric current arcing can be heard split seconds before the eye registers the glowing arc on the wire and the flames shooting from the ends of a grapefruit attached to a human-like model of the rural electric cooperatives' high voltage demonstration trailer.

As the hum subsides and the gasps of Miller High School students dwindle, Dakota Energy Cooperative's Greg Palmer continues his explanation of electricity's need to find a path to ground.

"This will show you what would happen to your body



Moore shows the scorched insides of a grapefruit that had been used on the high voltage demonstration trailer.

Photos by Brenda Kleinjan/SDREA

“This will show you what would happen to your body internally if you were to come in contact with 7,200 watts of electricity.”

internally if you were to come in contact with 7,200 volts of electricity,” said Palmer, who works out of the Huron, S.D.-based cooperative’s Miller office. Palmer, along with lineman Brandon Moore were part of the Miller High School FFA Chapter’s Ag Safety Day in early October.

The duo used a newly constructed demonstration trailer used by South Dakota’s electric cooperatives to deliver safety messages to student groups, community groups, fire departments and others across the state. The co-ops have been using one trailer for more than two decades and this fall added the second trailer to the safety fleet.

Moore continues the demonstration, draws an arc on the example power lines.

“Electricity travels at the speed of light – you can’t just let go,” explains Palmer. “You can’t see it, you can’t smell it. The only time you see it is when something bad is about to happen.”

Moore removes the grapefruit from the demonstration trailer and cuts it in half.

With this grapefruit, it looks normal from the outside, you can see where the electricity went in and out. But when you cut it open, you see what it does to the inside of the body – it chars everything,” Palmer explains.

“You’ve heard the same story before: don’t climb on the green boxes, don’t fly kites near power lines. But especially this time of year, be aware of where power lines and underground boxes are located,” Palmer said.



Employees at Moreau-Grand Electric helped construct the state’s second High Voltage Demonstration trailer used by South Dakota electric cooperatives.

Photo by Roger Lawien/Moreau-Grand

“This morning we changed a pole because someone ran into it with a (silage) chopper and broke it off,” Palmer said.

Palmer went on to explain that if an accident like that happens and the power line comes in contact with the equipment or tractor, the best plan is to stay in the tractor or piece of equipment until the line can be de-energized.

For information about bringing this safety demonstration or other safety demonstrations to your school, community group or fire department, contact your local electric cooperative.



Miller High School students examine the insides of a hotdog held by Dakota Energy’s Greg Palmer. The hotdog is used as an example of what an electrical contact can do to human muscle. On the Cover: Flames shoot out the ends of an energized hotdog as Brandon Moore guides an electrical current into the demonstration unit to show the impact an electric contact has on the human body.



One hundred eighty-seven Butte Electric Cooperative members attended the 2018 annual meeting.

Butte Electric Cooperative, Inc.

78th Annual Membership Meeting

October 25, 2018 • Belle Fourche, South Dakota

The Seventy-Eighth Annual Membership Meeting of Butte Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held at 6:30 p.m., on October 25, 2018, at the Belle Fourche Area Community Center in Belle Fourche, South Dakota, pursuant to official notice mailed to all members of the Cooperative at their last known address as shown on the records of the Cooperative.

Thomas Brunner, Secretary of the Board of Directors, advised there were 187 members registered and declared a quorum was present.

Cris Miller, President of the Board of Directors, called the 78th Annual Membership Meeting of Butte Electric Cooperative, Inc. to order.

President Miller introduced Director Thomas Brunner, who gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

President Miller then introduced John Lee who welcomed the members to Belle Fourche.

President Miller called on Angie

Alexander to draw for the \$20 attendance prize and power plant tour.

Judy Dague's name was drawn for a \$20.00 attendance prize.

Secretary Brunner read the Official Notice and the Affidavit of Mailing of the Notice.

President Miller asked if the members would like the minutes of last year's meeting read or would someone make a motion to dispense with the reading and approve the minutes. A motion was made by Joyce Hall, seconded by Karl Jensen, and carried to dispense with the reading of the minutes.

After introducing the members of the election and credentials committee, President Cris Miller turned the election over to Attorney Ronda Miller.

Ronda Miller called on Karl Jensen to read the Certificate of the Credentials Committee. Petitions were submitted by:

- District 1 - Bill Coburn, Marilyn Hespe and Travis Schenk

- District 2 - Thomas Brunner
- District 3 - Thomas Casteel

Attorney Miller introduced the candidates. A Motion was made that a unanimous ballot be cast for Thomas Brunner, and Thomas Casteel, the motion carried.

Attorney Miller explained the election procedures as it is contained in the Bylaws. The Credentials committee were directed to gather ballots.

Alan Williams' name was drawn for the \$20.00 attendance prize.

CEO Lee then introduced Ellie Greger who gave a speech on what it meant for her to attend the Washington DC Rural Electric Youth trip.

CEO Lee then introduced Dr. Steve Willard Superintendent of the Belle Fourche School district. Dr Willard talked about the new CTE building they built with the help of Butte Electric and the REDLg loan that Butte Electric facilitated for them.

Rich Drabek's name was drawn for the \$20.00 attendance prize.

Dan Hefner, Treasurer, presented the Financial Report for the previous year. He pointed out total revenue from energy sales were \$14.9 million for the year. Operating expenses were \$12.6 million. Net investment in plant is just over \$1,828,734 this year. Long term debt is \$38,954,574 while total electric plant owned is \$66,651,259. The number of meters has reached the 6,163 mark as we continue to grow.

It was moved by Joyce Hall and seconded by Frank Dobesh to approve the Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements. Motion carried.

DeLoyce "Slim" Bedford's name was drawn for a \$20 attendance prize.

President Cris Miller and CEO John Lee then gave the management report.

President Miller started out by first thanking the board of directors for their continued dedication to keeping our electrical system efficient and affordable. He then introduced the Board members.

CEO Lee then talked about the mission statement and core values and how they tie into the daily operations of the cooperative.

CEO Lee started by updating the members on some of the community events Butte Electric employees and the Board of Directors have participated in this year. CEO Lee touched on the Butte/Lawrence County Fair, that we have participated in the Livestock sale for the past 35 years and have been providing the free BBQ with West River Telephone for close to 20 years. He also talked about the tailgate we sponsored and served almost 400 people and helping at the Festival in the Park in Spearfish. The employees have donated over 591 hours in volunteer time.

CEO Lee then talked about reliability. He discussed the three major projects they are working on that should provide more reliability to our system. The linemen are working on three projects of converting overhead line to underground line. The areas they have been working on are Kellem Lane near Spearfish, Bighorn road north of Sturgis, and the last project is in the Big Elk subdivision located off of Vanocker Canyon Road.

CEO Lee then discussed member services and how the new Peak Time Rebate program was going and that as of October 1st, 2018 there are 774 members signed up for this program. This helps by reducing electrical costs for members and helping keep down power costs for the Cooperative. CEO Lee mentioned the new Spearfish Member Service Center that has opened in Spearfish. It is a one of a kind office that offers the ability for our

members to stop by and pay and ask question about their bill and shop our line of smart home related technologies at member friendly prices.

Finally, CEO Lee talked about the most recent project a 49KV community solar project at our Spearfish outpost. This project in conjunction with GenPro will allow our members to purchase part of their home energy need via solar energy.

CEO turned it over to President Miller who then talked about rates, and how Butte Electric continues to show strong growth and how the staff has worked diligently on cutting operating expenses. All these combinations have contributed to the board deciding to reduce the rates by a small percentage.

CEO Lee introduced special guests at the meeting.

Kim Johnson's name was drawn for a \$20.00 attendance prize.

President Miller called for unfinished business. There was no unfinished business, so he asked for new business to be brought before the meeting. There was no new business.

Drawings were made for several door prizes which were donated by businesses who sell supplies, equipment, and services to the cooperative.

Winner of the grand prize, a TV, was Larry and Cindy Fairbanks.

The Election results were given by Attorney Miller with Travis Schenk being elected.

A motion was made Tom Casteel, seconded by Tom Brunner and carried to adjourn the meeting.

Cris Miller, President
Thomas Brunner, Secretary

Certificate of Secretary

I, Thomas Brunner, do hereby certify that I am the duly elected, qualified Secretary of the Butte Electric Cooperative, Inc. (hereinafter called the 'Cooperative'); that the foregoing is a complete and correct copy of the original minutes entered in the Minute Book of the Cooperative of the meeting of its members held October 25, 2018, that at the meeting a quorum of the members was present and acted throughout; and the resolutions contained in the minutes of the aforementioned meeting have not been modified or rescinded.

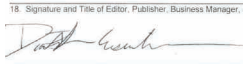
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name as Secretary and affixed the Corporate Seal of the Cooperative this 22nd day of October, 2019.

(SEAL)

Thomas Brunner, Secretary

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

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c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))		4777
4777		4817
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)		
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e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))		82
82		2
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		4859
4859		4889
g. Copies not Distributed (See instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))		9
9		8
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)		4868
4868		4897
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)		98%
98%		99%
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a. Paid Electronic Copies		
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17. Publication of Statement of Ownership <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the <u>November</u> issue of this publication. <input type="checkbox"/> Publication not required.		
18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner 		Date 10/1/19

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Don't Shoot!

Vandals and Errant Shots Wreak Havoc with Equipment

Brenda Kleinjan

editor@sdrea.coop

"You get really cold weather and the line tightens up and that's when you'll see those weak spots break."

With fall comes an increase of outdoor hunting activities.

One thing not on any responsible hunter's bag list is electrical equipment.

The irresponsible actions of those firing the shots can have costly – and untimely – consequences for electric cooperative members.

Shots fired at electric equipment can cause immediate, noticeable damage, often times causing for emergency, after-hours dispatch of crews to locate and repair the problem disrupting power to members.

Other times, the damage weakens a line or piece of equipment. Time, weather or storms can cause the weakened area to fail, likely at an inconvenient time for members.

"It never comes at a convenient time," said Dale Schwagel, line superintendent at Traverse Electric Cooperative in Wheaton, Minn., of when the damage occurs...and when past damage usually surfaces.

"You get really cold weather and the line tightens up and that's when you'll see



Fall decor at some South Dakota electric cooperatives carry an important safety reminder about not shooting at or near power lines.



Bullet holes caused by vandals riddle a co-op transformer.



Routers are being installed at Traverse Electric Cooperative in Wheaton, Minn., as part of a system-wide meter upgrade.

When vandals target power lines and electrical apparatus, system reliability is at stake.



A newly installed router at Traverse Electric Cooperative in Wheaton, Minn., was destroyed by a vandal's bullet, causing more than \$1,600 in damage.

those weak spots break,” said Schwagel.

The co-op has been relatively vandal-free for the last several years.

However, this summer the co-op encountered damage to newly installed routers which are part of a system-wide meter upgrade.

Schwagel estimates the cost of the damage will total more than \$2,500 once labor is tacked on to replacing the \$1,600 piece of equipment.

“Shooting this piece of equipment is a cost to the co-op and the members. Ultimately that’s where the costs go,” said Schwagel.

If you see damage to co-op equipment, report it to the co-ops so repairs can be made.



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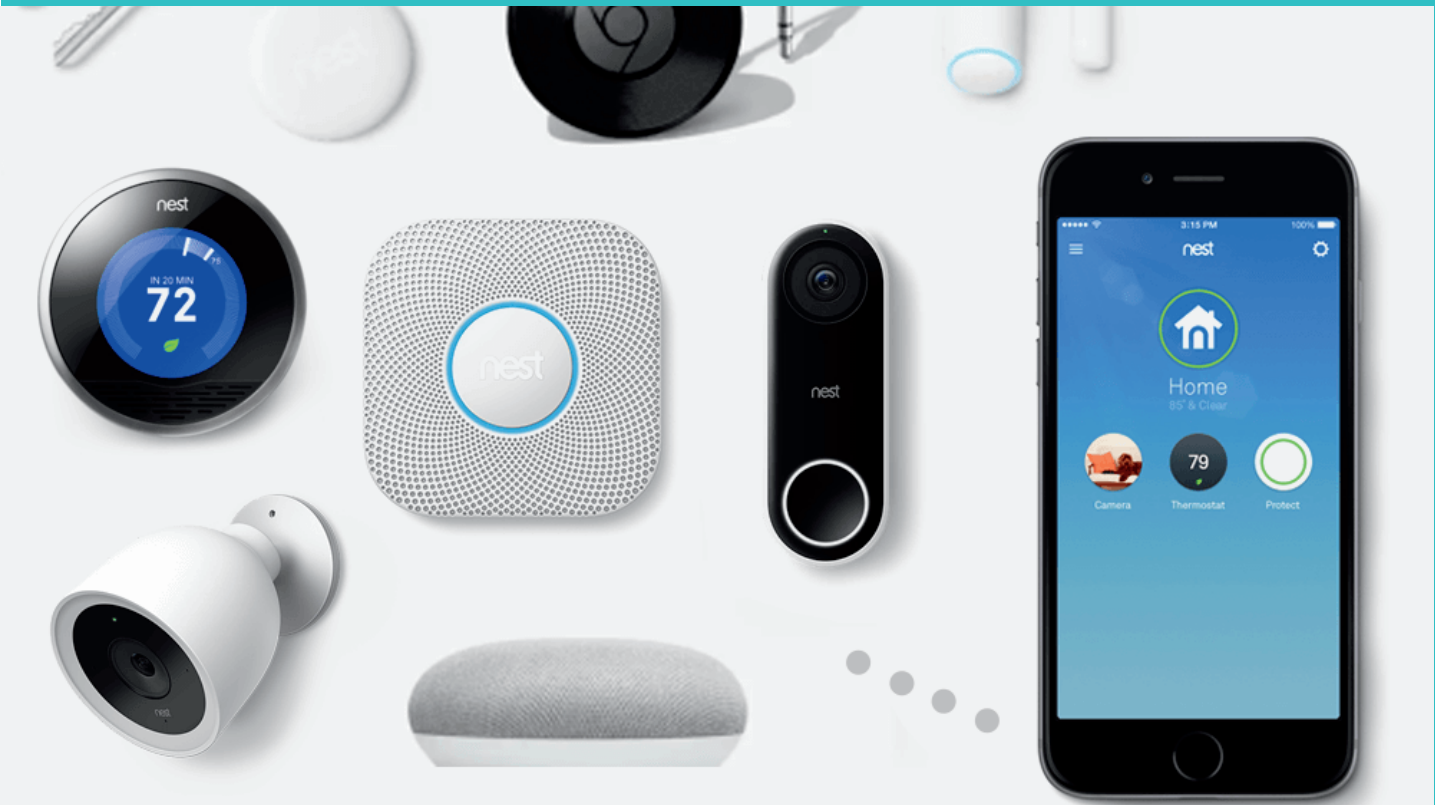
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The employees of Butte Electric Cooperative work hard to meet the energy needs of the cooperative's members.

You'll see us in the office, working on the lines and in the community, serving our members with Innovation, Accountability, Integrity and Commitment to Community.



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Darick Eisenbraun
Chief Finance Officer



Brett Fosheim
Director of Operations



Kim Wince
Office Manager and Accountant



Bart McLellan
Manager of Operations,
Spearfish



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Newell Lineman



Elliot Rayman
Spearfish Lineman



Adam Willuweit
Sturgis Lineman

Mission Statement

The mission of Butte Electric Cooperative, Inc., is to continually improve customer services; provide safe, reliable, and competitively priced electricity; and continue to lead in developing our communities for the benefit of our members.



October 17-19

Fall Fundraising Rummage Sale Thursday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to Noon, Lunch, pies and caramel rolls, Senior Center, Spearfish, SD, 605-642-2827

October 19

The Murder of Miss Kitty Dinner and a Murder! Comfort Inn, Catered by Cheyenne Crossing Restaurant, Deadwood, SD, 605-580-5799, deadwood1876theater.com

October 19

4th Annual Fall Festival, East Pierre Landscape and Garden Center, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Pierre, SD, 605-224-8832

October 19-January 5

Pheasant Hunting Season, Statewide, Pierre, SD, 605-223-7660

October 20

Cowboy Church Service, 10:30 a.m., Bruce Miller Theater with visiting Pastor Dale Larison from Gateway to the High Country Cowboy Church in Clark, Mo., High Plains Western Heritage Center, Spearfish, SD, 605-642-9378

October 20

High Plains Live! Featuring Kim Plender and the Buffalo Grass Band, Tickets: \$10/ General Admission, \$15/ Reserved Seating, High Plains Western Heritage Center, Spearfish, SD, 605-642-9378

October 25-27

Autumn Festival, An Arts and Crafts Affair, Sioux Falls, SD, 402-331-2889



Photo courtesy: Harvest Halloween

October 26

Annual Fundraiser, Gary Mule Deer in Concert, 5:30 p.m. Social Hour with appetizers by Cheyenne Crossing, 6:45 p.m. Concert, Special guest Lacy Nelson, \$50, Prepaid reservations required, High Plains Western Heritage Center, Spearfish, SD, 605-642-9378

October 26

Monthly fundraising breakfast, 7:30 to 10 a.m., Pancakes with sausage or biscuits with sausage gravy will be offered with juice and coffee or tea, Senior Center, Spearfish, SD, 605-642-2827

November 11

Veterans Day Event featuring Orion & Stacey Potter, 1 p.m., Sponsored by First Interstate Bank, Suggested Donation: \$10, Proceeds go to the Spearfish Veterans Monument, High Plains Western Heritage Center, Spearfish, SD, 605-642-9378

November 15-December 18

Black Hills Christmas Tree Permit Season, Custer, SD, 605-673-9200

November 16

Christmas Craft Fair, Legion Hal on Main Street, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Free admission, Tripp, SD, Contact Becki Hauser at 605-480-3009

November 16

Minneluzahan Senior Citizens Fall Craft Show, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-1887

November 22-23

Holiday Arts Christmas Craft Show, Masonic Hall, Mitchell, SD, 605-359-2049

November 26-December 26

Christmas at the Capitol, Pierre, SD, 605-773-3178

November 29-30

1880 Train Holiday Express, Hill City, SD, 605-574-2222

November 30

Holiday Celebration and Winter Market, Rapid City, SD, 605-716-7979

December 7

JuleFest 2019, Scandinavian Christmas Festival and Bazaar, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Lefse, Smorgasbord Breakfast and Lunch, Homemade Crafts and Baked Goods, Coffee and Pastries served all day, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Spearfish, SD, 307-290-0867

December 7

Festival of Trees, City Hall, Newell, SD

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.