

# Cooperative Connections



Ione Fejfar welcomes veterans to Operation Black Hills Cabin in Custer as a place of healing and restoration

**A Healing Place  
for Veterans**

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**Co-ops and the  
S.D. National  
Guard**

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# Giving Back to Our Community



**John Lee, CEO**

[jlee@butteelectric.com](mailto:jlee@butteelectric.com)

**We know that our core job is to keep the lights on; but our passion is our community.**

“Concern for Community” is one of the core principles that sets cooperatives apart from other types of utilities and businesses. We’ve always taken this mission and responsibility to heart. It’s who we are as a co-op.

Over the past few months, like so many of you, we’ve risen to meet new challenges and strengthen the safety net for our community, particularly for those who are most vulnerable. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we’ve made numerous adjustments to programs and operations to maintain business continuity while staying focused on the bigger mission of helping our consumer-members during this turbulent time.

Now, with the holidays fast approaching, these recent events have made me pause and think about the role we play in our community. While our purpose is to provide safe and reliable energy to you, the members we serve, we have a greater mission—to be a catalyst for good.

We’re committed to community—not just for our employees, but for our members as well. We visit schools to teach children of all ages how to stay safe around electricity. 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 also 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.

You’ll also see our employees serving on local boards, coaching youth sports, volunteering at charitable events and more. Because when you work at a co-op, you understand how important a strong community is—after all, without you, the co-op wouldn’t exist.

We know that our core job is to keep the lights on; but our passion is our community. Because we live and work here too, and we want to make it a better place for all.

If there’s anything we can do to help you—whether providing energy-saving advice to help lower your monthly bill or discuss payment plan options during these difficult times—please reach out to us at Butte Electric.

Concern for community is the heart and soul of who we are. And no matter what the future brings, you can count on your electric co-op to care about you.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Keep cold air out to save energy. Seal air leaks around pipes and any gaps around chimneys and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets.

Source: [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.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  
Laine Mitchell – Dir. of Marketing and Communications  
Colleen Schreiner – Billing Clerk  
Angie Alexander – Administrative Asst.  
Lee Ann Gaer – Customer Service Rep.

### OPERATIONS PERSONNEL

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

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80TH ANNUAL MEETING



We'll see you there!

Butte Electric Cooperative, Inc.

# 80TH ANNUAL MEETING

6:00 PM • Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2020  
Belle Fourche  
Area Community Center

Keeping our members' safety a top priority, we intend to celebrate 80 years of service with a few adjustments. Unlike previous Annual Meetings, there will be no meal or door prizes this year to help us better comply with social distancing. If you would like to receive drive-thru service at this year's meeting, please contact our office before October 20 to make arrangements. All Annual Meeting attendees will receive a \$25 bill credit.

## AGENDA

- Call to Order
- Declaration of Election
- Pledge of Allegiance
- New Business
- Welcome
- Adjourn
- Approval of Minutes

If you are disabled and need 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](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](mailto:program.itake@usda.gov)

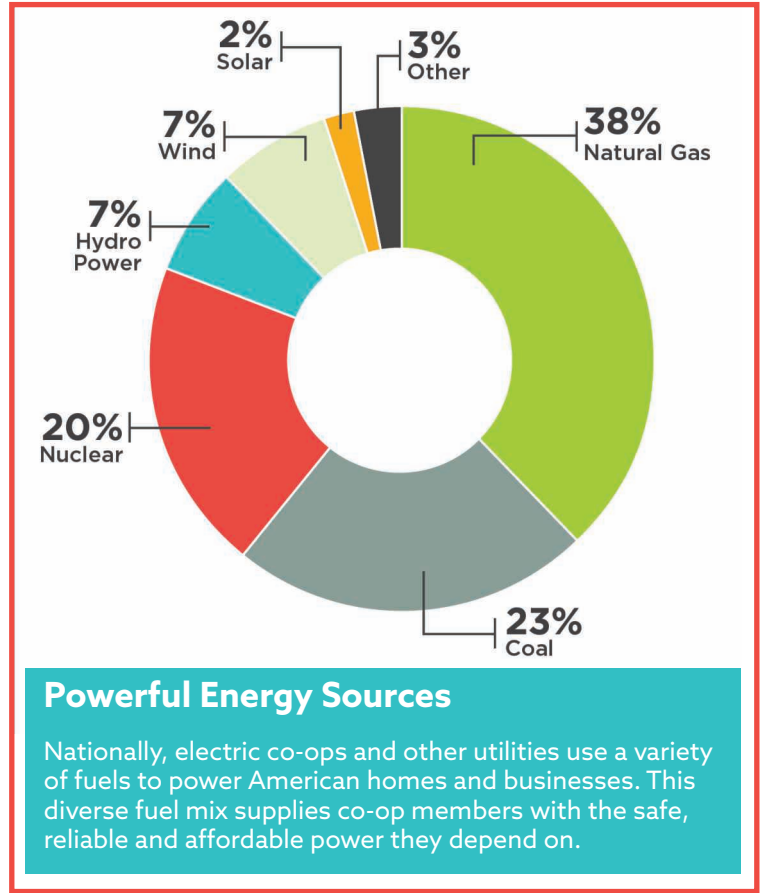
# Enjoy an energy-efficient feast this Thanksgiving

New electrical appliances use far less energy in your home than older ones, but that doesn't mean you should skimp on energy-efficient behavior in the kitchen.

During the frantic holiday season, making the simplest changes while cooking can save plenty of energy and money.

- There's usually no need to preheat the oven, especially if the food you're cooking - like a turkey or a ham - will be in it for a long time.
- Avoid opening the oven door to check on food. Instead, turn on the oven light and peer through the window to make sure your pumpkin pie or turkey isn't burning to a crisp. Opening the oven door - even for just a second or two - can drop the temperature inside the oven by 25 degrees.
- Place several items in the oven at once. All food will cook thoroughly if you leave enough room around pies or casseroles for air to flow.
- Electric ovens retain heat even after you turn them off, so it's safe to turn them off several minutes before a recipe's time is up. Electric stovetops work the same way: The metal element will keep cooking for several minutes after you turn it off.
- Choose glass or ceramic pans for the oven. They let you set the temperature 25 degrees lower than metal pans do.
- Match the pan size to the size of the stovetop burner so you don't waste heat. Just a 2-inch difference between pan and burner can waste 40 percent of the generated heat.
- Zap baked potatoes and vegetables in the microwave instead of simmering them on the stovetop. Microwaves use significantly less electricity than a stove or oven.
- Involve everyone in cooking. Leave the electric mixer in the cupboard and let the kids stir the cake batter by hand and recruit someone to chop the veggies instead of tossing them into a food processor. The experience might save some electricity and make everyone proud of contributing to the meal.

Keep these handy and helpful tips in mind as you prepare to entertain family and friends in your home this holiday season.



## KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



**"Keep Indoors!"**

**Grace Austin, 7 years old**

Grace is a member of West River Electric Association based in Rapid City. She encourages readers, "During a storm, all kids and pets should be inside. So, don't go outside. It's dangerous."

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.



# Savory Slow-Cook Selections

## Slow-Cooker Zucchini Soup

1 ½ lbs. sweet Italian sausage	2 tsp. salt
2 c. ½-inch celery pieces	1 tsp. white sugar
2 lbs. zucchini, cut into ½-inch slices	1 tsp. dried oregano
2 (28 oz.) cans diced tomatoes (or fresh)	1 tsp. Italian seasoning
2 green peppers, cut into ½-inch slices	1 tsp. dried basil
1 c. chopped onion	¼ tsp. garlic powder
	6 T. grated Parmesan cheese, or to taste

Heat a large skillet over medium-high heat. Cook and stir sausage in the hot skillet until browned and crumbly, 5-7 minutes; drain and discard grease. Mix celery into cooked sausage; cook and stir until celery is softened, about 10 minutes. Combine sausage mixture, zucchini, tomatoes, bell peppers, onion, salt, sugar, oregano, Italian seasoning, basil and garlic powder in a slow cooker. Cook on low for 4-6 hours. Garnish each serving with 1 T. Parmesan cheese. Note: Water is not needed in this recipe.

**Shelly Goetz, Sioux Falls, SD**

## Crock Pot Corn

2 (16 oz.) bags frozen corn	6 T. sugar
8 oz. cream cheese (but in chunks)	6 T. water
	½ cup butter or margarine

Put in crockpot on high for two hours or low for four. Stir every once in a while. Salt and pepper to taste.

**Helen Gregory, Lemmon, SD**

## Spaghetti Corn

1 can cream style corn	1 onion, diced
1 can whole corn	1 cup shredded cheddar
2 cups spaghetti, broken	1 stick butter, melted

Break spaghetti into 2-inch pieces. Do not drain whole corn. Combine all ingredients. Pour into buttered casserole dish. Bake uncovered for 30 mins. at 350. Cover and put back in oven for 20 mins. OR place in crock pot for 2 hours. OR Cook on stove for 50 mins. on lowest heat, removing for 10 minute intervals.

**Jane Ham, Rapid City, SD**

## BBQ Steakhouse Chili

2 T. oil	beans, rinsed
1 lb. beef top round steak, cut into 1/2-inch pieces	2-1/2 cups undrained canned no-salt-added diced tomatoes
1 lb. extra-lean ground beef	1 bottle (18 oz.) KRAFT Hickory Smoke Barbecue Sauce
1 onion, finely chopped	¾ cup KRAFT Shredded Cheddar Cheese
¼ cup A1 Dry Rub Bold Original	
3 cloves garlic, minced	
2 cans (16 oz. each) kidney	

Heat oil in large skillet on medium. Add next five ingredients; stir. Cook 10 min. or until meat is evenly browned, stirring frequently. Spoon into slow cooker sprayed with cooking spray. Add all remaining ingredients except cheese; stir. Cover with lid. Cook on low 7 to 8 hours (or on high 4 to 5 hours). Serve topped with cheese.

**Provided by Kraft Heinz**

## Chicken Cacciatore

1/2 cup KRAFT Zesty Italian	1 green pepper, cut in strips
1 tsp. dried oregano leaves	1/2 lb. sliced mushrooms
2 lbs. mixed boneless skinless chicken breasts and thighs	1-1/2 c. CLASSICO Tomato and Basil Pasta Sauce
	3 c. rotini pasta, uncooked

Mix dressing/oregano in pot sprayed with cooking spray. Add chicken; coat both sides of each piece with dressing mixture. Top with vegetables and pasta sauce; cover with lid. Cook on low 6-8 hours (or high 4-6 hours). About 15 min. before serving, cook pasta, no salt. Drain. Serve topped with chicken and vegetables.

**Provided by Kraft Heinz**

Please send your favorite holiday 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 2020. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

# Financial Report

## Statement of Operations – Fiscal Year Ending July 31, 2020

Assets	
Electric Plant in Service	\$70,277,661
Construction Work in Progress (WIP)	\$403,633
Total Electric Plant	\$70,681,294
Less Reserve for Depreciation	\$23,656,972
Net Electric Plant	\$47,024,322
Investments in Associate Organizations	\$5,299,496
Other Investments	\$8,002,839
Total Other Investments	\$13,302,335
Cash - General Fund	\$534,729
Cash - Construction Fund	\$0
Temporary Investments	\$0
Accounts Receivable (Less Uncollectibles)	\$1,399,320
Material and Supplies	\$1,014,817
Prepayments	\$132,232
Interest Receivable	\$16,272
Total Current Assets	\$3,097,370
Deferred Charges	\$272,881
Other Accounts Receivable	\$0
Total Assets	\$63,696,908
Equities	
Patronage Capital	\$20,088,998
Other Equities	\$1,344,339
Total Equities	\$21,433,337

Margins	
Electric Operating Margins	\$2,455,720
Fixed Charges (Interest on Long-Term Debt)	\$ 1,488,821
Operating Margin (After Fixed Charges)	\$966,899
G&T and Other Capital Credits	\$341,443
Non-operating Margin	\$338,631
Net Margins	\$1,646,973
Long-Term Liabilities	
Long-Term Debt – RUS & CFC	\$39,807,948
Capital Lease	\$88,742
Current/Non-Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$824,901
Customer Deposits	\$254,795
Taxes	\$267,482
Other Current Liabilities	\$193,360
Total Current Liabilities	\$1,540,538
Deferred Credits	\$826,343
Total Equities and Liabilities	\$63,696,908

Facts and Figures ENDING JULY 31, 2020	
Number of Members	5,141
Number of Meters	6,370
Miles of Line	
Transmission Line	63.15
Underground Line	515.36
Overhead Line	785.83
Meters per Mile of Line	4.6
New Services – 2019	131
Outage Time (Minutes per meter per year)	48

Taxes Paid	
Gross Revenue Tax	
Meade County	\$15,301
Lawrence County	\$104,027
Butte County	\$42,649
City of Newell	\$970
City of Spearfish	\$102,312
City of Sturgis	\$9,256
City of Belle Fourche	\$6,108
Total	\$280,623
2019 Real Estate Tax	
Butte County	\$26,384
Lawrence County	\$4,785
Meade County	\$7,866
Total	\$39,035

### Operating Revenue



Residential .....	\$8,884,292
Large Commercial .....	\$3,260,047
Small Commercial .....	\$1,562,166
Other .....	\$439,548
Irrigation and Grain .....	\$480,257
Seasonal .....	\$218,110
<b>Total Operating Revenue:</b>	<b>\$14,844,420</b>

### Operating Expenses

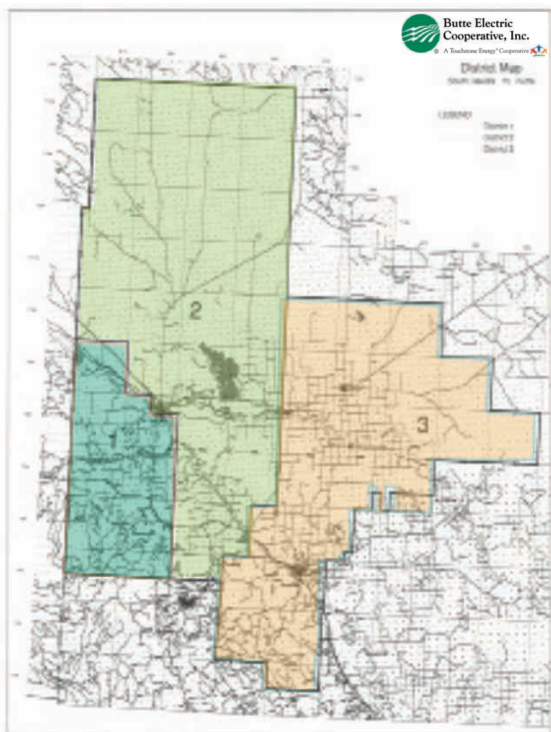


Cost of Power .....	\$6,987,217
Depreciation .....	\$1,889,533
Distribution Expenses .....	\$1,600,556
Administrative and General Expense .....	\$1,099,234
Customer Accounts Expense .....	\$397,857
Customer Service and Info Expense .....	\$288,478
Transmission Expense .....	\$114,551
Other .....	\$11,274
<b>Total Operating Expenses:</b>	<b>\$12,388,700</b>



## 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 Chris Miller, Chandy Olson, and Dan Hefner 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



**Dan Hefner**  
Whitewood



**Steve Smeenk**  
Newell



**Thomas Casteel**  
Vale



**SAFE,  
RELIABLE,  
AFFORDABLE  
ENERGY.**

**THEN. NOW.  
ALWAYS.**

**We are proud to  
power your life.**





Operation Black Hills Cabin is a healing place for U.S. military veterans in Custer.

# HEALING PLACES

## Organizations cater to military veterans in need

**Billy Gibson**

[billy.gibson@sdrea.coop](mailto:billy.gibson@sdrea.coop)

*“After 21 years of learning to live with the scars, the limitations, the tremors and the nightmares...I can honestly say this experience has filled my heart with fresh hope.” - Veteran Jason Cooper*

U.S. military veteran Jason Cooper needed some peace. He needed some quiet. He needed a reprieve from the rigors and stress of everyday life. So, Cooper gathered up his family and made the trip from his home in Kentucky to the Black Hills where he would find rest, relaxation and time for thoughtful contemplation.

Cooper and his crew spent a week-long vacation in a comfortable, cozy cabin in Custer as part of a project called Operation Black Hills Cabin (OBHC). Over the past 10 years, he and dozens of other wounded veterans have discovered a tranquil site to unwind and to enjoy the wide range of outdoor activities available in the area – all free of charge.

The program began as a service to provide veterans and their families with a free getaway and also as a means for organizers to express gratitude for the sacrifices made to protect freedom.

One of those founding organizers is Col. Marty Mahrt, a former Air Force pilot who joined the military in 1955 and flew 88 missions through two tours of duty in Vietnam. During his first tour, Mahrt was assigned to attack a munitions arsenal at Yen Bai Province. After releasing his ordnance and pulling away, Mahrt's F105 Thunderchief was hit in the right wing by enemy fire. The



Air Force veteran Col. Marty Mahrt is a founding board member of OBHC.

aircraft began a downward spiral, but Mahrt was able to eject and was soon rescued by a helicopter squadron and flown back to the U.S. for surgical treatment of a severe shoulder wound.

While Mahrt and his wife Colleen are usually on hand to greet the veteran visitors to OBHC, the guests rarely get to hear of Mahrt's combat experience. As he puts it, “They don't need to hear anything from me. They have their own problems. I just listen to them and let them know that we're here to help them.”

Mahrt said that he was eager to join Pat and Jeff Baird when they began gathering local support for OBHC back in 2011.

“Just knowing a lot of people who didn't make it back, and seeing the wounded warriors coming back from Iraq, that was something that motivated us to get involved. You see these families, the whole structure of the family changes when a soldier





The Ranch Ministries in Blunt gives veterans an opportunity to hunt in one of the country's most prized pheasant harvesting territories.

and breadwinner is wounded and the wife has to take over," he said.

Mahrt points out that while the project isn't necessarily about providing psychological therapy for the veterans, there are emotional connections made in the process. He said a significant part of the program is the local community's participation. Business leaders and individuals provide free services or deep discounts for meals, entertainment, local tourist attractions and outdoor activities. The veterans also receive a gift card loaded with "Custer Cash" to help offset travel costs.

The Trail of Healing at Operation Black Hills Cabin has a series of messages etched in stone.



"We meet the families and welcome them," Mahrt said. "Sometimes the emotions get the best of me when I present them with their Visa card and they start crying and give me a hug. Sometimes you get emotional."

OBHC Board Secretary Ione Fejfar said the support of the community and way the residents of Custer treat the veterans and their families is part of the strength of the program.

"The people of Custer are absolutely wonderful," she said. "They really roll out the red carpet for them and everywhere our veterans go, they are treated with respect and honor and friendship. Between the cabin and the town, this is a very healing place."

She said every veteran who visits the cabin is asked to compose a brief letter of gratitude to the community that's published in the local newspaper.

### Oahe Electric Lends a Hand

The Ranch Ministries was founded by Marine veteran Ken Korkow on 540 acres in Blunt, roughly 20 miles east of Pierre. It's a faith-based retreat center he created to offer military veterans an open space to take part in team-building exercises, outdoor hunting and shooting sports, dirt track racing, firearms safety training, horseback riding and more.

According to Korkow, there's also a lot of bonding among brothers and spiritual growth that takes place along with all of the fun and games.

"We share the story of Christ, the one who heals and gives us purpose," said Korkow, who received citations for the Navy Cross and the Purple Heart.

Korkow explained the center is not only

open to veterans but to surrounding communities as well. Youth groups and adults have visited to participate in firearm safety and team-building exercises.

"A lot of people come here to get away from their everyday lives," he said. "We take care of the needs of our veterans, but we also depend on support and volunteers from the community for our success and we open our doors to those who want to come here and find fulfillment."



Liz and Ken Korkow provide a place where veterans can go to seek spiritual healing.

One of those supporting organizations is Oahe Electric, which has responded to requests to provide material and manpower to meet the ministry's needs.

According to Oahe Electric Member Services Manager Russ Hohn, "The Ranch has had a meaningful impact in our community and we've been able to give back through our Operation Round Up program, which is funded by our members. It's a prime example of our cooperative and our members demonstrating one of the seven cooperative principles: Concern for Community."





## Butte Electric Cooperative, Inc.

# 79th Annual Membership Meeting

October 22, 2019 • Belle Fourche, South Dakota

The Seventy-Ninth Annual Membership Meeting of Butte Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held at 6:30 p.m., on October 22, 2019, 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 170 members registered and declared a quorum was present.

Cris Miller, President of the Board of Directors, called the 79th Annual Membership Meeting of Butte Electric Cooperative, Inc. to order.

President Miller introduced Director Dan Marrs, 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 \$20.00 attendance prize.

Bob Bachman's name was drawn for a \$20.00 attendance prize.

Assistant Secretary Smeenck 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 Karl Jensen, seconded by Joyce Hall, and carried to dispense with the reading of the minutes.

Dan Hefner, Treasurer, presented the Financial Report for the previous year. He pointed out total revenue from energy sales were \$14.8 million for the year. Operating expenses were \$12.7 million. Net investment in plant

is just over \$1,688,470 this year. Long term debt is \$37,985,145 while total electric plant owned is \$68,339,729. The number of meters has reached the 6,297 mark as we continue to grow.

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

Lee Schmunk' name was drawn for the \$20.00 attendance prize.

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 - James Mortensen

District 2 - Dan Marrs

District 3 - Steve Smeenck

Attorney Miller introduced the

candidates. A Motion was made by Karl Jensen and seconded by Tanse Herrmann that a unanimous ballot be cast for James Mortensen, Dan Marrs, and Steve Smeenck, the motion carried.

Kim Johnson's name was drawn for the \$20.00 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 36 years and have been providing the free BBQ with West River Telephone for close to 20 years. CEO Lee also talked about the new block party that was held in Spearfish at Heritage Park. We provided a bouncy castle for the kids and served over 250 with hotdogs and burgers. He also talked about the tailgate we sponsored at Sturgis for the Sturgis and Belle Fourche football game. The employees have donated over 300 hours in volunteer time. CEO Lee then talked about reliability. Butte has completed an underground tie line from our Whitewood sub to into the Vale area. The linemen are working to replace bad cable and we have approximately 15 miles left. The linemen have worked hard this year on right of way clearing in hopes to decrease our outage time and mitigate fire hazards.

CEO Lee then discussed the new rebates the member services will be offering. The first is our Nest thermostat rebate. This rebate gives a \$50.00 bill credit to members who purchase and install a qualifying Nest thermostat and enroll into our Peak Time Rebate program. Butte Electric has refunded approximately \$34,000 back to its members who have signed up for the peak time rebate. The second rebate is a revamp of our old hot water heater program. Members can earn a \$300.00 bill credit when purchasing a qualifying electric hot water heater along with a demand response unit installation.

CEO turned it over to President Miller who then talked about rates, and how Butte Electric continues to show strong growth not only in the state but on a national level. In 2019 Butte grew its membership by 1.5% and KWH sales grew by 1/2%. As Butte continues to try and actively keep up on reliability Butte will be raising the rates by 1/2%.

Orville Edwards' name was drawn for the \$20.00 attendance prize.

CEO Lee introduced our guest speaker Chris Nelson from the South Dakota PUC. Commissioner Nelson talked about the electric trends and the renewable energy push that is going on in the State.

CEO Lee introduced special guests at the meeting.

Bill Noziska's name was drawn for the \$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 Walter Kolb.

A motion was made Tom Brunner, seconded by Travis Schenk 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 22, 2019, 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 20th day of October, 2020.

(SEAL)

Thomas Brunner, Secretary

### UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

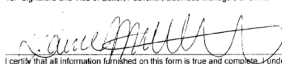
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 I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).



The South Dakota National Guard has been responsive in helping co-ops restore power to their members after natural disasters.

# S.D. NATIONAL GUARD

## Co-ops, SDNG work together to meet challenges

**Billy Gibson**

[billy.gibson@sdrea.coop](mailto:billy.gibson@sdrea.coop)

The South Dakota National Guard and the state's rural electric cooperatives share a synergistic relationship that goes back for decades. Both the Guard and the co-ops are highly skilled, highly motivated and highly prepared to respond in an emergency situation and to deliver help when and where it's needed.

For cooperatives, the response typically centers around restoring power after a natural disaster so that members can return their lives and their business operations back to normal as soon as possible. The state's 28 electric co-ops are part of a state, regional and national mutual assistance agreement that assures help will arrive when needed, and that, in turn, help will be dispatched upon request.

Cooperative operations personnel throughout the state work in conjunction with the South Dakota Rural Electric Association (SDREA) in Pierre to formulate and maintain an emergency work plan designed to help expedite the process of responding to a natural disaster.

According to SDREA Manager of Loss Control Services Mark Patterson, the more than 125,000 electric co-op consumers across South Dakota can rest assured their local power provider has the resources available to meet any and all challenges.

"We have a well-connected professional network of electric co-ops in South Dakota that's made up of exceptionally skilled linemen and supervisors who are absolutely the best in the business," Patterson said. "They have the experience they need to do the job as quickly and safely as possible, and they also have the resources at their disposal to rebuild the system and get the

power back on for our members who desperately need it."

Similarly, emergency preparedness is the South Dakota National Guard's stock in trade; although the Guard's scope of emergency response is quite broader. Not only do soldiers stand ready to be deployed to just about anywhere across the globe at a moment's notice, they also are trained to assist in a variety of stateside tasks.

The Guard's heroic work after the Rapid City Flood, The Spencer Tornado, the 1997 blizzards and the 2011 mass flooding are just a few active duty missions where the Guard came to the rescue to help save and protect life and property.

Most recently and most prominently, the Guard has been summoned to help contain and control politically-motivated



Co-op crews have relied on the National Guard to assist in power restoration efforts.





The National Guard and electric cooperatives share a commitment to serve the citizens of South Dakota, especially in stressful times.

violence and also deal with problems brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

After a coronavirus outbreak at Smithfield Farms in Sioux Falls made national headlines, the Guard deployed 25 ambulance teams - including four air support teams - and was recruited to conduct contact tracing in both Sioux Falls and Rapid City. Roughly 2,600 Smithfield Farms employees and their family members were tested for the virus with the assistance of National Guard personnel.

Gov. Kristi Noem expressed her appreciation for the work of the National Guard soldiers. “We knew they would be ready, they always are, but I don’t want anyone to take for granted how blessed we are to have men and women in our South Dakota National Guard that continue to step up.”

Lt. Col. Anthony Deiss, Director of Public Affairs for the South Dakota National Guard, recalls being personally involved in previous missions to help electric cooperative crews transport poles and other equipment, control work zones along roadways and pull vehicles out of wet, muddy ditches.

He said the soldiers take a great deal of pride in their work and approach their respective missions with the same commitment to serve as cooperative line crews demonstrate on a daily basis.

“We’ve had a tremendous partnership with the electric cooperatives when working alongside them to help respond to winter storms over the years. Our co-ops are on the front lines when providing power restoration during and after natural disasters, and they serve a critically important role in public health and safety. Anytime the SDNG is called up by the state to assist our co-ops in their mission, we look forward to the opportunity to support them.”

“It’s important for different state agencies and organizations to coordinate and work together during emergencies. These

relationships are vital to our state and communities to help quickly mitigate, respond and recover from these disasters. We provide a variety of resources to assist civil authorities to ensure the safety and well-being of our citizens.”

Patterson of SDREA concluded: “I think this is one of the things that makes our state very unique, the sense that we all need to pull together, especially in a crisis. Neighbors helping neighbors...that’s what our National Guard and our co-ops are all about.”



The National Guard takes pride in helping electric co-ops reconstruct downed power lines and poles.

# Monitoring the Line for Reliability

Electric co-ops use a variety of monitoring and automation technologies that improve power reliability, shorten outage times and reduce labor time for crews. Here are four technologies we use to improve reliability.



## Drones

Drones may be used to inspect the power lines we maintain. Drones can provide infrared evaluation to locate hot spots on power lines and vegetation assessment to locate trees and other vegetation that can cause outages.

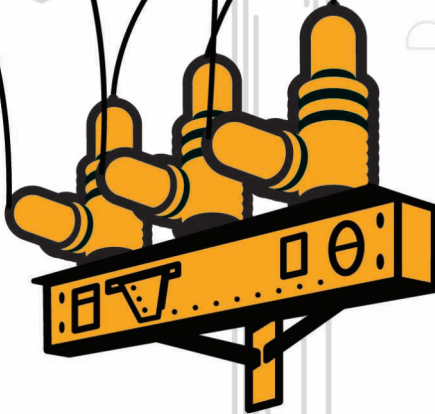
## Power Sensors

Power sensors typically clamp on or connect to the power line and provide near real-time reporting on power, voltage, current and more - all of which helps to provide more reliable energy to consumer-members.



## AMI

Advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) provides real-time data to the co-op. In addition to meter reading, this data helps us detect faults and other potential problems on the electrical system, resulting in increased power reliability for consumer-members.



## Reclosers

A recloser acts like a circuit breaker for power lines. When a problem occurs, the recloser temporarily shuts off power. If the problem is temporary, the recloser restores power. (This is why you sometimes see the power blink.) If the problem persists, the recloser will shut off power until a crew can make repairs. The recloser's antenna provides wireless, real-time data back to the co-op.





# Working for Our Members

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.



**John Lee**  
CEO



**Darick Eisenbraun**  
Chief Finance Officer



**Brett Fosheim**  
Director of Operations



**Kim Wince**  
Office Manager and  
Accountant



**Bart McLellan**  
Manager of Operations,  
Spearfish



**Laine Mitchell**  
Marketing & Communi-  
cations Director



**Angie Alexander**  
AdministrativeAssistant/CSR



**Colleen Schreiner**  
Billing Clerk



**Lee Ann Gaer**  
CSR/Accounting



**Craig Douthit**  
Work Order Clerk



**Dan Kenoyer**  
Operations Technician



**Adam Zvorak**  
Spearfish Foreman



**Chuck Even**  
Sturgis Foreman



**Jeff Hughes**  
Newell Foreman



**John Branham**  
Spearfish Lineman



**Jacob Breidenbach**  
Sturgis Lineman



**Mike Davis**  
Spearfish Lineman



**James Gyles**  
Sturgis Lineman



**Corey Hines**  
Newell Lineman



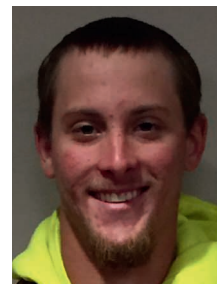
**Dave Pietz**  
Newell Lineman



**Elliot Rayman**  
Spearfish Lineman



**Adam Willuweit**  
Sturgis Lineman



**Brad Kari**  
NewellJourneymanLineman

## 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.



**Butte Electric  
Cooperative, Inc.**

® A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

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**October 22**

Butte County CFEL Annual Christmas Fair, Newell City Hall, Newell, SD, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 605-456-9837

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**October 24**

Ladies Day Shopping Extravaganza, The Crossing Bar, Mina, SD, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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**October 29-30**

Helping with Horsepower's Phobia - A Haunted Trail, Reclamation Ranch, 40789 259th St., Mitchell, SD, 7-11 p.m. 605-770-2867

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**October 31-November 1**

Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Assn. Sioux Falls Classic Gun Show, 3200 W Maple St. Sioux Falls, SD, 605-630-2199

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**November 1 and 15**

VFW Bingo, Wall Community Center, Wall, SD, 605-279-2663

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**November 6-8**

YFS Kids Fair, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD

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**November 7**

Fall Fling Craft/Vendor Fair, Dakota Christian School, Corsica, SD, 605-366-7940

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**November 7**

Fairburn Community Center Bazaar, Fairburn, SD, 5:30 p.m., 605-255-4807

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**November 7**

Silver Star Bazaar, Lake Norden Community Center, Lake Norden, SD, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



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**November 7**

BH Meat Fest, Fundraiser for Shriner Patient Camps, BH Harley Davidson, Rapid City, SD, 605-415-3577

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**November 7**

Helping with Horsepower's RibFest, 4 p.m., Reclamation Ranch, Mitchell, SD, Contact mattcarter1421@gmail.com to register your team

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**November 11**

MasterChef Junior Live, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD

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**November 12**

Zonta Club of the BH Expo, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4115

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**November 14**

Winter Marketplace Pop Up, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4115

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**November 14**

Annual Holiday Extravaganza, Sisseton Area Merchants and Crafters, Sisseton, SD, 605-698-7425

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**November 17**

Baby Shark Live, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4115

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**November 20-21**

Holiday Arts Christmas Show, 112 E. 5th St. Masonic Hall, Mitchell, SD, 605-359-2049

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**November 21-22**

Winterfest: A Winter Arts Festival, 203 S. Washington St., Aberdeen, SD, 605-226-1557

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**November 27**

Black Friday Trap Shoot, Sioux Falls Izaak Walton League, 10:30 a.m., Lunch Available, 5000 North Oakview Place, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-332-9527

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**December 5**

Rapid City Garden Club's 59th Annual Wreath and Center-piece Sale, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Lions' and Bridger Buildings, Central States Fairgrounds, Rapid City, SD, 605-343-0710

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**December 5**

Festival of Trees, Newell City Hall, Newell, SD, Admission: Two Cans of Non-Perishable Food Items Per Person, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**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.**