

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



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Keeping Electricity Affordable and Reliable



Tim McIntyre
General Manager

As I am writing my Manager's Column this month, I would like to focus on two words: affordable and reliable. Lake Region Electric has provided affordable and reliable electricity to our member-owners for over eighty years, but the word reliable has a different meaning now than it did in the past. Our homes and

businesses are filled with electronic devices and the way we live our daily lives leads our members to have higher expectations of their electric provider and the way we deliver electricity. We need to have electricity available all day, every day; 24-7-365. As an aging cooperative, we have been working hard at infrastructure replacement to provide reliability; and we are providing a better product than in the past.

There is a price tag on infrastructure build. The only source of revenue that our cooperative has to cover that price tag is from our members. Attached is a chart showing a small rate increase. We take our members' electrical expenses seriously and have made this increase as minimal as possible.

Thank you for continuing to invest in your electrical cooperative. Lake Region Electric is financially strong, and we look forward to delivering affordable and reliable electricity well into the future! Please reach out if you have any questions.

Thank you and God bless,
Timothy McIntyre

New Lake Region Electric Rates Effective May 1, 2024		
Rate Class	New Rate	Old Rate
Residential		
Base Charge	\$55	\$45
First 1,400 kWh	10.89 ¢ per	10.69 ¢ per
All Additional kWh	10.29 ¢ per	10.09 ¢ per
Electric Heat Meter		
Base Charge	\$5	\$5
Electric Heat kWh (Controlled)	5.76 ¢ per	5.56 ¢ per
Electric Heat kWh (Non-controlled)		
October – April	5.76 ¢ per	5.56 ¢ per
May - September	9.39 ¢ per	9.19 ¢ per
400 Amp		
Base Charge	\$65	\$55
First 1,400 kWh	10.89 ¢ per	10.69 ¢ per
All Additional kWh	10.29 ¢ per	10.09 ¢ per
600 Amp		
Base Charge	\$75	\$65
First 1,400 kWh	9.69 ¢ per	9.49 ¢ per
All Additional kWh	9.09 ¢ per	8.89 ¢ per
Demand Charge per Billing kW	\$2.50	\$2.50
800 Amp		
Base Charge	\$85	\$75
First 1,400 kWh	9.69 ¢ per	9.49 ¢ per
All Additional kWh	9.09 ¢ per	8.89 ¢ per
Demand Charge per Billing kW	\$2.50	\$2.50
Small Three Phase		
Base Charge	\$70	\$60
First 1,400 kWh	9.93 ¢ per	9.73 ¢ per
All Additional kWh	9.33 ¢ per	9.13 ¢ per
Demand Charge per Billing kW		
First 20 kW	\$1.50	\$1.50
Next 30 kW	\$1.50	\$1.50
All Additional kW	\$17.25	\$17.25
Grain Dryer		
Base Charge	\$55	\$45
First 1,400 kWh	9.69 ¢ per	9.49 ¢ per
All Additional kWh	9.09 ¢ per	8.89 ¢ per
Demand Charge per Billing kW	\$2.50	\$2.50
Large Three Phase (Controlled)		
Base Charge	\$110	\$100
First 100 kWh per Billing kW	6.66 ¢ per	6.46 ¢ per
Additional kWh per Billing kW	4.36 ¢ per	4.16 ¢ per
Demand Charge per Billing kW	\$6.75	\$6.75
Large Three Phase (Non-controlled)		
Base Charge	\$110	\$100
First 100 kWh per Billing kW	6.66 ¢ per	6.46 ¢ per
All Additional kWh per Billing kW	4.36 ¢ per	4.16 ¢ per
Demand Charge per Billing kW	\$17.25	\$17.25
Irrigation (Controlled)		
Base Charge	\$80	\$70
All kWh Charge	5.99 ¢ per	5.79 ¢ per
Demand Charge per Billing kW	\$6.75	\$6.75
Irrigation (Non-controlled)		
Base Charge	\$80	\$70
All kWh Charge	5.99 ¢ per	5.79 ¢ per
Demand Charge per Billing kW	\$17.25	\$17.25

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

LAKE REGION ELECTRIC RIPPLES

(USPS 018-904)

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ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Looking for an easy way to manage home energy use? Smart plugs are inexpensive and offer convenient solutions for scheduling and controlling your favorite electronic devices.

With smart plugs, you can easily manage your coffee maker, lighting, home office equipment, video game consoles and more. Smart plugs can help you manage devices through a smart phone app, your home assistant or voice control. By conveniently powering off or scheduling devices, you can save energy (and money!).

Your Safety Matters

Prevent home electrical fires

Eight out of 10 fire-related deaths occur at home – the place that embodies comfort and security. That's why it's important to take steps to keep everyone safe.

Faulty or deteriorating electrical cords are a top cause of fires at home. Cords that become frayed or cracked can send sparks to flammable surfaces. Check your cords to ensure that they are in good shape, and replace any that are worn.

In addition, make sure you are not overloading circuits. If you've been in your home for more than 10 years, have your circuit breaker box inspected by a licensed electrician to tighten loose connections and check for overloaded circuits.



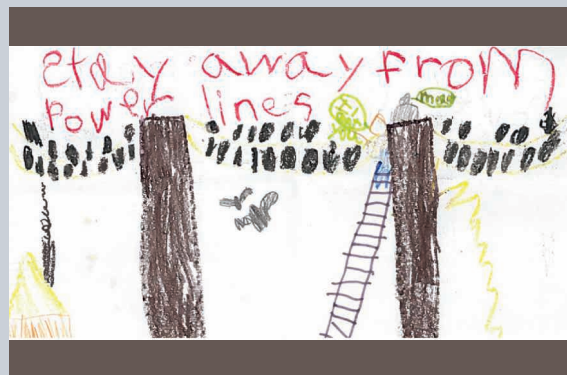
Homes with copper wiring need to be inspected every 20 years, and homes with aluminum wiring should be inspected every five years.

Check all Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) outlets several times each year by pushing the test/reset button to be sure they are working properly.

If breakers are continually tripping or if fuses are blowing frequently, that's a sign of potential trouble. The cause could be old wiring unable to handle the load demand of today's modern appliances. If needed, ask a licensed electrician to install additional circuits for safety.

Use surge protectors and power bars to help prevent overloading an electrical outlet, plugging no more than three cords into the strip.

May is National Electrical Safety Month. We urge you to take the time and steps needed to lower the risks of electrical fires. Keep your family safe.



Stay Away from Power Lines

Weston Koistinen, Age 6

Weston Koistinen warns readers to be safe by staying away from power lines. Weston's parents are Dion and Stephanie Koistinen, members of H-D Electric Cooperative.

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.

SUMMER CASSEROLES

BREAKFAST CASSEROLE

Ingredients:

1 5 oz. package croutons,
any flavor
2 cup sharp Cheddar cheese,
shredded
1 lb. sausage, fried and
drained
9 eggs
1 can evaporated milk
1 tbsp. mustard

Method

Spray 9x13 pan with vegetable oil. Arrange croutons on bottom. Sprinkle cheese over croutons and put sausage over cheese. Combine eggs, milk and mustard. Beat to blend and pour into pan. Bake covered at 350 degrees for 45 minutes.

Janet Ochsner
Box Elder, S.D.

CHICKEN CASSEROLE

Ingredients:

1 package Chicken Stove Top
Stuffing mix
3 cups cooked cut up
chicken
1 can cream of mushroom
soup
2/3 cup milk
1 can cream of chicken soup
2 eggs, beaten
2 cups chicken broth

Method

Grease a 9x13 pan and put 1/2 of the stuffing mix in the pan. Cover with chicken. Combine soups and milk and spoon over chicken. Spread other 1/2 of stuffing over the top. Pour 2 cups of chicken broth over all and spread with beaten eggs. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour.

Gail Lee
Brookings, S.D.

TACO CASSEROLE

Ingredients:

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

Method

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

McCormick

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.



Capital Credit Refunds Approved for 2024

The Lake Region Electric Association Board of Directors approved approximately \$791,802 in capital credit retirements at their regular meeting in February. Active Members will see the credit on their May billing that is sent out at the beginning of June. The bill will clearly show the capital credit refund as a deduction (credit) and should be kept for tax purposes. Inactive members will be mailed a check in June.

LREA allocates any excess margins to our member-owners (consumers) after paying all the bills, reinvesting in infrastructure, and meeting our financial obligations. Lake Region tracks the allocations and refunds the money as cash positions allow, back to you, our member-owners. The amount retired in 2024 consists of 100% remaining excess

margins of years 2006, 2007 and 2008, as well as 25% of 2023. The total amount to be refunded also includes the retirement pass through of East River and Basin's capital credits of \$245,363. The amount that each member is refunded is based on the electricity purchased during the years for which capital credits are being paid.

A complete explanation of the cooperative's capital credits, patronage capital, can be found in the LREA bylaws. A copy of the bylaws is available in digital format on our website: www.lakeregion.coop. Anyone who needs a paper copy of the bylaws can contact our office by calling 605-345-3379 or toll free 1-800-657-5869 or by emailing your request to lakeregion@lakeregion.coop.

Wish Upon a Crawdad

Curtis Condon's children's literature illuminates electric cooperative history

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

What happens when you blend the rich history of electric cooperatives with the picturesque landscapes of rural America and the magic of fiction storytelling? Curtis W. Condon, a former writer and editor for electric cooperative magazines, finds the answer in his vibrant children's novel, "Wish Upon a Crawdad." This coming-of-age story combines these unlikely elements through the eyes of the main character, 12-year-old Ruby Mae Ryan, during the late Great Depression years in rural Oregon.

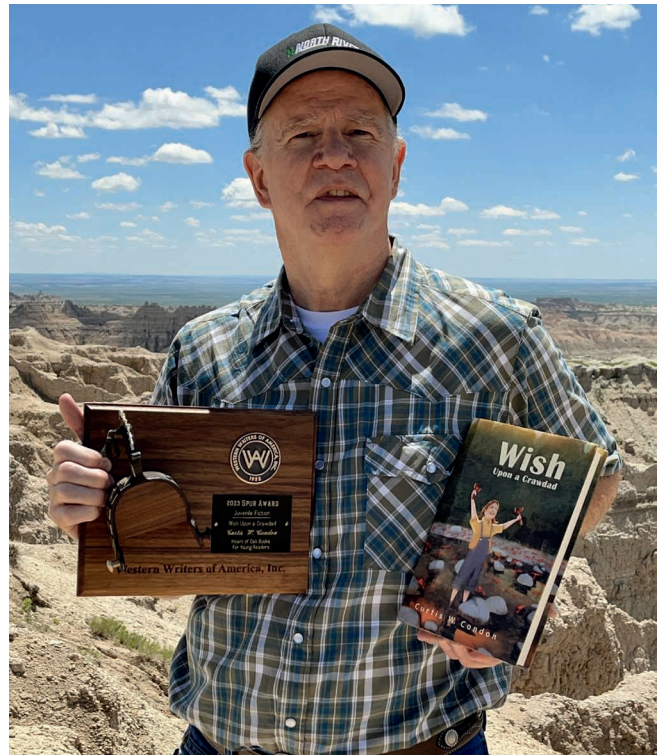
The book, highlighting Ruby's outdoor adventures, explores personal growth while giving testimony to rural electrification in American history. Before writing children's literature, Condon spent more than 27 years in the electric co-op industry as an editor and writer for Ruralite, a magazine for electric cooperatives and their members in the Northwest. His time there, conducting interviews and writing, familiarized Condon with the history of rural electrification in the U.S.

"I fell in love with the concept of the electric co-op. Electric co-ops have such a fantastic history and a wonderful story to tell, and I wanted to tell that in this book," said Condon.

This history began with President Franklin D. Roosevelt's determination to lead America out of the Great Depression. Deciding that electrification would play a central role in the process, the president established the Rural Electrification Administration through an executive order in the face of strong dismay from private utility companies. The president's order set the stage for the current network of member-owned electric cooperatives we recognize today, which bring electricity to rural homes that would otherwise be powerless.

However, "Wish Upon a Crawdad" doesn't tell the story of presidents and executive orders. Instead, the book focuses on the very real impact rural electrification had on Ruby, her family, and her community.

"It's about a girl who grows up without electricity until she is 12 years old, and she likes to wish upon crawdads the way that people wish upon stars," Condon explained. "One of the wishes is to get electricity, and that dream comes true because her mom



Curtis W. Condon, author of "Wish Upon a Crawdad," accepts the 2023 Western Writers of America Spur Award, an award presented to Condon in Rapid City, S.D.

and dad get together with their neighbors and create an electric co-op."

Condon's own upbringing in Oregon inspires the book's setting, filled with his memories of crawdad-filled pools, temperate forests and rural dirt roads. While set in the 1940s, many of Ruby's experiences reflect those of Condon's own family.

"My grandmother remembered when electricity was first introduced to her community. She considered electricity to be one of the greatest wonders of the world," said Condon.

Together, Condon's childhood and passion for electric cooperative history set the stage for "Wish Upon a Crawdad," his first children's book, fulfilling a dream he had held onto for years.

"Since I was twelve years old, I knew I wanted to be a children's book writer. It took me 30 years of doing a different kind of writing, but I finally got there," said Condon.

Fulfilling a childhood dream, Condon's book was published in 2022, and his passions and life history began connecting with readers. Although the target audience of the book is children ages 9 to 12, Condon said readers of all ages are enjoying Ruby's story.

Since publication, "Wish Upon a Crawdad" has won the 2023 Western Writers of America Spur Award, an award presented to Condon in Rapid City, S.D. Other awards include the 2023 Will Rogers Medallion Award, the 2023 First Horizon Award, and the 2023 Eric Hoffer Book Award. The book has a presence in libraries across 37 states, including South Dakota.



Patsy Besson helps package fresh cuts of meat at the Wall Meat Processing plant.
Photo Credit: Shannon Marvel

Wall Meats Revives Local Meatcutting in South Dakota Through New Underwood Expansion

Shannon Marvel

shannon.marvel@sdrea.coop

A local meat processing plant is expanding its footprint in Pennington County in a way that will put more locally produced protein on dinner tables and bolster the local meat processing workforce throughout South Dakota.

The man behind this plan is local business owner Ken Charfauros, who owns Wall Meat Processing, which has locations in Wall and Rapid City.

Charfauros is currently raising funds through a capital drive campaign to finance the construction of a 30,000 square foot meat processing facility in New Underwood. The new facility will help train the next generation of meat processors through a partnership with Western Dakota Tech in Rapid City.

“We are at \$2.8 million in our drive. We also have the \$3.3 million USDA Rural Development grant, which is a meat and poultry expansion plan grant. We are about \$200,000 short of our goal,” Charfauros said.

He added that the New Underwood processing plant will also use funding from the Meat and Poultry Intermediary Lending Program (MPILP), which according to the USDA’s website “provides grant funding to intermediary lenders who finance – or plan to finance – the start-up, expansion, or operation of slaughter, or other processing of meat and poultry. The objective of the MPILP is to strengthen the financing capacity for independent meat processors, and to create a more resilient, diverse, and secure U.S. food supply chain.”

Charfauros said he’s still meeting with potential investors and has a financial team focused on creating relationships with local ag producers.

“After we get our capital drive, the plan itself will be about \$21 million,” he added. “And then we start the project. The groundbreaking is going to happen in about a year and the facility will begin operations six months after that.”

Charfauros said he expects to purchase the property to site the new plant this spring.

Returning to a Passion

Wall Meats Processing opened for business 57 years ago, but

Charfauros took ownership over the facility in 2017. His passion for meat cutting began when he was a teenager while working for a local meat plant in Delaware.

“It was my high school job and I loved it. After I graduated high school, I felt that my country needed me, so I joined the Air Force and did 30 years. But I always missed that part of my life,” Charfauros recalled.

“A guy that taught me how to cut was like my second dad, and I always wanted to come back to it. My son had just graduated from South Dakota State University, and I had retired from the Air Force. That’s when we decided to buy a plant.”

His son manages the store in Rapid City while Ken’s three nephews help run the family’s businesses in Wall, which include Wall Meats and the Red Rock restaurant.

Supporting Local Producers

Building the new facility has been a challenging venture that’s been years in the making.

“We started building this plan about four years ago, then COVID hit and got in our way. Then, we were lucky enough to get those grant awards last year, and ever since we have been working diligently to get the format right,” Charfauros said.

“I have drawings. I have an equipment list all put together — everything is ready to go except for this capital drive that we are undergoing.”

Charfauros said he has been meeting with both potential and locked-in investors daily over the last year to produce the required financing.

“We have met with over 600 people with 99 percent of those people being producers, because this is all for them. This plant offers them premium pricing above the market rates,” Charfauros said.

While the cattle market is high now, Charfauros remains realistic that the market can change for the worse.

While he hopes the market remains high enough for producers to survive, his partnership with producers will serve as

added security. That means the partnership must be tightknit.

He knows he cannot do it alone.

Reviving a Dying Art

“Meat cutting is a dying art, and we teach meat processing at our store in Rapid City to bring that art back. We’re trying to fight for that industry as it is,” he said.

Three meat processing students are currently being taught at the Rapid City facility through a partnership with Western Dakota Tech, which recently began offering the two-year program.

Pam Stillman-Rokusek, director of communications and marketing at Western Dakota Tech, said three students are currently enrolled in the Meat Processing program. Of those three, two will graduate in May.

But the college is still working on more outreach.

“Enrollment has been a bit low in the program, so the plan is for a hiatus this fall. They’ll revamp the curriculum. Then, we will certainly do additional outreach. We have done advertising, gone to the schools. We have reached out to 4-H

groups and done some traveling, but we need to turn it up a notch to produce more students in the program. That is our goal,” Stillman-Rokusek said.

Despite the Meat Processing program being put on hiatus, the school will still ensure that the remaining student completes the program while actively working on developing the program and outreach methods.

“There’s such a high need for meat processors and we’re looking at different ways to fill that gap. It’s something we’re committed to doing,” she added.

The goal is to enroll at least five students in the following school years when the program restarts.

The learning center that will be built within the New Underwood facility will also teach producers, in addition to students, the art of meat cutting.

“We are trying to bring that industry back to what it should be—regionally processed protein,” Charfauros said.

“That means we must build the environment to spark that passion. In anything you do, you need to learn how to do it the right way.”



Wall Meat Processing plant, established in 1957. Photo Credit: Shannon Marvel

Annual Meeting of Members

Meetings of Members From the LREA Bylaws

Annual Meeting: Article 3, Section 1

The annual meeting of the members shall be held at such time and place within a county served by the Cooperative, as selected by the Board of Directors and which shall be designated in the notice of the meeting, for the purpose of electing directors, passing upon reports for the previous fiscal year and transacting such other business as may come before the meeting. It shall be the responsibility of the Board of Directors to make adequate plans and preparations for

the annual meeting. Failure to hold the annual meeting at the designated time shall not result in a forfeiture or dissolution of the Cooperative.

Notice of Members' Meetings: Article 3, Section 3

Written or printed notice stating the place, day and hour of the meeting and, in case of a special meeting or an annual meeting at which business requiring special notice is to be transacted, the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called, shall be delivered not less than ten days nor more than sixty days before the date of the meeting, either personally or

by mail, by or at the direction of the Secretary, or upon a default in duty by the Secretary, by the persons calling the meeting, to each member. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be given when deposited in the United States mail, addressed to the member at his/her address as it appears on the records of the Cooperative, with postage thereon prepaid. The failure of any member to receive notice of an annual or special meeting of the members shall not invalidate any action which may be taken by the members at any such meeting.

LREA 2024 Annual Meeting Notice

Lake Region Electric Association will host our 83rd Annual Meeting in Langford, SD at the Langford High School Auditorium. The doors will open for registration to begin at 6:00 PM. The Business Meeting will be called to order at 7:00 PM where member-owners will hear from our leaders about what has been happening around our service area, discuss future planning and present awards. There will be an election for director seats for District 1 and District 7.

A meal will NOT be served; there will be snacks and beverages provided. Member-owners in attendance will receive a meal voucher for \$35.00 that they can redeem at a local participating restaurant of their choice. (One voucher per membership; must be in attendance to receive.) Members attending the meeting will receive a gift, as well as being entered to win bill credits, door prizes and a \$500 cash prize. Everyone is encouraged to bring canned goods to donate to the local food pantry. Every item donated gets you an entry into a drawing for a \$50 gift card!

A notice of Capital Credit Refund letter and Annual Meeting Notice will be mailed to members. The letter should be brought to the annual meeting as your registration and door prize entrance. Active members will receive the letter in an envelope marked Annual Meeting Notice. The letter will have pertinent information regarding your LREA capital credits, annual meeting details, and a contact update form. Registration is quick and easy with the annual meeting letter notice. A simple scan automatically marks the member as present and entitles the member to vote. This process will also assist LREA in tracking attendance numbers, district representation, and other valid information.

We look forward to visiting with you at our annual meeting! Please call our office if you have any questions or concerns: 605-345-3379 or 1-800-657-5869.

Election to Be Held for Director Seats

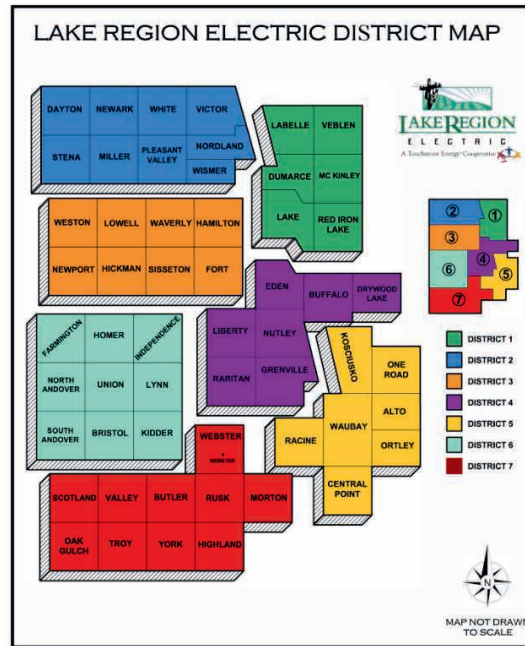
Two Director seats will be up for election at the Lake Region Electric annual meeting in Langford, SD on June 6, 2024. As published in the April 2024 Cooperative Connections, the two director seats up for election represent Districts 1 and 7. District One is currently represented by Andrea Kilker. District Seven is currently represented by Amy Kuecker. Both incumbents are eligible for re-election

Serving on the Board of Directors is a commitment that requires representatives to attend local meetings on a monthly basis as well as state and national meetings. Board members attend trainings and pursue educational opportunities so that they are well informed on regulations and industry trends in order to best serve the members of Lake Region Electric Association.

Individuals who wish to run for the board must file a petition signed by fifteen (15) active LREA members 45 days prior to the annual meeting. The final date for filing a petition this year is Monday, April 22, 2024. Nominations can be accepted from the floor during the

annual meeting. Those wishing to make a nomination from the floor must call the office in advance of the annual meeting to pre-check the candidate for eligibility.

Members living in these districts who are interested in serving on the Lake Region Electric Association board of directors are encouraged to call 605-345-3379 toll free: 1-800-657-5869 or stop by our office at 1212 Main Street in Webster for more information or to request a petition.



District 1 Townships

LaBelle, Veblen, Dumarce, McKinley, Lake, Red Iron Lake

District 7 Townships

Webster, Scotland, Valley, Butler, Rusk, Morton, Troy, Oak Gulch, York, Highland



**WE ARE
HIRING**
ARE YOU READY TO LEAD?

GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

Come join our team at Lake Region Electric where the service to our members is our top priority!

We are seeking a General Manager/CEO to join our team. This executive leadership role reports to the Board of Directors and is responsible for the day-to-day management, administration, and operation of the Cooperative. If you're passionate about accountability, integrity, innovation, and commitment to the community, this is the perfect opportunity for you.

For full job description and to apply go to:
lakeregioncoop.applicantpro.com/jobs/

Applications accepted through **May 19, 2024**. Initial screenings to occur during June and final interviews expected in July.



CYBERSECURITY ON THE GRID

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

Imagine sitting at your desk on a typical Monday morning. You have logged into your computer with coffee in hand, ready to tackle the day. But as you begin, your computer displays an ominous message: “Your files have been encrypted. Pay a ransom to regain access.” It’s not just your computer; your co-workers have received the same message. Overnight, the entire office has fallen victim

to a ransomware attack that has locked away critical data. Your office computers will remain unusable until a payment is made.

This scenario, among others, has become a primary concern for workplaces everywhere, including electric cooperatives. As a result, local co-ops are taking action in the cybersecurity space to prevent bad actors from disrupting the critical goal of delivering power that is safe, affordable and reliable to their members. Electric co-ops are focused

on enhancing cybersecurity resilience and readiness to defend against potential cyber threats.

Co-ops are routinely monitoring and managing cyber risks, working with federal and local law enforcement agencies and the North American Electric Reliability Corp. to protect critical infrastructure. By working as a network, co-ops are enhancing grid resilience, ensuring reliable electricity for their members.

According to an FBI Internet Crime Report, the U.S. reported more than \$12.5 billion in annual losses in 2023 due to cyberattacks like the one described. A significant number of these attacks target the elderly and vulnerable. When breaking down the losses by age group, individuals aged

20 to 29 accounted for \$360.7 million of the total losses, while those 60 and older incurred losses of \$3.4 billion in 2023 alone.

And it's not just about the money. These attacks also have the potential to undermine the stability of entire systems, including the electrical grid. This year, directors of the FBI, NSA, and CISA testified before Congress about Chinese Communist Party hacking groups that had gained access to the electric grid and other critical infrastructure to "wreak havoc and cause real-world harm to American citizens and communities."

"Many cyberattacks are conducted by criminals trying to steal money or collect a ransom," explains Chief Security and Compliance Officer Daniel Graham of Basin Electric Power Cooperative. "Nation-states

target electric utilities for different reasons. Some nation-states want to steal intellectual property. Others want to be able to disrupt our electric grid."

So how is it done? To execute their schemes, bad actors employ a long list of complex strategies and techniques, such as phishing, data breaches and malware to adversely impact their targets. Business email compromise, one of the most common techniques, occurs when an impostor poses as a legitimate business contact, seeking to steal sensitive information such as credit card numbers, bank account information or login credentials.

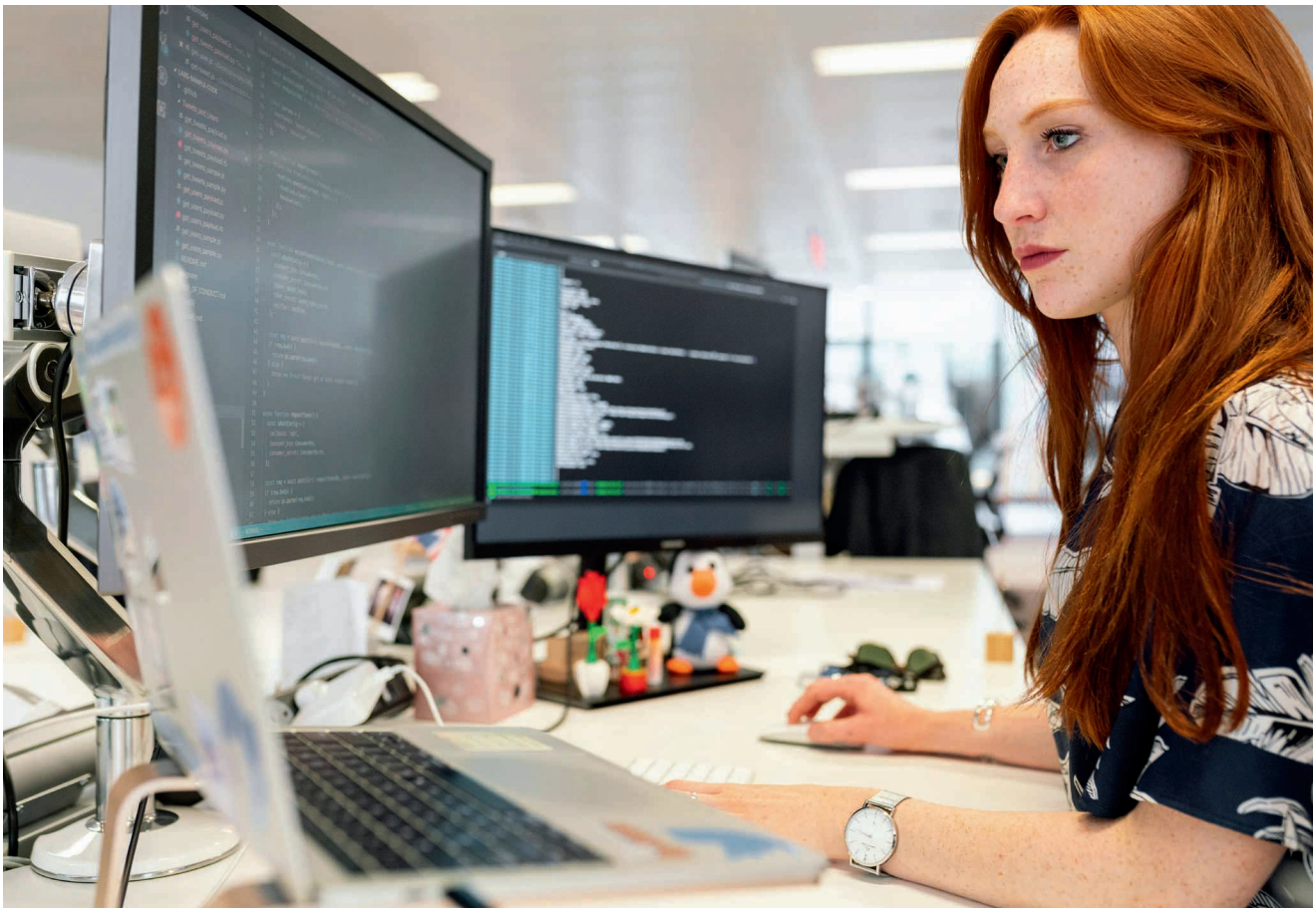
Luckily, co-ops are implementing a variety of tools, policies and training to help mitigate attacks and secure the grid. Programs like NRECA's Co-op Cyber Goals Program help co-ops build fundamental cybersecurity

measures, such as employee training, developing cyber incident response plans, and regular self-assessment. These strategies help co-ops reduce the risk of a successful cyberattack in the ongoing battle against cybercrime.

"Additionally, co-ops can conduct cybersecurity exercises to determine the effectiveness of current defenses and practice responses," Graham says.

Despite these efforts, the threat of a successful cyberattack persists, making vigilance an essential component of effective cybersecurity.

"If you see something suspicious, report it to your cooperative," explains Graham. "Electric co-ops are an essential part of our country's critical infrastructure. We can best protect our electric grid by working with each other."



Lake Region Awards Scholarships to Area Students

Laura London

Lake Region Electric

Kraft Receives Lake Region/Basin Electric Power Cooperative Scholarship

Britton-Hecla Student Emma Kraft has been chosen as the recipient of the Lake Region/Basin Electric Power Cooperative Scholarship. Emma is the daughter of Lake Region member-owners Josh and Aletta Kraft. This scholarship is awarded annually to the dependent child of member-owners of Lake Region Electric Association. Recipients of this scholarship are selected based on academic record, potential to succeed, leadership and participation in school and community activities, honors, work experience, a statement of education and career goals, and an outside appraisal.

Emma plans to attend North Dakota State University to pursue degrees in pharmacy and business. Emma feels that there are a variety of career paths available to her in the pharmacy field that she will explore during college, but at this time she is considering something down-home, "I am currently interning at a local community pharmacy and could see myself working in that setting in the future." In addition to her internship, Emma took multiple career and technical education (CTE) courses while in high school to help her determine her goals. Britton-Hecla teacher Kelly Mills recommended Emma for the scholarship stating, "Emma is a very strong and organized student. She is a hard worker and very driven to succeed."

Emma, an honor roll student and member of Britton-Hecla Student Council, has demonstrated not only her leadership and academic skills, she has also

portrayed sportsmanship in several sports during her high school years. She has been active in Volleyball, Track and was captain of her gymnastics team during her final year of high school. Outside of school, Emma is active in church and has been a HOBY representative where she honed leadership skills that will help her achieve her future goals.



Basin Electric Scholarship Recipient, Emma Kraft.

Lake Region Electric Duane Snaza Memorial Scholarship Recipient Ella Hegg

Webster Area High School Honors Student Ella Hegg has been selected as the recipient of the Lake Region Electric Duane Snaza Memorial Scholarship. This \$1,000 scholarship is named in memory of a former Lake Region Electric Employee. It is awarded to the dependent child of



Duane Snaza Memorial Scholarship Recipient, Ella Hegg.

a Lake Region Electric member, based on the following criteria: participation in school and community activities, grade-point average, work experience, SAT/ACT scores, statement by student explaining his/her educational and career goals, a written recommendation by a third party and presentation of the application.

Ella is the daughter of LREA member-owners Dan Hegg and Jesse Hegg. She has been active in many activities at school and throughout the community, while maintaining a high GPA. "Ella is a well-rounded student. She is always willing to help and is dependable and organized." Said Webster Area School Counselor Chelsea Larson. She has demonstrated her commitment to education and self-discipline by taking a variety of CTE and college courses that have helped her prepare for college. Ella plans to attend South Dakota State University to study Human Biology, then pursue a career in the medical field.

Please join us in congratulating the recipients of this year's scholarships awarded through Lake Region Electric. Ella Hegg and Emma Kraft will each receive \$1,000 to use toward education expenses to help them along their career paths.

Ella Hegg Scholarship Essay

As part of the application process students were asked to compose a brief essay explaining the cooperative difference and how this business model benefits the members of Lake Region Electric and their communities.

Cooperatives are an innovative practice and are especially useful for rural areas.

Ella Hegg

The difference between a cooperative and a corporation is simple but has lasting effects. Allowing each person that does business to be partial owners, instead of just customers, opens the door for many opportunities. Cooperatives not only provide their service at affordable rates, but the members may have a say in the business decisions made. Because cooperatives are

member-owned their main goal is to benefit the members. This is what differentiates them most from a large corporation. Corporations are built to make money for the shareholders while cooperatives do not have such business goals. Small towns consist of tight knit communities where people are prioritized. A cooperative represents this because instead of focusing on business, the main focus is on people.

Lake Region Electric is a great example of a cooperative and possesses all the values that cooperatives should. Lake Region helps to meet the needs of our community and the people that live here. It provides a necessary service to our area at reasonable prices. Rural citizens can feel confident in their electricity. They are provided with an efficient and

reliable service. Members are given good peace of mind and know that when an issue does occur it will be taken care of immediately. Alongside this, the employees are all locals, giving them a better understanding of the members' concerns. This is why Lake Region Electric is an essential aspect of Webster.

Aside from affordable pricing, Lake Region helps our community in numerous other ways. Many quality job opportunities are offered by the company. This helps to keep unemployment rates low and helps the economy. Because one of the goals of Lake Region is to meet the needs of our community, they willingly support local events and organizations. Lake Region Electric provides significant advantages to its members and the community.

People • Power • Purpose



● Tour the Great Plains Synfuels Plant, Freedom Coal Mine, & Antelope Valley Station Power Plant!

● Learn where your electricity comes from!

● Meet new friends!



South Dakota Rural Electric YOUTH EXCURSION

July 22-24, 2024

All expenses Paid!

All area high school Freshmen, Sophomores and Juniors whose parents or guardians are members of Lake Region Electric are eligible to apply.

Name _____

Address _____ **City** _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone _____ **Email:** _____

School _____ **Grade 24-25 school year** _____

Parent/Guardian Information

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Email: _____

Return to Lake Region BEFORE June 1, 2024

For More Information, Contact:
 Laura London
 605-345-3379
 PO Box 341, Webster, SD 57274
LLondon@lakeregion.coop
 Visit our website:
www.lakeregion.coop



**LAKE REGION
ELECTRIC**
 A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



MAY 11, 2024
Cinco de Mayo Fiesta
 Falls Park
 Sioux Falls, 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.

MAY 4
Groton City Wide Rummage Sale
 Groton, SD

MAY 11-SEPT.28
Malchow Plaza Farmers Market
 Saturdays, 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m.
 Main Street
 Aberdeen, SD

MAY 18-28
Free Amish Carriage & Buggy Rides
 10 a.m.-4 p.m. every Saturday
 Buggy & Ag Museums
 Stockholm, SD

MAY 18
Prairie Partners Master Gardeners Plant Sale
 9 a.m.
 Brown County Fairgrounds
 Aberdeen, SD

MAY 27
Memorial Day Services
 12 p.m.
 Groton Union Cemetary with lunch at Legion Post #391
 Groton, SD

JUNE 1
Blessed Sacrament Pastorate-Wide Celebration
 3:30 p.m.
 Aberdeen Civic Center
 Aberdeen, SD
 605-216-2081

JUNE 8
Grace's Gas-Guzzlers Car Show, Carnival & Silent Auction
 Grace Lutheran Church
 Watertown, SD

JUNE 9
Brookings Car Show
 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
 Pioneer Park
 Brookings, SD

JUNE 12-13
Rangeland & Soil Days Contest
 Codington County Extension Building
 Watertown, SD

JUNE 20
Prairie Partners Master Gardeners Garden Walk
 Aberdeen, SD

JUNE 22-23
"Our Place: 15 Years of Onaka" Photography Exhibit
 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sat.
 12-4p.m. Sunday
 Onaka Community Hall
 Onaka, SD

JUNE 26-29
Crystal Springs Rodeo
 Clear Lake, SD
 605-874-2996

JULY 13
9th Annual Auto Value Car Show
 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Hav-A-Rest Campground
 Redfield, SD

JULY 14
Lion's Club Summer Fest/ Car Show
 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Groton City Park
 Groton, SD

JULY 20
21st Annual "On the Road to Wishes" Poker Run for Make a Wish
 10:30 a.m.
 Bieglers Motors/CNS Motor Sports
 Aberdeen, SD

JULY 25
Groton Summer Downtown Sip & Shop
 5-8 p.m.
 Groton, SD

JULY 26-28
Clear Lake Days
 ClearLakeDays.com
 Clear Lake, SD

AUG. 8
Family Fun Fest
 5:30-7:30 p.m.
 Groton, SD

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