

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Get Out & Vote!

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SPRING UPDATE



Jeremy Lindemann
CEO/GM

Hello Lake Region Members!

Spring is here and with the arrival of the season, I have some helpful reminders for you.

Spring is great time to change that furnace filter! We will need air conditioning before you know it, and a clogged filter decreases the efficiency of your AC unit, causing it to run harder and longer to cool your home. Air flow is critical to efficiency so now is a good time to change that filter so you don't have trouble when it's the middle of July! Spring is also a great time to test the batteries in your smoke detectors; I try to test them twice a year.

Another item I like to check in the spring is the sump pump; I recommend checking your sump pump to make sure everything is in order before the rain starts. A handy item that brings peace of mind during a wet spring and summer is a battery backup for your sump pump. These nifty devices use a 12-volt car battery for back up to keep your sump pump running even if the power goes out. If you don't already have one, it may be time to look at a battery backup unit for your sump pump! You can find these at almost any hardware store that sells sump pumps. Ace sells a unit called the Basement Watch Dog. We work hard to bring you reliable power, but if the storm is severe enough that we have an extended outage these handy gadgets can be a life saver!

This time of year, I also like to check my standby generator to make sure it is running correctly, and I perform any maintenance that is needed. Here is a pro tip for those with portable generators: I take the gas from my portable generator and put it into the lawn mower and add some fresh gas to my portable generator with a little fuel stabilizer in it. This will make sure that generator starts right up if you need it. Also, if you have a portable generator make sure you run it for 30 minutes or so every few months to keep it running properly. Contrary to what you would think, the best thing for a generator is to run and be used. Sitting and not running causes many more maintenance issues!

Lastly, I have the most important reminder: Spring is also the start of construction season, and we will be hitting the ground running! As I mentioned in an earlier article, we have a large construction season ahead of us for LREA. If you have a project, please do not wait until fall to try to get on the schedule; call as soon as possible! Projects may require upgrades to service size and with material lead times still being several weeks out, if you wait too long, you run the risk that we may not be able to get to your project before winter, so please call to get on the schedule as early as possible. We want to provide the best service possible to our members! Pun intended! Lol!

In closing I would like to thank all our members for their continued support and as always, we will keep the lights on for you!

Jeremy Lindemann
CEO/General Manager



COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

LAKE REGION ELECTRIC RIPPLES

(USPS 018-904)

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ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH: TIPS FOR PRIORITIZING SAFETY

At your local cooperative, Electrical Safety Month is recognized every May, but the importance of practicing safety year-round is always emphasized. From co-op crews to the consumer-members served, everyone has a part to play in prioritizing safety.

According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured or electrocuted as a result of electrical fires and accidents in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable. Electricity is a necessity that powers daily life, but it can also be dangerous — something your local cooperative understands firsthand from working with it 365 days a year.

Safety is more than a catchphrase. Cooperative leadership recognizes the responsibility to keep employees safe while also helping protect members and the broader community. That's why your local cooperative hosts safety demonstrations at community events and in schools throughout the year, highlighting the dangers of electricity. These demonstrations often include emergency scenarios, such as what to do in a car accident involving a utility pole and downed power lines, along with discussions about the dangers of pad-mounted transformers and overloading circuits with too many electronic devices.

Electricity is an integral part of modern life. Given the widespread use of electrical devices, tools and appliances, here are a few practical electrical safety tips:

Watch for frayed wires. Power cords can become damaged from age, heavy use or excessive current flow. If cords become frayed or cut, replace them to avoid shock hazards.

Avoid overloading circuits. Circuits can only handle a limited amount of electricity. Running too many devices on one circuit can lead to overheating and potential fire risk.

Label circuit breakers. Understanding your home's electrical system can help prevent overloads. If your home is more than 40 years old and you plan to install large appliances, contact a qualified electrician.

Use extension cords properly. Never plug one extension cord into another. "Daisy chaining" can cause overheating and fire hazards. Do not exceed the cord's wattage, and avoid using extension cords as permanent solutions. If additional outlets are needed, consult a licensed electrician.

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to talk with children

about playing it safe and smart around electricity, including staying aware of overhead power lines near outdoor play areas.

Providing a reliable energy supply 24/7, 365 days a year is a top priority. Equally important is keeping the community safe around electricity.

Contact your local cooperative for additional electrical safety tips or to request a safety demonstration at a school or upcoming community event.



"Do not fly kites by power lines!"

Casen Yuker

Casen cautions readers not to fly kites around power lines. Thank you for sharing your picture, Casen! Casen's parents are Lance and Tarah Yuker from Aberdeen 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.

Delicious DESSERTS

RHUBARB CAKE DESSERT

Ingredients:

1 pkg. yellow cake mix
1 cup sugar
4 cups rhubarb, diced
2 cups half and half

Method

Prepare cake mix as directed on package and pour into a greased 9x13 pan. Mix sugar and rhubarb together. Spoon evenly over cake batter. Pour half and half over top of rhubarb mixture. Bake at 350° for 40-45 minutes. This is like an upside-down cake with custard on the bottom of the cake.

Marla Gilbert
Southeastern Electric

FUZZY NAVEL CAKE

Ingredients:

1 pkg. yellow cake mix
1 instant vanilla pudding
(large, 5.1 oz. size)
3/4 cup peach schnapps
1/2 cup vegetable oil
1/2 cup orange juice
4 eggs

Glaze

1 cup powdered sugar
4 tbsps. orange juice
2 tbsps. peach schnapps

Method

Spray a 12-cup fluted baking pan with cooking spray, dust with flour. Mix all cake ingredients together until well blended, spread evenly in pan. Bake at 350° for 45-50 minutes until golden brown and cake springs back when lightly touched. Cool cake for 20 minutes. Run a long, sharp knife around the edges to loosen, and invert onto platter. Whisk glaze ingredients together until smooth. With wooden skewer, poke holes on top and around sides of cake. Spoon glaze over the warm cake, allowing to seep in holes, and drizzle down the sides and center. Cool completely before slicing.

Sally Florey
Charles Mix Electric

HAWAIIAN PINEAPPLE CAKE

Ingredients:

2 cups flour
2 cups sugar
2 eggs
1 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. vanilla
Pinch salt
1 20 oz. can crushed pineapple,
undrained (in natural juice, not
heavy syrup)

Frosting

1/2 cup butter, softened
1 8 oz. cream cheese softened
1 tsp. vanilla
1 1/2 cups powdered sugar

Method

Mix all cake ingredients together until well blended. Bake in greased 9x13 pan at 350° for 35-40 minutes or until top is golden brown.

Combine cream cheese, butter and vanilla. Beat until smooth and creamy. Gradually add powdered sugar. Spread frosting on cake while still warm. Garnish with some toasted coconut if desired.

Sally Florey
Charles Mix Electric

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 2026. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

Join us for a

VIP Member TOUR

JULY

13-14

2026

\$25 fee
per member
+ 1 free guest

See first hand where your power comes from as we guide you on a tour of Basin Electric Power Cooperative and generation facilities.

Charter Bus Tour to Bismarck

Travel, tours, hotel accommodations, meals and evening entertainment are provided for you by your cooperative.




TO GET ON THE LIST or FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact:
Brett Kwasniewski or
Laura London

Call: (605) 345-3379

Email:
lakeregion@lakeregion.coop

Visit our website:
www.lakeregion.coop

LREA Member Name: _____

LREA Account # _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Guest Name: _____



Return to LREA Basin Tour:
PO Box 341
Webster, SD 57274

Spring Projects Need Wiring? Get on the schedule before it fills up!

MEMBER SERVICES

Lake Region Electric employs highly-trained, licensed electricians to assist you with a variety of wiring needs, including new wiring or repair, service entrance installation or upgrading overhead to underground wiring conversion, trenching, pole setting, underground fault locating and repair, sub-meter installation and load management installation.

What can we help you with?

- Electrical Wiring - Trenching & Aerial Line Construction and Repair - Yard Light Installation & Repair
- Load Controlling - Heat Meter Installation - Secondary Line Locates - Other Electrical Services



LAKE REGION

ELECTRIC

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Contact our Service Department

605-345-3379 or 1-800-657-5869
lakeregion@lakeregion.coop
www.lakeregion.coop
1212 Main St. Webster, SD 57274

CAPITAL CREDIT REFUNDS APPROVED FOR 2026

The Lake Region Electric Association Board of Directors approved a total of \$670,946.00 in capital credit retirements at their regular meeting in February. The amount retired in 2026 consists of 75% of Lake Region's 2012 patronage and 25% of Lake Region's 2025 patronage. Additionally, the total amount refunded includes 100%

remaining unretired margins we receive from Basin and East River Electric for the years 2006 and 2008, as well as 42% of Basin for year 2009.

The amount that each member is refunded is based on the electricity purchased during the years for which capital credits are being paid. 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/previous members will be mailed a check in June.

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.



2026

Capital Credit Refunds

2026 Capital Credit Retirement Breakdown

East River	2006*	100%	\$ 93,882.00
Basin	2008*	100%	\$ 66,766.00
Basin	2009	42%	\$ 104,803.00
Lake Region	2012	75%	\$ 340,818.00
Lake Region	2025	25%	\$ 64,677.00
Total Refunded			\$670,946.00

*Percentage of the remaining unretired patronage for years 2006 and 2008

ONE VOTE MAKES A DIFFERENCE



Chuck Sloan • Piedmont, S.D.

Board Treasurer, West River Electric Association

U.S. Air Force 1983-2003

Chuck Sloan has spent much of his life serving his nation.

Sloan enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1983 and served 21 years on active duty

before retiring as a master sergeant in 2004. In that time, he was stationed at bases all around the world, including Oman, South Korea, Turkey, and the Pacific. Since 2004, Sloan has worked as a civilian at Ellsworth Air Force Base, where today he is Chief of Operations Compliance.

Serving in the military, Sloan observed firsthand how seriously service members took absentee voting and civic participation, despite being thousands of miles from American soil. Their passion helped ignite Sloan's own admiration for America's democratic system of government.

"If I found somebody a little laissez-faire about voting, saying, 'my vote probably won't count,' I would give them a spiel," Sloan explained. "Yes, your vote does count, and you'll want to be able to say that you made that vote."

He continued, "If you don't choose to exercise that responsibility, then later on if you're displeased, you really can't

complain about it because you didn't make a choice – If anything, vote and give yourself the opportunity to legitimately complain!"

Sloan said people should never underestimate the importance of showing up and making their voices heard, because in close races, one vote can tip the scale.

"There are many instances when one vote may have been a determining factor," Sloan said. "It may not be a general election, but how about in a state or local election where one vote can be the deciding factor? That happens more often than one would think. Your vote matters, no matter what you do."

Sloan brought that civic-mindedness along with him to West River Electric Association, where he serves on the Board of Directors and helps make decisions in the interest of his neighbors and communities he represents.

Sloan said it all just comes back to civic responsibility and staying involved.

"From the time I turned 18, I've never missed a vote," Sloan said. "It's second nature. It's too important to not do."



VOTING STRENGTHENS COMMUNITIES



Evan Buckmiller • De Smet, S.D.

General Manager, Kingsbury Electric Cooperative

De Smet School District Board

For Kingsbury Electric Cooperative General Manager Evan Buckmiller, his call to public service came after a mid-term resignation on the De Smet School District

Board left a vacancy that needed to be filled.

"The board had to appoint someone to fill the seat," Buckmiller said. "Initially when I was asked, I didn't know if I wanted to do it, but I also knew that my wife and I have two young kids in the school system, so I agreed to fill the spot until the next election."

Buckmiller wasn't expecting to develop a passion for civic-service, but six years and two election cycles later, he's still representing the De Smet community on the school board.

"It's for my kids, to make sure they have the best education opportunities possible to prepare them for their future," Buckmiller added.

He said that while serving on the school board has been a

rewarding endeavor, there are also moments that are discouraging; some people will sit out elections, but are also vocal about board decisions they disagree with.

"I receive phone calls about how we are doing everything wrong, but they don't want to step up to be a part of change," Buckmiller explained.

His advice is simple: show up.

"Public participation at the monthly school board meetings is always encouraged," Buckmiller said. "When a community is engaged, there is more diverse input and you get to see the needs of everyone. The needs for one person might not be the same as another, and when you are sitting on a board you want to hear the needs of everyone so you can make the best decision possible for everyone."

Buckmiller said when more people get involved and exercise their civic duties, the communities like his are better for it.

"Being active in the community makes the community stronger and allows different opinions to be heard," Buckmiller said.

"When you show up to meetings and vote, you are giving the board direction so they can make decisions that are in the best interest of everyone."

STICK UP FOR YOURSELF & VOTE



Don Schurdevin • Elk Point, S.D.
Board President, Union County Electric Cooperative
U.S. Navy 1962-1968

Serving on the Union County Electric Cooperative board for more than 25 years, Don Schurdevin has built a reputation for steady leadership and a strong commitment

to the cooperative and its members. But before serving his neighbors and community on the co-op board, Schurdevin first served in a different way. He served not just his Union County neighbors, but his entire country in the U.S. Navy. Schurdevin enrolled during his junior year of high school in 1962, serving active duty in Vietnam from 1963 to 1965, some of that time aboard the USS Midway. The experience helped shape his views on patriotism, civic duty and personal responsibility.

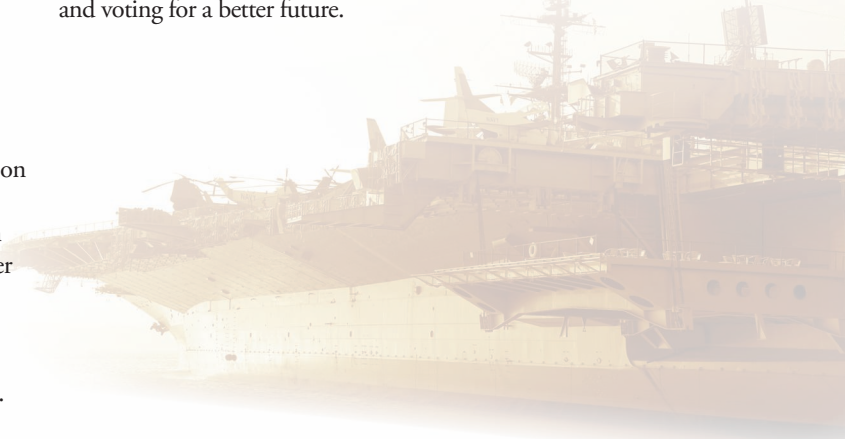
“In the navy, you learn to get along with people, but you learn to also stick up for yourself, because nobody else – is so you better take care of your own business,” he said.

That’s the attitude that Schurdevin brings to his civic participation. He said serving in the military gave him a deeper appreciation for the freedoms Americans enjoy, including voting.

Schurdevin believes participating in elections is one of the most important ways citizens can stay involved in their communities and help shape the future of their community, state and country.

“I think I voted in every election since I could,” Schurdevin recalled. “School board election, county, state – if I was able to vote I was voting.”

That sense of duty carried into his years of cooperative service. As a director, Schurdevin remains focused on serving members and ensuring the co-op continues to meet local needs. Schurdevin encourages others to “stick up for yourself” by staying informed and voting for a better future.



LEADERS DEPEND ON YOU SPEAKING UP



Chris Rahn • Mission, S.D.
Member Services Manager, Cherry-Todd Electric Cooperative
Todd County School District Board, Rosebud Sioux Tribe

Chris Rahn was not always interested in his local government. In fact, up until just several years ago, he sat many elections out.

But through his work at Cherry-Todd Electric Cooperative and the commitment to community that came with it, Rahn gained a new perspective on civic participation, realizing that change only happens when peoples’ voices are heard.

“I believe everybody who has an opinion should come out and vote,” Rahn said. “One vote matters. One vote can change an entire election.”

Rahn’s indifference to voting began to change as he was asked to take on more responsibilities with the co-op. Cherry-Todd Electric General Manager Tim Grablander nominated Rahn to the Rushmore Electric Federal Credit Union Board of Directors, where Rahn now serves as president.

Shortly after, he was encouraged by local community leaders to apply for a board seat with the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. The tribal

council voted to seat Rahn on the judiciary committee, leading to his first real experience with public service. Like flipping a switch, Rahn’s enthusiasm led to his appointment to other tribal boards, including the Tribal Utilities Commission, Tribal Tax Commission, and the Rosebud Energy Services Company.

Rahn said serving in tribal government opened his mind to the impact he can have on his community. That realization inspired Rahn to run for his first publicly-elected position as a school board member for the Todd County School District.

“I wanted to be more involved in my daughter’s education and just listen to the community’s input,” Rahn said, restating the importance of community members actively engaging with elected officials and sharing feedback.

He continued: “I feel like I’ve been able to bridge the gap between the people I represent and the administration and other public leaders.”

As Rahn looks ahead to years of future public service to work for a better community, he encourages others to step up as well — and all it takes is a vote.

“If you speak up, your voice is heard,” he continued. “When everyone’s voice is heard, we can make better decisions for the community as a whole.”

Photos by Shutterstock

LREA 2026 ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

Lake Region Electric Association will host our 85th Annual Meeting in Britton, SD at the Britton Event Center, 1203 3rd Street, Britton, SD. 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's seats for District 2 and District 4.

A Capital Credit Refund and

Annual Meeting Notice will be sent to all active members. Active members will receive the letter in an envelope marked *Annual Meeting Notice*. The letter will have pertinent information regarding your LREA capital credits and annual meeting details. Bring your notice to the annual meeting as your registration and door prize entrance. Scanning the notice 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.

There will be snacks and beverages provided; a meal will NOT be served. Attendees will receive a meal voucher for \$40.00 that they can redeem at a local participating restaurant of their choice. 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!

We are here to serve you! Please call our office if you have any questions or concerns: 605-345-3379 or 1-800-657-5869.

LREA's 85th ANNUAL MEETING

A Legacy of SERVICE

Thursday, June 4th
Britton Event Center
1203 3rd St. Britton, SD

Registration starts at 6:00 PM
Business Meeting starts at 7:00 PM

PRIZE Giveaways
\$500 Cash Prize - Bill Credits - Prizes

Join Us!

No Meal Served
Snacks Provided

Meal Voucher to a Participating Restaurant of Your Choice
(One per membership. Must be present.)

Vote in the Director Election - Visit with co-op staff

Bring canned goods for the Food Pantry!
Each Food Pantry Item Donated =
one entry in the drawing for a \$50 Gift Card!

Bring Your Registration Card To The Meeting

Election to Be Held for Two Director Seats

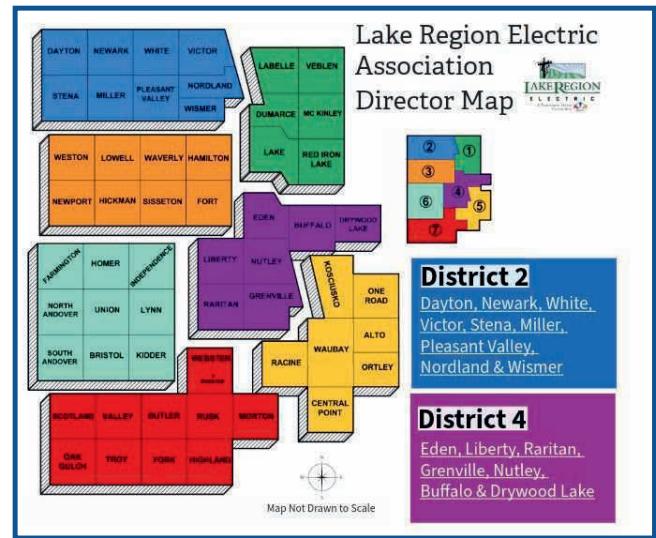
Two Director seats will be up for election at the Lake Region Electric Association annual meeting of members to be held in Britton, SD on June 4, 2026. This year District 2 and District 4 are up for election. District 2 townships include: Dayton, Newark, White, Victor, Stena, Miller, Pleasant Valley, Nordland & Wismer. District 4 townships include: Eden, Liberty, Raritan, Grenville, Nutley, Buffalo & Drywood Lake. District 2 is currently represented by Director Mark Wismer. District 4 is currently represented by Director Thomas Steiner. Both incumbents are eligible for re-election and have submitted complete petitions.

Individuals who wish to run for the board must file a petition at the LREA office, signed by fifteen (15) active LREA members, 45 days prior to the annual meeting. Potential Director candidates must be an active member of LREA and agree to attend all meetings. Candidates will be published in the “Annual Meeting Notice to Members.”

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.

Anyone 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.



Annual Meeting 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.

BUILDING FOR WHAT COMES NEXT

Basin Electric's Pioneer Generation Station, located near Williston, N.D.
Photo Submitted by Basin Electric

Basin Electric Expands Generation Capacity to Meet Growing Demand

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

Although the flick of a switch can seem close at hand, the electricity that powers our world is often generated many miles away.

For rural cooperative members, electricity often comes from North Dakota, where Basin Electric Power Cooperative operates a fleet of power plants to serve rural communities across nine states. As demand continues to build across that system, the infrastructure behind it is growing right alongside it.

This steady growth has shaped the work now underway across Basin Electric's service territory. In response, the cooperative has kept up with demand by expanding existing generation facilities, building a new power plant and supporting the system with additional transmission projects in just a few short years.

"We're seeing load growth across our system, and it's coming from a combination of residential, agricultural, commercial and energy development," said Gavin McCollam, Basin Electric's senior vice president and chief operating officer. "When you step back and look at it as a whole, it becomes clear that we need to continue building to keep pace with that growth."



New transmission lines in western North Dakota support Basin Electric's newest generation assets.
Photo Submitted by Basin Electric

Pioneer Generation Station

To maintain reliability and keep the lights on for their members, Basin Electric recently expanded its generation capacity through new development to Pioneer Generation Station near Williston, N.D.

Originally developed in the early 2010s, the facility grew in phases over time. Those additions turned Pioneer Generation Station into one of Basin Electric's most important generation assets, but within a decade, the pace of that growth had begun to change.

"Coming out of COVID, not just us but everybody

was seeing rapid increases in loads,” McCollam said. “At that point, we were asking what we could do the quickest to add capacity.”

To meet the need, Basin Electric moved forward with Pioneer Generation Station Phase IV. The cooperative completed the project in 2025, adding about 580 megawatts of generation and bringing the site’s total capacity to 822 megawatts, enough to power roughly 400,000 homes.

The expansion moved quickly in part because Basin Electric built on what it already had.

“We had the site and the people that worked there, so we could add onto it a lot quicker than we could analyze and research new sites,” McCollam said.

Bison Generation Station

Still, Basin Electric continued building for traditional member load growth, beyond Pioneer Generation Station Phase IV, turning to a new project: Bison Generation Station.

Located near Epping, N.D., the natural gas-fueled generation project is being built from the ground up as a large-scale, natural gas facility designed to meet future demand. Once completed, the combined-cycle power plant will produce approximately 1,490

megawatts of electricity, making it the largest power plant solely owned by Basin Electric – almost double the capacity of Pioneer Generation Station. The plant is expected to come online in two phases, with the first unit operating in 2029 and the second in 2030.

Unlike Pioneer Generation Station, which expanded over time, Bison Generation Station is being built as a single, large project.

“We had a history of building small units, piecemealing them in as quickly as we could. That worked for a long time, but eventually we reached a point where we needed to think about building differently,” McCollam said. “There was a point where we recognized that continuing to add smaller pieces wasn’t going to be the most effective approach. We needed to build something at a scale that would allow us to stay ahead of that growth.”

Serendipitously, the transition from Pioneer Generation Station to Bison Generation Station happened on the same day. Basin Electric finished construction at Pioneer and turned the facility over to operations, then received the permits to begin construction on Bison.

“I’m kind of a nerd,” McCollam

said, laughing. “I’m nerdy enough to think this wasn’t a coincidence, and the power plant gods were smiling on us.”

Once complete, it will become a central part of Basin Electric’s generation portfolio.

“It’s going to be the flagship of our gas fleet,” McCollam said. “It’s being designed with the understanding that the system we’re serving today is going to continue to grow.”

Looking Ahead

According to McCollam, these new generation assets are a response to the organic growth Basin Electric is seeing across its traditional membership, including residential demand, agriculture, commercial activity and energy production.

“We support that growth where it happens, and we make sure the system can deliver power where it’s needed,” he said.

For Basin Electric, the work underway now is part of a longer process to ensure reliability in a time of growing energy demand.

“The entire purpose of Basin Electric is to provide reliable service to our membership,” McCollam said. “As that system grows, we have to continue building to keep up with it.”



This architectural rendering depicts Bison Generation Station, a natural gas-fueled plant project slated to begin operations in 2030.

Photo Submitted by Basin Electric

Lake Region Awards \$3,500 in Scholarships



Laura London

Lake Region Electric Association is committed to education and training, not only for our employees but for the youth in the communities we serve. As part of this commitment, we offer scholarships to the children of our members who plan to further their education. This year, through our partnership with Basin Electric, we were able to increase the amount of scholarship money and award a total of three scholarships. Each of these recipients has demonstrated dedication and commitment to their education and community that aligns with the mission of Lake Region Electric. Join us in congratulating our scholarship award winners!

Basin/Lake Region Scholarships

Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Lake Region Electric take great pride in our ability to assist in developing rural leadership in our region through our scholarship program. This scholarship is awarded annually to the dependent child of member-owners of Lake Region Electric Association. This year, through the generosity of Basin Electric and its members, we are able to award this scholarship to 2 applicants. 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.

Madison Block of Webster Area High School has been awarded \$1,500 from Lake Region and Basin Electric Power Cooperative. Madison is an honors student and a Vice President of the Webster chapter of national Honor Society. She is involved in many extracurricular activities throughout high school including Key Club, Robotics,



volleyball, track, and band. Her participation in Traveling Jazz Band has earned her awards. Madison has been an advocate for her class while active in Student Council and is the Vice President of her senior class. Outside of school, Madison stays active in the community through her participation in Girl Scouts, German Exchange Program, church and volunteering with several other community organizations. While staying active in school and other community activities, Madison also works hard at several businesses in Webster including Brewhouse, Roots and lifeguarding at the Webster Aquatic Center.

Madison is the daughter of Lake Region members Jim and Tammy Block. She said her future goal is to become a Radiologist. Plans after high school include attending the University of South Dakota for pre-medical studies then continue on to medical school. Madison says, "I hope to one day have the opportunity to return to northeast South Dakota and help offer more advanced healthcare to rural areas without the need for patients to travel so far for the care they need and deserve."

Rayna Johnson is this year's second recipient of the Lake Region and Basin Electric Scholarship; she was awarded \$1,000. Rayna is a member of National Honor Society and has served as the Webster chapter's Public Relations Officer during her senior year. She has proven herself as a leader and was voted Class President for the Webster 2026 Senior Class. Rayna has been very active in Key Club throughout high school, holding several officer seats and earning awards while helping improve the school and community. Rayna is also involved in other extracurricular activities and sports including German Club, FCCLA, Volleyball, Basketball and Track. Rayna is seen as a hard-working and dedicated individual. She maintained honor-roll status throughout high school while participating in activities and holding several jobs. Rayna's smiling face and helpful attitude can



be seen at the childcare center, Brewhouse Boutique and Pereboom's Café as well as babysitting and helping at the farm.

Rayna is the daughter of Ben and Nicole Johnson of Webster. Rayna plans to attend South Dakota State University to study Early Childhood Education so that she can become a teacher and make a difference in the lives of children. Rayna says, "I want to create a safe and caring classroom where every child feels seen, valued, and excited to learn... I want to give back to my community in the same way it supported me and to help create a positive, lasting impact for future generations."

Duane Snaza Memorial Scholarship

Lake Region Electric's 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 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.

Jersey Johnson of Webster is the recipient of this year's Lake Region Duane Snaza Memorial Scholarship. Jersey is an Honor Student at Webster Area High School where she has been active in many extracurricular organizations and sports. Jersey was Student Council Treasurer and has been a part of

the National Honor Society, FCCLA, FFA, Key Club and Robotics. She was Team Captain of Webster's Varsity Volleyball team and participated in Track. Outside of school, Jersey has been involved in serving the community through her participation in the Webster American Legion Junior Auxiliary, 4-H, German Exchange Program, Community Band, PACH, and several other organizations. Jersey also contributes to her church through service in Bell Choir and teaching Sunday School.



Jersey is the daughter of Matt and Melanie Johnson of the Webster area. She plans to study nursing at South Dakota State University. "SDSU's respected nursing program and focus on hands-on, practical learning align with my goal of gaining strong clinical experience while continuing my commitment to service. After earning my degree, my goal is to become a registered nurse and provide patient-centered care to individuals and families. In the long term, I hope to continue advancing my education within the nursing field and make a positive impact on the health and well-being of my community." said Jersey.

People • Power • Purpose

South Dakota Rural Electric

YOUTH EXCURSION

JULY 20-22, 2026

- Learn how electricity gets to our homes.
- Tour Power Plants, Coal Plants and other power generation facilities.
- Enjoy a variety of engaging activities.
- Make connections & meet new friends.

All Expenses Paid: Travel, tours, accommodations, meals and evening entertainment are provided for you by your cooperative.

For more information: Email: lakeregion@lakeregion.coop Visit our website: www.lakeregion.coop

Area Freshmen, Sophomores and Juniors whose parents or guardians are members of Lake Region electric are eligible to apply.

Student Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

School: _____ Grade 25-26 School Year: _____


Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent Cell: _____

Parent Email: _____



Return to LREA Basin Tour:
PO Box 341
Webster, SD 57274



MAY 18
Voter Registration
Deadline for Primary
Election
5 p.m.
(South Dakota)

JUNE 1
Last Day to Request
Absentee Ballot.
5 p.m.
(South Dakota)

JUNE 2
Primary Election
7 a.m.-7 p.m.
(South Dakota)

Photo by Shutterstock

MAY 2
Spring Citywide
Rummage Sales
Groton, SD

MAY 2
Consignment Auction
7 a.m. Gates Open
10 a.m. Auction
Prairie Village
Madison, SD

MAY 2
Cinco de Mayo Fiesta
2-8 p.m.
Milbank, SD
605-432-6656

MAY 3
Prairie Village Opening Day
2 p.m. Train Ride
Prairie Village
Madison, SD

MAY 6-7
Energize! Exploring Innovative
Rural Communities Conference
Hosted by SDSU Extension
Community Vitality
Community Center
Wall, SD
extension.sdstate.edu/energize

MAY 9
1880 Train Opens
Hill City, SD

MAY 15-17
Open House Weekend
Free Entrance
Custer State Park
Custer, SD

MAY 16
2nd Annual Bird Bash
8 a.m.-1 p.m.
Bear Butte State Park
Sturgis, SD
605-390-2901
valleyhummingbird@yahoo.com

MAY 23
Free Christian Men's Event
8 a.m.-2 p.m.
The Barn at Aspen Acres
Spearfish, SD
Register: RiseUpMen.com

MAY 30
Familyfest Fun Cruise
& SDSC Safety Fair
9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Bucket Trucks, Safety & More
Sioux Falls, SD
thehoodmagazine.com/ff-faqs/

MAY 30
Frühlingsfest
Spring Street Market
1-5 p.m.
Main Street Square
Rapid City, SD
605-718-8484

MAY 30
Miss Prairie Village/Miss
Prairie Princess Pageant
6:30 p.m.
Lawrence Welk Opera House
Prairie Village
Madison, SD

JUNE 4-6
Black Hills Quilt Show
Thurs. 5-8 p.m.
Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sat. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Rushmore Hall
at the Monument
Rapid City, SD

JUNE 6
Citywide Rummage Sale
Sales Throughout Community
- Treasures Guaranteed!
Redfield, SD

JUNE 13
America's 250th
Baseball/Softball Day
Train Day, Carnegie Library
Open House, Fireworks
Redfield, SD

JUNE 13
Luce Pioneer Day
10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Rope & Candle Making, Butter
Churning, Dutch Oven Cooking
Lake Herman State Park
Madison, SD
605-880-5077

JUNE 19-20
77th Annual Czech Days
Tabor, SD
www.taborczechdays.com

JUNE 26-27
Buckhorn Rodeo
Britton, SD
605-880-5077

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.

Note: We publish contact information as provided. If no phone number is given, none will be listed. Please call ahead to verify the event is still being held.