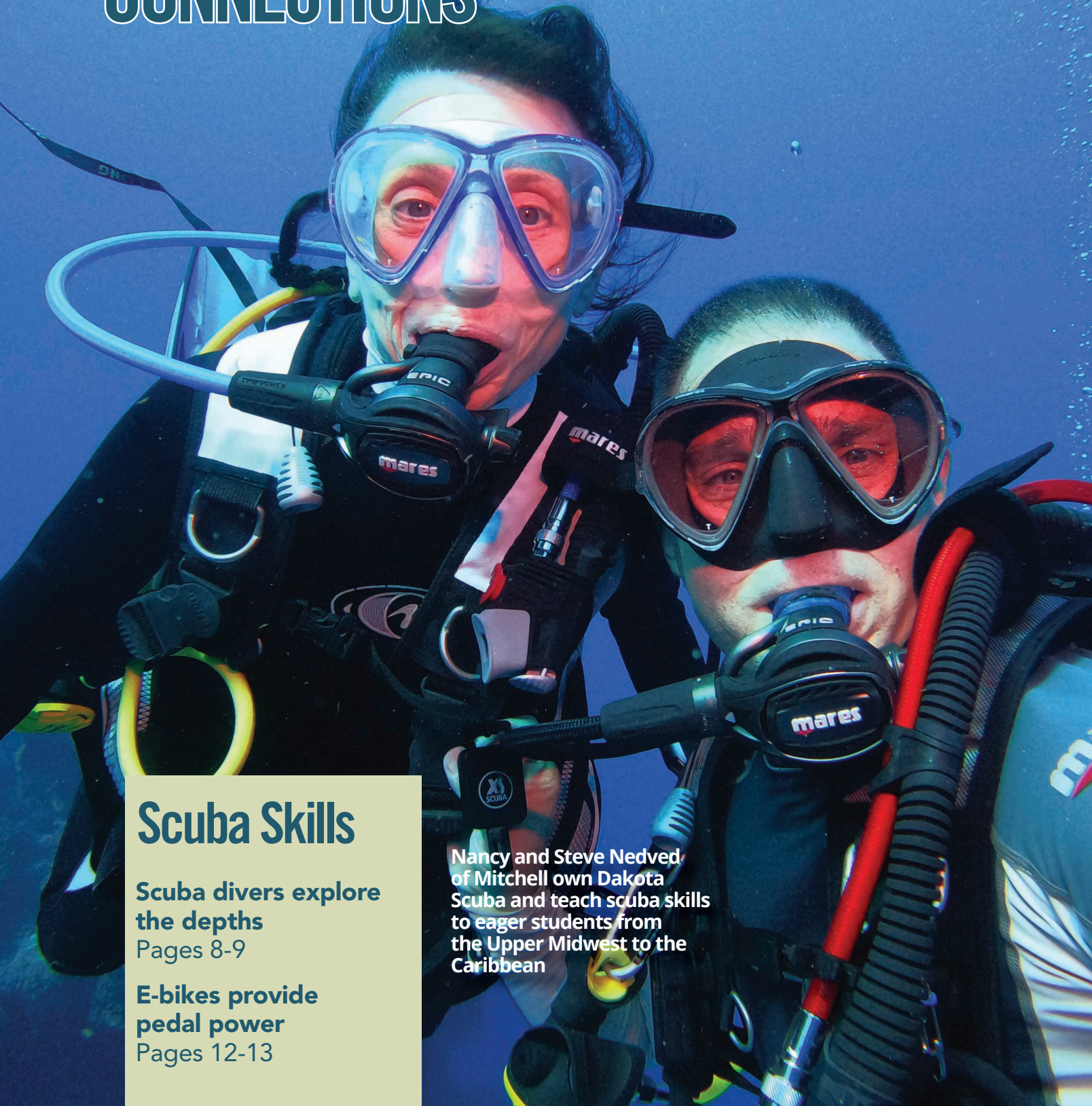


# COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



## Scuba Skills

Scuba divers explore  
the depths  
Pages 8-9

E-bikes provide  
pedal power  
Pages 12-13

Nancy and Steve Nedved  
of Mitchell own Dakota  
Scuba and teach scuba skills  
to eager students from  
the Upper Midwest to the  
Caribbean



## AGENDA

### LREA 81st ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, June 2nd, 2022

- ⚡ **5:00 p.m.** - Registration & Meal
- ⚡ **7:00 p.m.** - Registration closes; business meeting opens
- ⚡ **Meeting called to order** - Board Chairman, Kermit Pearson
  - The National Anthem
  - Invocation – Rev. Micheal DeKraai
  - Welcome
- ⚡ Declaration of Quorum, Notice of Meeting, Proof of Mailing, and Minutes of 2021 Meeting – Thomas L. Steiner, Secretary (motion to approve Minutes of 2021)
- ⚡ President’s Report – Kermit Pearson
- ⚡ Election of Directors – Attorney Dan Smeins
  - Pick up Ballots
- ⚡ Managers’ Report – Manager Tim McIntyre
- ⚡ Scholarship Award Recognition - Tim McIntyre
- ⚡ Election Report - Attorney Dan Smeins (only if nomination made by floor and ballots are needed)
- ⚡ Other Business – Old and New - Kermit Pearson
- ⚡ Draw for Door Prizes
- ⚡ Draw for \$50 Gift Card for Food Pantry Donation
- ⚡ Adjournment – Kermit Pearson



#### DESIGNATION OF REPRESENTATIVE

If you are a member corporation, cooperative, school, church, township or partnership of Lake Region Electric Association, Inc. and want to be represented at the Annual Membership Meeting at Webster, SD on June 2, 2022, please complete this form and have it signed by an official of your organization. Your official representative will have to present this form at the Annual Meeting registration stop in order to take part in the business matters on behalf of the organization.

This is to certify that \_\_\_\_\_ is authorized to represent  
(Print name of voting delegate)

our organization \_\_\_\_\_ at the Annual Membership  
(Print name of organization)

meeting of Lake Region Electric Association, Inc. at Webster, SD on June 2, 2022, in any and all business, including voting that may be conducted at said meeting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of organization president

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### Official Notice of Lake Region Electric Annual Membership Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the Members of Lake Region Electric Association, Inc., will be held at the Webster Armory located at 120 W 11th Ave. in Webster, SD, on Thursday, June 2, 2022. The meeting's registration and meal will begin at 5:00 p.m. with the business meeting to commence at 7:00 p.m.

**COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS**

**LAKE REGION ELECTRIC RIPPLES**

(USPS 018-904)

**Board of Directors**

Kermit Pearson, President  
 Rodney Tobin, Vice President  
 Thomas Steiner, Secretary  
 Roger Kulesa, Treasurer  
 Andrea Kilker  
 Amy Kuecker  
 Mark Wismer  
 Danny Smeins, LREA Attorney

**General Manager**

Tim McIntyre

**Staff**

Donna Sattler, Director of Finance/Office Services Manager  
 Jim Grimes, Manager of Operations  
 Brett Kwasniewski, Manager of Member Services  
 Tim Gaikowski, Manager of Technology Services



Lake Region Electric Association, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**Like us on Facebook:**  
 Lake Region Electric Association Inc.

LAKE REGION RIPPLES COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is the monthly publication for the members of Lake Region Electric Association, Inc., PO Box 341, 1212 N Main St., Webster, SD 57274. Lake Region Electric Cooperative Connections' purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to members on electric cooperative matters and better living.

Subscription information: As part of their membership, Lake Region Electric members devote 50 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Nonmember subscriptions are available for \$12 annually. (USPS 018-904) Periodicals Postage Paid at Webster, SD 57274 and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Lake Region Ripples Cooperative Connections, PO Box 341, Webster, SD 57274. Telephone 605-345-3379; Toll Free 1-800-657-5869; Fax 605-345-4442 E-mail: lakeregion@lakeregion.coop

24 hour Dispatching/Outage Line 1-800-657-5869

**Operations Department**



**JIM GRIMES**  
 27 Years Service at Lake Region Electric



**DAN WILLIAMS**  
 16 Years Service at Lake Region Electric



**SHAWN SCHMIDT**  
 16 Years Service at Lake Region Electric



**TYLER AADLAND**  
 14 Years Service at Lake Region Electric



**BRYCE JORGENSEN**  
 11 Years Service at Lake Region Electric



**MAT LYNDE**  
 9 Years Service at Lake Region Electric



**JESSE PESALL**  
 9 Years Service at Lake Region Electric



**TEVIN ABEL**  
 1 Year Service at Lake Region Electric

**Office Services**



**Donna Sattler**  
 26 Years Service



**Autumn Spiering**  
 12 Years Service



**Justin McClurg**  
 14 Years Service



**Laura London**  
 3 Years Service

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES**



**TIM GAIKOWSKI**  
 10 Years Service



**NATHAN BAUMGART**  
 10 Years Service



**SCOTT SMITH**  
 7 Years Service

**Member Services Department**



**Brett Kwasniewski**  
 18 Years Service



**Leonard Deibert**  
 13 Years Service



**Nick Kvernevig**  
 11 Years Service



**Zac Bremmon**  
 10 Years Service



**Vinson Dargatz**  
 9 Years Service



**Kurt Hoines**  
 7 Years Service

**WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!**

Jerred Schreur  
 Jodi Storley  
 Scott & Heather Hansen

Frank & Carol Evans  
 Robert Gollnick  
 Dakota Grain and Salvage

## June is National Safety Month

While your local electric cooperative often focuses on electric safety and provides information to keep you and your family free from harm, there are many other dangers lurking out there.

In recognition of National Safety Month, we're sharing the National Safety Council's list of the top causes of preventable injuries and death away from the workplace.

**POISONING.** In 2011, accidental poisonings overtook car crashes for the first time as the leading cause of unintentional injury-related death for all age groups combined. Poisoning deaths are often caused by exposure to gases, chemicals and other toxic substances, but prescription drug overdose is by far the leading cause.

**VEHICLE CRASHES.** Crashes are the second-leading cause of unintentional injury-related death overall. Impaired driving, distracted driving, speeding and inexperience can cause a life to be cut short in the blink of an eye.

**FALLS.** Falling is the third-leading cause of unintentional injury-related death over all age groups, but it's the No. 1 cause of death for those aged 65 and older.

**CHOKING AND SUFFOCATION.** Choking on food or other objects is a primary cause of harm and death. Suffocation and choking rank higher among the elderly and infants.

**DROWNING.** It's the No. 1 cause of death for children from ages 1 to 4, mostly due to children falling into pools or being left alone and unsupervised in bathtubs.

**FIRES AND BURNS.** Fires often start at night, when families are asleep and most vulnerable. A working and well-maintained smoke alarm will cut in half the chances of dying in a fire.

**NATURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS.** Weather-related disasters claim hundreds of lives per year. You should learn all you can about emergency preparedness and always have an emergency kit on hand in your home.

## BOWLING FOR CHARITY IN MITCHELL



More than 80 cooperative employees showed up in Mitchell for the 7th Annual Line Patrol Charity Bowling Tournament sponsored by Central Electric. The Lacreek Electric Headhunters shown above (Tiff Pettit, Terri Gregg, Cody Allen, Ryan Pettit) took top honors. The event was organized to raise money for a fund used to help electric co-op employees and their families in times of need. Find out more about this event and South Dakota's electric cooperatives by visiting Cooperative Connections Plus. Simply scan the QR code at right.



## Call 811 before you dig

### Maddy Pannell

Maddy Pannell, age 10, reminds electric cooperative members to call 811 before digging into the ground when planting trees or pursuing other outdoor projects. Maddy is the daughter of Southeastern Electric members Scott and Kim Pannell of Sioux Falls.

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 DAIRY

## SWEDISH CREME

### Ingredients:

- 2 cups heavy cream
- 1 cup, plus 2 tsps. sugar, divided
- 1 envelope unflavored gelatin
- 1 tsp. almond extract
- 1 tsp. clear imitation vanilla extract
- 2 cups (16 oz.) sour cream
- 1 cup fresh or frozen red raspberries

### METHOD

In a saucepan, combine cream and 1 cup sugar. Cook and stir constantly over low heat until candy thermometer reads 160 degrees, or steam rises from pan. (Do not boil). Stir in gelatin until dissolved; add extracts. Cool 10 minutes. Whisk in sour cream. Pour into eight dessert glasses or small bowls. Chill at least 1 hour. Before serving, combine raspberries and remaining sugar; spoon over each serving.

**Joanne Singrey-Johnson,  
Watertown**

## TUNA EGG SALAD

### Ingredients:

- 3 6 oz. cans tuna packed in water
- 3 eggs hard boiled, peeled and chopped
- 2 small dill pickles diced
- 1 large celery rib diced
- 1/4 cup red onion minced
- 1 tbsp. lemon juice or red wine vinegar
- 2 tsp. garlic powder, optional
- 1/4 tsp. salt, or to taste
- Ground black pepper, to taste
- 1/2 cup plain Greek yogurt, 2% fat
- 2 tbsp. mayo

### METHOD

Drain cans with tuna well. Transfer to a large bowl and separate into flakes with a fork. Add chopped and peeled hard boiled eggs, pickles, celery, red onion, lemon juice, garlic powder (if using), salt, pepper, yogurt and mayo. Stir well with a fork and refrigerate. Serve cold in a sandwich or over salad greens. Make Ahead: Tuna egg salad tastes best cold. For best results, refrigerate 30 minutes before eating.

**ifoodreal.com**

## EASY SHERBET

### Ingredients:

- 1 pkg. orange or lime jello
- 1 cup boiling water
- 3 cups milk
- Pinch of salt
- 2 tbsp. lemon juice
- 1-1/4 cup sugar

### METHOD

Dissolve jello in boiling water. Add remaining ingredients. Freeze until 1/2 inch thick at edge of tray. Empty into mixing bowl and beat thoroughly. Return to freezer. This works well if put in a loaf pan.

**Joy Hagen, Webster**

## EXTRA GRILLED CHEESE

### Ingredients:

- 1 tbsp. butter, softened
- 2 tsp. Parmesan cheese, grated
- Dash of garlic powder
- 4 slices bread
- 2 slices sharp cheddar cheese
- 2 slices Swiss cheese

### METHOD

In a small bowl, combine butter, parmesan cheese, and garlic powder. Spread an even layer on one side of each slice of bread. Place 1 slice of cheddar cheese and 1 slice of Swiss between two bread slices, with the buttered side facing out. Cook in hot skillet for about 2 minutes, until the crust is golden. Flip sandwich and grill until crust is golden and the cheese is melted. Slice and serve. May add grilled onions if you choose. Just saute in the pan before cooking the sandwiches and add to the sandwiches between the cheese slices.

**Kristina Manecke, Midland**

**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 2022. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.**

# 2021 Annual Meeting Unapproved Minutes

Pursuant to notice having been duly given, the Annual Meeting was held June 3rd, 2021 on Main Street, City of Langford, County of Marshall, and State of South Dakota.

The meeting was held in drive-in fashion with a radio broadcast that was set up by East River Electric Association. Registration and parking began at 5:30 PM, facilitated by the employees and staff of Lake Region Electric Association. Employees distributed treats, water, and meal vouchers for local restaurants to attending members, in lieu of a hot meal.

Board President Kermit Pearson called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM. Pearson then explained that motions and voting would take place via honking of car horns. The National Anthem was played on the radio broadcast. General Manager Tim McIntyre gave the invocation.

Secretary Tom Steiner verified 101 Registered Members in attendance at the start of the meeting, constituting a quorum. According to the LREA Bylaws, "In case the total number of members shall exceed one thousand, fifty (50) members, present in person, shall constitute a quorum." Steiner then presented Proof of Mailing of the 2021 Annual Meeting Notice, as contained in the May issue of the Cooperative Connections, Lake Region Ripples Newsletter and proof of mailing was verified by The Midstates Group of Aberdeen on April 22, 2021. Secretary Steiner also announced that the Annual Meeting Notice was mailed from National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC) in O'Fallon Missouri.

Secretary Steiner also announced that the Unapproved Minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting were printed with the Annual Report in the June issue of the Cooperative Connections and reviewed by the members. A motion was made and seconded to dispense of reading the minutes and accept the 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes as printed. Motion carried. A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2020 minutes. Motion carried.

Board President, Kermit Pearson, gave the annual President's Report. He reviewed

the financial report including the annual statistical and financial reports covering revenue, expenses and capital credits of the cooperative. He explained that, despite lower revenue in 2020, the cooperative is in good financial standing. Pearson reviewed the Independent auditor's report from Eide Bailly recognizing no deficiencies were identified. The 2020 Financial Report was approved.

Pearson discussed East River substations, rebuilding of lines between Britton and Langford, as well as other infrastructure improvements. Pearson talked about our energy partner, Basin Electric, and the cold weather extremes experienced in the Southern United States during February 2021. Extreme weather events highlight the value of belonging to a cooperative and rate stability. Pearson continued his report by highlighting the continued growth at East River Electric. He took a moment to explain the lawsuit that East River is going through with Dakota Energy wanting to leave East River, breaking contracts that they had recently renewed. Pearson continued the President's Report by discussing new regulations coming out of Washington D.C. and how that could affect us here in Lake Region territory. One big focus is continued improvements and conversion to renewable energy. He concluded his report by sharing with the membership that Ed Anderson who has led our statewide organization SDREA, will be retiring at the end of the month. The newly hired General Manager is Trevor Jones, former Cabinet Secretary for the State Dept. of Public Safety during Governor Daugaard's administration. Pearson called for a motion to approve The President's Report. The motion was made, seconded, and accepted by the members in attendance.

Attorney Smeins conducted the election of directors. One director each would be elected for a term of three years from Districts 1 and 7. Nominations for the two districts were made prior to the meeting by nominating petition, per the bylaws.

Incumbent Andrea Kilker ran unopposed to serve the membership for District One,

consisting of LaBelle, Dumarce, Lake, Red Iron Lake, McKinley and Veblen townships. Nominations from the floor were opened for District 1. No additional nominations were received from the floor and a motion was made to cast a unanimous ballot for Andrea Kilker from District 1. Motion carried.

Incumbent Amy Kuecker ran unopposed for District 7 which consists of Webster, Scotland, Valley, Butler, Rusk, Morton, Oak Gulch, Troy, York, and Highland townships. Nominations from the floor were opened for District 7. No additional nominations were received from the floor and a motion was made to cast a unanimous ballot for Amy Kuecker from District 7. Motion carried.

Lake Region Electric's General Manager & CEO, Tim McIntyre, gave the Manager's Report. He thanked the member-owners, staff and employees and the Board of Directors for everything they do for our cooperative. McIntyre also thanked Mayor Orrie Jesz and the City of Langford for hosting our meeting and talked about the positive relationship that Lake Region and the City have. He reported that Lake Region remains in a strong financial position. We are continuing on an aggressive work plan, including the conversion of overhead to underground wire. He recognized the scholarship winners Colin Frey and Rana Hegg. McIntyre discussed Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) available through Lake Region and other ways that we are working to support clean energy.

The meeting was concluded by drawing for a \$50 gift card; tickets had been given to those who brought donations for the food pantry. Leonard Alberts was the winning ticket holder.

Board President Kermit Pearson called for adjournment of the meeting. A motion and second was made by honking of car horns and the meeting was adjourned.

Kermit Pearson, President  
Thomas L. Steiner, Secretary

# Election petitions filed for Board seats

Three petitions were filed for the election to be held at the 81st LREA Annual Meeting to be held in Webster on June 2. Petitions are for Director seats representing districts 3, 5 and 6. Kermit Pearson, 11306 434th Ave. Lake City, District 3, Cody Paszek, 44411 127th St. Grenville, District 5, and Rodney Tobin, 12739 422nd Ave. Pierpont, District 6, all officially filed their petition and will be on the ballot for election at the 81st LREA Annual Meeting.

These petitions were completed and filed in accordance with Lake Region Electric Association Bylaws.

**SAMPLE BALLOT**  
 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting – June 2, 2022  
 Based upon filed petitions.  
**DISTRICT #3**  
 Weston, Lowell, Waverly, Hamilton, Newport, Hickman, Sisseton and Fort Townships

Kermit Pearson  
 Lake City

Write-in Candidate \_\_\_\_\_

---

**DISTRICT #5**  
 Kosciusko, One Road, Racine, Waubay, Alto, Ortle and Central Point Townships  
 Mark box next to candidate's name. You may only vote for ONE.

Cody Paszek  
 Grenville


Write-in Candidate \_\_\_\_\_

---


**DISTRICT #6**  
 Farmington, Homer, Independence, North Andover, Union, Lynn, South Andover, Bristol and Kidder Townships

Rodney Tobin  
 Pierpont


Write- In Candidate \_\_\_\_\_




**Andrea Kilker**  
DISTRICT 1




**Mark Wismer**  
DISTRICT 2




**PRESIDENT**  
**Kermit Pearson**  
DISTRICT 3




**SECRETARY**  
**Thomas Steiner**  
DISTRICT 4



**TREASURER**  
**Roger Kulesa**  
DISTRICT 5




**VICE PRESIDENT**  
**Rodney Tobin**  
DISTRICT 6



**Amy Kuecker**  
DISTRICT 7

**LAKE REGION ELECTRIC DIRECTOR MAP**



**VOTING DISTRICTS**

District 1: LaBelle, Dumarce, Lake, Red Iron Lake, McKinley and Veblen.  
 District 2: White, Victor, Pleasant Valley, Nordland, Miller, Wismer, Newark, Stena and Dayton.  
 District 3: Weston, Newport, Lowell, Waverly, Hamilton, Hickman, Sisseton and Fort.  
 District 4: Eden, Buffalo, Drywood Lake, Nutley, Grenville, Raritan, and Liberty.  
 District 5: Kosciusko, One Road, Waubay, Alto, Ortle, Racine and Central Point.  
 District 6: Farmington, North Andover, South Andover, Homer, Union, Independence, Kidder, Lynn, and Bristol  
 District 7: Scotland, Oak Gulch, Valley, Troy, Butler, York, Webster, Rusk, Highland, and Morton.

# DEEP DIVES

Dozens of scuba divers from South Dakota and Minnesota pursue their hobby not only in local lakes and rivers but also in the Caribbean. *Photos by Steve Nedved*

## Divers explore underwater habitats from the lakes of the Upper Midwest to the Caribbean

**Billy Gibson**

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

It's a sunny springtime Saturday morning and outdoors enthusiasts all across the state are buzzing with excitement to kick off another weekend adventure.

They're saddling up their horses, slinging their fishing gear into their boats, cranking their ATVs and lacing up their hiking boots.

In a small shop just south of Mitchell, there's a different kind of energy and amped-up anticipation filling the air. Steve Nedved is busy rigging up scuba tanks and inspecting air regulators for about 20 fledgling divers eager to learn a new skill and experience new thrills.

Nedved is owner of Dakota Scuba and he's finding that more and more adventurers are becoming interested in exploring the aquatic world through a fisheye view, whether that's in the chilly waters of the Missouri River or the crystal-clear surf of the Caribbean.

While the scuba diving season in

the Upper Midwest is relatively short, Nedved stays busy most months out of the year teaching scuba lessons in the Mitchell area and tending to vacationing clients from his Villa Dakota retreat in Cozumel.

It turns out that he and his student-clients can board a plane in Sioux Falls at 7 a.m., make a quick stop in Dallas-Ft. Worth, and be ready to hit the water in Cozumel just after lunch.

"It works out pretty well, and people love to take a fall and winter vacation and explore Cozumel, which is one of the best spots for diving because the visibility can be more than 100 feet and there's so much marine life to see," Nedved said.

The master diver's interest in scuba was sparked back when he was a firefighter and paramedic in Mitchell. After responding to too many emergency situations involving bodies of water, he and his colleagues decided they needed to be trained in diving as part of meeting their professional responsibilities and serving the public.

He received his certification in short order and later decided to venture down to Cozumel to earn his teaching certification through the Professional Association of Dive Instructors so that he could be qualified to train his colleagues back in Mitchell.

He and his wife Nancy, who together own the Nedved Media radio network, fell in love with the tropical paradise and after a dozen diving trips decided it made sense to purchase a home right on the water. Before he knew it, he found many others were beating the same path to Mexico to enjoy the sun, sand and scuba adventures.

"I didn't really start it with the intention of going public, I just didn't realize at the time how much interest there was," he said. "People around here in Mitchell started asking me to train them for recreational certification and then they'd dive here or they'd go to Florida or Cozumel on vacation with their families. We started renting out our place in Cozumel to accommodate people during the times we couldn't be there ourselves."

He also noticed an increasing interest in spearfishing in places like the Oahe



## SCUBA DIVING



Steve Nedved is shown at left with his catch after a day of spearfishing at Sully Flats. Above, Nedved (at right) works with student Allen Hiller on open water certification.

Downstream Recreational Area and Pactola Lake in the Black Hills, so he decided to open the shop to serve as a local and regional outfitter.

Nedved, who has logged more than 1,000 dives since he started in 2006, uses the Mitchell Recreation Center for local training and has played a role in certifying individuals from age 10 to 70.

“It’s not that physically laborious or difficult. Of course, you have to be in condition as with any kind of outdoor sport, but it’s not inherently dangerous in any way if you follow the guidelines,” he said.

Allen Hiller of Pierre is one of Nedved’s recent proteges. Though he had done some snorkeling and diving at sites like Sully Flats, Cow Creek and below the Oahe Dam, Hiller decided he wanted to kick his scuba game up a few notches. So he enlisted Nedved’s services and spent eight days at Villa Dakota last March earning his open water diving certificate.

At the age of 53, Hiller is a veteran of Desert Storm and Desert Shield, a former diesel and aircraft mechanic,

and spent nearly 20 years working for the Union Pacific Railroad in North Platte, NE. He describes himself as an avid hunter and fisherman who is always up for an adventure. Since his visit to the Caribbean, Hiller says he wants to expand his knowledge and experience under water.

“I really caught the diving bug being down there in a beautiful part of the world with the sun and the sand and the clear water where it seems like you can see forever. I want to continue on and get my PADI certification, my night diving certification, and become a master diver,” Hiller said. “I also want to do a lot of spearfishing and learn how to get better at it. Steve was really great to work with.”

Nedved said that once his students become accustomed to the awkward act of breathing through a mouthpiece, they begin to relax and enjoy the experience of discovering a new environment with different lights, colors and sounds.

“People like to hunt for fish and explore underwater quarries and see what’s on the bottom of the river bed,” he said. “When I take them out for the first

## SCUBA RULES

Here are four requirements for scuba diving in South Dakota:

- Divers are required to use a red and white Diver Down flag when diving
- Dive flags must be at least 8"x10"
- Divers must stay within 75 feet of their dive flag
- Boaters and vessel operators are required to stay at least 75 feet from dive flags

time, we can’t really speak when we’re underwater, but when we come up they start chatting away with excitement about the things they saw. It’s really addictive. You rarely see just one person in a family that’s a diver. Usually, after one person does it, the others have to follow. It’s a good sport for a lot of people.”

## Lake Region Electric Assn. Financial Statement

### Liabilities

WHAT WE OWE	2021	2020
Current Liabilities		
Current Maturities Long-Term Debt	1,268,139	1,292,155
Accounts Payable	1,265,924	1,158,526
Other Current & Accrued Liab.	211,962	216,944
Customer Deposits	41,067	43,167
Accrued Taxes	412,052	369,275
<b>TOTAL CUR AND ACCR LIAB</b>	<b>3,199,144</b>	<b>3,080,067</b>
Patronage Capital	14,572,188	14,028,952
Other Equity	2,727,895	2,611,926
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>17,300,083</b>	<b>16,640,878</b>
Deferred Credits	1,465,866	1,753,772
Long-term debt less Current Maturities	24,833,886	24,719,203
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>46,798,979</b>	<b>46,193,920</b>

### Assets

WHAT WE OWN:	2021	2020
Current Assets and Deferred Charges:		
Cash and working funds	1,907,397	2,706,962
Accounts Receivable (less uncollectible)	1,823,456	1,567,855
Materials & Supplies	941,197	653,158
Prepayments	5,991	11,844
Deferred Debits	201,114	187,287
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>4,879,155</b>	<b>5,127,106</b>
Electric Plant		
In Service	40,407,587	38,554,060
Under Construction	65,268	541,491
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(10,767,676)	(10,224,332)
<b>TOTAL ELECTRIC PLANT</b>	<b>29,705,179</b>	<b>28,871,219</b>
<b>Other Property and Investments</b>		
Investments -Associated Organization	9,819,422	9,438,252
Other Investments - Notes Receivable	1,020,223	1,107,343
Other Special Funds - Revenue Deferral	1,375,000	1,650,000
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>12,214,645</b>	<b>12,195,595</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>46,798,979</b>	<b>46,193,920</b>

## Statement of Revenue and Expenses

OPERATING REVENUE:	2021	2020
Electric and Other Revenue	19,129,374	17,068,098
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES:</b>		
Purchased Power	13,670,962	11,742,608
Operations Expense	928,871	828,202
Maintenance Expense	385,052	458,387
Consumer Accounting & Collections	96,789	87,571
Consumer Info., Sales & Service	235,193	214,150
Administration & General Expense	994,784	919,429
Depreciation	1,176,303	1,107,570
Tax Expense	323,269	295,077
Interest Expense	722,883	740,630
Miscellaneous	18,870	17,148
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>18,552,976</b>	<b>16,410,772</b>
<b>Operating Margins</b>	<b>576,398</b>	<b>657,326</b>
<b>G &amp; T Capital Credits</b>	<b>576,811</b>	<b>645,125</b>
<b>Non-Operating Margins</b>		
Interest Income	26,785	54,488
Merchansising/Other	127,370	39,375
<b>Net Margins</b>	<b>1,307,364</b>	<b>1,396,314</b>
<b>Patronage Capital (Beginning of Year)</b>	<b>14,028,952</b>	<b>13,375,339</b>
Capital Credit Retirement	(670,265)	(538,468)
Other Equity Allocatons	(93,863)	(204,233)
<b>Patronage Capital (end of year)</b>	<b>14,572,188</b>	<b>14,028,952</b>

## System Stats

Miles of Energized Line: 1659

Overhead Miles: 931

Underground Miles: 728

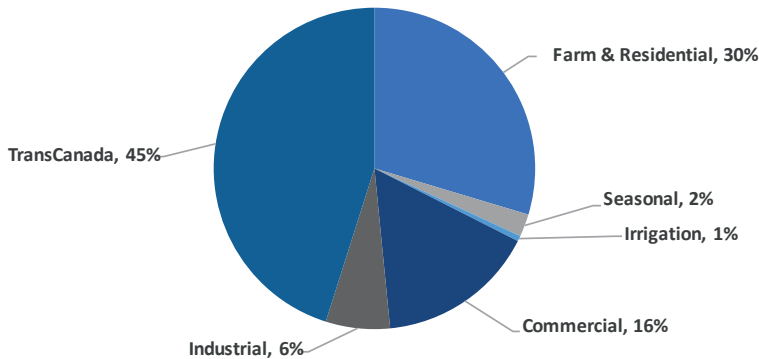
Residential Meters: 2893

Irrigation: 33

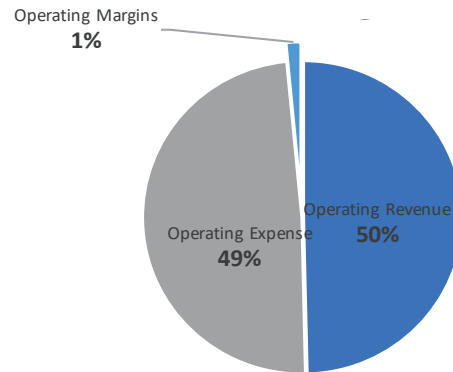
Small Commercial: 534

Large Commercial: 7

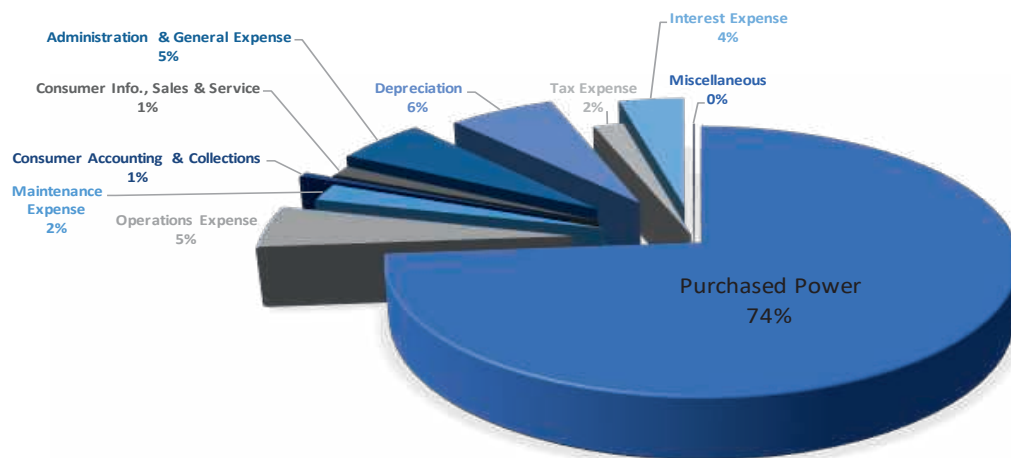
## LAKE REGION ELECTRIC 2021 REVENUES



## OPERATING TOTALS



## LAKE REGION ELECTRIC 2021 EXPENSES



**CAPITAL**

**2022**

**CREDITS**

**Lake Region Electric Association Board of Directors approved more than \$710,000.00 in capital credit retirements**

As a not-for-profit electric co-op, LREA allocates any excess margins to its consumers after paying all the bills and reinvesting what it needs to keep electric costs as low as possible. Lake Region tracks the allocations and eventually refunds the money. As cash positions allow, LREA returns a portion of these dividends or capital credits back to the co-op's members-owners. The refund depends on the electricity purchased during the years for which capital credits are being paid.

Capital Credits are usually issued in June. This year, however, LREA members with active accounts had credit applied to their April bill, which they received at the beginning of May. This bill clearly showed the Capital Credit deductions and should be kept for tax purposes.

Members with inactive accounts will receive their checks around June 10.



Desmond Dean of Dakota Sports in Aberdeen says e-bikes are all the rage among outdoors enthusiasts. *Photo by Billy Gibson*

## Electric bicycles give riders the little extra push they need - or not

**Billy Gibson**

billy.gibson@sdrea.coop

Sometimes when you find yourself struggling to move ahead, all you need is a little boost to get where you need to go.

That's the idea behind the invention of the electric bicycle. For those who enjoy mountain biking, pedaling for fitness or just commuting back and forth to work in the open air, the electric bike is becoming the cycle of choice.

Desmond Dean is manager of Dakota Outdoors in Aberdeen and he reports that sales are brisk with his line of Trek e-bikes. The first misconception he typically has to address with his growing list of curious customers is that an e-bike isn't a motorcycle.

"It's a bicycle. There's no throttle and you're in complete control the whole time. The battery and small motor are just there to give you some assistance when and if you need it," he explained.

"They're getting so popular because you can get a wide range of exercise. If you're having trouble with the wind or going up a hill, or if you just want to increase your distance, you can get the extra push you need. You can get some assistance or no assistance."

A battery usually takes about 5-6 hours to fully charge and there are models built for navigating off-road trails, touring, cruising or just moving around town from one point to the next. Prices can range from a few hundred dollars for a youth model to several thousand bucks for adult versions. Some bikes can top out at nearly 30 mph in the highest gear settings and some sweat equity.

Dean highly encourages his customers to take his e-bikes out for a spin around Aldrich Park across from the store because once the shopper puts the Trek through its paces and gets accustomed to the experience, "the bikes tend to sell themselves."

Mary Duvall, a state senator from

Pierre representing District 24, is a life-long fitness buff and has done a lot of pedal pumping over the years. So when her husband Rob suggested they purchase a pair of e-bikes, she was admittedly skeptical. What would be the point of pedaling if you're not going for the burn?

"I looked at it like it would be cheating and we wouldn't get a quality workout," she said. "But I quickly learned I was wrong. I can work as hard as I want and get whatever workout I feel like, or take it as easy as I want, depending on the day."

The Duvalls invested in his-and-her Aventons with thick sturdy frames and wide tires for handling uneven surfaces like the Black Hills, the Badlands and the undulating terrain around Pierre. They also chipped in for safety helmets equipped with an intercom system so they can keep in constant audio contact.

The couple covered 80 miles in a single day on the Mickelson Trail, stopped overnight in Hill City to recharge their batteries and their weary quadriceps, then rode another 56



Shown at left, Mary and Rob Duvall of Pierre have enjoyed their investment in e-bicycles and can go for long distances to see new sights. *Photos provided by Mary Duvall*

miles the following day. They ended up encountering another couple who had hauled their e-bikes from Texas to tour the Mickelson Trail. Another couple they met from Minnesota were using their e-bikes to complete the entire trail from Edgemont to Deadwood.

“We ride them at least once a month and they’ve opened up lots of options that we couldn’t tackle with regular bikes,” Duvall said. “It’s a fun way for us to get outside and enjoy some exercise and fresh air.”

its own pedal-assist system. By the end of 2023, worldwide e-bike sales are expected to reach 40 million units, or more if gas prices continue to escalate.

Surveys consistently indicate most e-bike buyers make the purchase with the goal of replacing trips they’d otherwise take in their cars. But Ron Block of Webster bought his for another reason: he needed to keep up with his wife Nancy, a school teacher who also

happens to be a competitive marathon runner.

“She was leaving me behind, so I figured I needed some assistance to make it a little easier on me,” Ron said. “I rode a lot when I was a kid, but now I’m middle-aged and the bike gives me the ability to set the power to however much help I need.”

The Blocks enjoy biking together each week as part of a local cycling club, though occasionally they like to venture farther afield. Last summer, they biked among the giant redwoods in northern California and Oregon and also pedaled the Katy Trail in Missouri. This year they plan to take a trip to The Netherlands and rent bikes to see the sights.

Ron said he would encourage those who may be interested in purchasing an e-bike to find a nearby dealer, or find a friend who already has one and ask to take it for a test ride.

“That’s what I did before I bought one and I’ve been very satisfied,” he said. “I’ve talked to a lot of people who have them and they’re very happy they made the investment.”

Ron Block of Webster pedals his e-bike along a floating bridge on the Mesabi Trail in northern Minnesota. *Photo provided by Ron Block*



Approximate number of e-bikes

**40 million**

expected to be sold worldwide in 2023

Of course, the idea of attaching a small battery-powered motor to a bicycle frame isn’t new. The first patent for an e-bike was issued in 1895. There was a global surge in sales of 35 percent between 1993 and 2004 after Yamaha invented, manufactured and marketed



## Construction and co-op commitment continue

Lake Region Electric has had a busy year getting back to normal, or as normal as we can. We have always been known to be resilient and flexible as far as weather conditions go but this past couple of years has thrown more adversity into the mix. Trying to understand and adapt to



**Laura London**  
Editor

regulations that were put in place due to COVID 19, then adapting as those regulations changed. Supply chain shortages and delays have set some things back a little bit and make planning for the future a bit more challenging than we hope, but we have an excellent

team in place, and we continue to move forward supporting the member-owners of Lake Region Electric and the communities we serve! Let's take a look at what we have been up to.

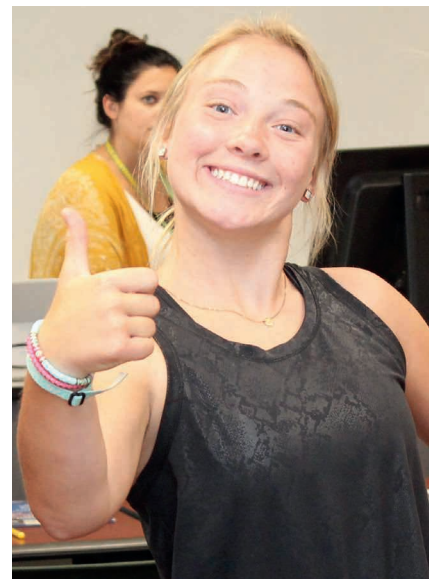
### CONSTRUCTION & CONVERSION

Members of LREA are noticing changes to the landscape in our territory. Aging infrastructure is being replaced. The conversion from overhead to underground lines continues; As you travel across our territory, you will see fewer poles and wires as crews work to bury lines where possible.

Our power transmission provider, East River Electric, has been making even bigger changes with more in the works. East River is currently building an alternate transmission line to serve the Grenville

substation which will improve reliability. The 17-mile line is being built from a new breaker position out of the WAPA Summit substation, which also greatly improves East River's ability to reliably serve the members and allows for another source to the Grenville substation in the case of inclement weather. Construction of the line is scheduled to be complete this spring. Along with the tie-line to Grenville, East River also added Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) and other modifications within the substation. SCADA allows East River to remotely control some processes at the substation and collect data to help improve reliability. East River has also made major changes in the Britton and Langford areas. The line from Roberts County was extended over to the Britton substation, providing a tie line for backup service to Britton and Langford. East River is also adding a capacitor bank to the Britton substation to improve the area system voltage; this will be in service early spring 2022

As Lake Region and East River work to replace and upgrade aging and inadequate infrastructure, we continue to rely on our members' support and cooperation. Utility Specialist Nathan Baumgarn spends a lot of effort into researching and writing easements. "This summer we will be installing new underground powerlines to accommodate new transmission line construction. This is a great opportunity for LREA to strengthen our infrastructure by replace aging overhead lines, with more reliable and cleaner looking underground powerlines."



Maggie Kilker was one of 26 students to take part in Connect Con last summer.

### COMMUNICATIONS

Lake Region launched a new up-to-date website, designed to be more user friendly. We continue to promote SmartHub and e-billing for member convenience. We continue to explore Social Media as a way of communicating important information to members. Lake Region Electric's monthly member newsletter Cooperative Connections (Lake Region Ripples) has gone through a re-design through our statewide organization SDREA and we continue to promote and share relative information through our local pages for our membership.

## Construction, *continued*



Above, left, General Manager Tim McIntyre delivers a pallet of bottled water. Above, right, Manager of Member Services Brett Kwasniewski presents a scholarship to Rana Hegg. At right, Lineman Mat Lynde works to maintain LREA's infrastructure.

### COMMITTED TO COMMUNITY

The dedication and servient spirit of Lake Region Electric continues to serve our members and our communities through various efforts, including recognition and donations.

### IN THE CLASSROOM

Area students had opportunities to learn more about where their power comes from and the importance of electrical safety. Co-ops in the Classroom resumed regular classroom visits to area 4th graders. LREA Member Services broke out the Power Town interactive display to educate high school students on tour at LREA, as well as making visits to classrooms, after school programs and the Brown County Fair.

### YOUTH ACTION

Colin Frey of Langford was awarded the Lake Region/Basin Electric Scholarship of \$1,000. Rana Hegg of Webster was chosen as the \$1,000 Duane Snaza Memorial Scholarship recipient.

Touchstone Energy and Dakota News Now partnered with Lake Region to recognize 2021 seniors Ellie Mount and Rana Hegg for their accomplishments and efforts in their academic work and school and community contributions.

The Youth Tour to Washington D.C and the Youth Excursion to Basin in North Dakota were both cancelled. However, Lake Region sponsored a trip for area youth to attend Connect Con, A Youth Leadership Experience in the Black Hills. Maggie Kilker of Britton was one of 26 high school students from across the state to participate.

### DONATIONS

LREA donated bottled water to area schools in our service territory. The donation of water was to provide additional support

for fund-raising efforts for all the different clubs and organizations within the school, in the concession stands or any other way the school saw fit.

CoBank's Sharing Success program matched Lake Region Electric Association's charitable contributions, allowing us to give back \$20,000 to local non-profit organizations.

Employees of Lake Region recognize how fortunate we are and that some people in our communities may be struggling. Continuing with tradition, in 2021 LREA employees donated food and money to local food banks. They also donated gifts to the Spirit of Christmas Tree to help make Christmas a little brighter for some area children. In addition to the tangible things, many employees of Lake Region donate their time volunteering to help many organizations and members in our communities.

### RETURNING TO NORMAL

The office has been open for members

to come in for assistance and the partition at the foyer has been removed, we hope permanently. Staff is back to their regular work routines, though they are continuing to observe safety precautions, including those we learned through this pandemic. While the annual meetings held drive-in style over the last couple of years were well received and attended, Lake Region will be holding the 2022 Annual Meeting in a more traditional manner with a gathering of our members for a hot meal served up by your favorite employees, displays and good conversation prior to the business meeting.



LREA Lineman Bryce Jorgenson and his wife, Jenny, welcomed their first child into the world April 6th.



**JUNE 3-5**  
Lake Andes Fish Days  
Citywide, Lake Andes, 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.

To view the publication's master event calendar, scan the QR code below:



Or visit <https://sdrea.coop/cooperative-connections-event-calendar> to view more upcoming events.

**MAY 28**  
**Deadwood Live: Hank Williams Jr.**  
Outlaw Square, Deadwood, SD,  
[www.deadwoodlive.com](http://www.deadwoodlive.com)

**MAY 28**  
**Memorial Weekend in Mitchell**  
Main Street, Mitchell, SD,  
605-292-4444

**MAY 28-29**  
**Black Hills Renaissance Faire**  
Manuel Brothers Park, Lead, SD,  
[www.blackhillsrenfest.com](http://www.blackhillsrenfest.com)

**MAY 29-30**  
**Back When They Bucked**  
Days of '76 Arena, Deadwood, SD,  
605-718-0810

**MAY 30**  
**Prairie Points Quilt Guild Show**  
204 Hodge St., Buffalo, SD,  
605-641-5591

**JUNE 2-4**  
**Annual Black Hills Quilt Show & Sale**  
The Monument, Rapid City, SD,  
[bhquilters.org/events](http://bhquilters.org/events)

**JUNE 2-5**  
**Wheel Jam**  
South Dakota State Fairgrounds, Huron, SD,  
[www.wheeljam.com](http://www.wheeljam.com)

**JUNE 3-5**  
**Fort Sisseton Historical Festival**  
11907 434th Ave., Lake City, SD,  
605-448-5474

**JUNE 3-5**  
**Lake Andes Fish Days**  
Citywide, Lake Andes, SD,  
605-487-7694

**JUNE 10-12**  
**Annual Custer Off-Road Rally**  
Various Locations, Custer, SD,  
[custersd.com/Off-Road-Rally](http://custersd.com/Off-Road-Rally)

**JUNE 11**  
**The Big Mick**  
George S. Mickelson Trail, Deadwood, SD,  
[mickelsontrailaffiliates.com](http://mickelsontrailaffiliates.com)

**JUNE 16-18**  
**Czech Days**  
Lidice Street, Tabor, SD,  
605-463-2478

**JUNE 16-18**  
**Wild Bill Days**  
Main Street, Deadwood, SD,  
[deadwood.com/event/wild-bill-days/](http://deadwood.com/event/wild-bill-days/)

**JUNE 16-19**  
**South Dakota Shakespeare Festival**  
Prentis Park, Vermillion, SD,  
605-622-0423

**JUNE 17-18**  
**Oahe Days Arts & Music Festival**  
Steamboat Park, Pierre, SD,  
[oahedays.com](http://oahedays.com)

**JUNE 18**  
**605 Summer Classic Beer & Music Festival**  
Cherapa Place, Sioux Falls, SD,  
[605magazine.com/605-summer-classic/](http://605magazine.com/605-summer-classic/)

**JUNE 18-19**  
**Aberdeen Arts in the Park**  
Melgaard Park, Aberdeen, SD,  
605-226-1557

**JUNE 18-19**  
**Brookings Kite Festival**  
Fishback Soccer Complex, Brookings, SD,  
605-695-9071

**JUNE 22-25**  
**Crystal Springs Rodeo**  
17803 479th Ave., Clear Lake, SD,  
[crystalspringsrodeo.com](http://crystalspringsrodeo.com)

**JUNE 24-26**  
**Black Hills Bluegrass Festival**  
Rush No More RV Resort & Campground, Sturgis, SD,  
[blackhillsbluegrass.com](http://blackhillsbluegrass.com)

**JUNE 24-26**  
**Main Street Arts & Crafts Festival**  
Centennial Park, Hot Springs, SD,  
[mainstreetartsandcrafts.com](http://mainstreetartsandcrafts.com)

**JUNE 24-26**  
**Quarry Days**  
Citywide, Dell Rapids, SD,  
605-428-4167

**JUNE 26**  
**Prairie Village Variety Show**  
Prairie Village, Madison, SD,  
605-256-3644

**JUNE 30-JULY 4**  
**Annual Black Hills Roundup**  
300 Roundup St., Belle Fourche, SD,  
[blackhillsroundup.com](http://blackhillsroundup.com)

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