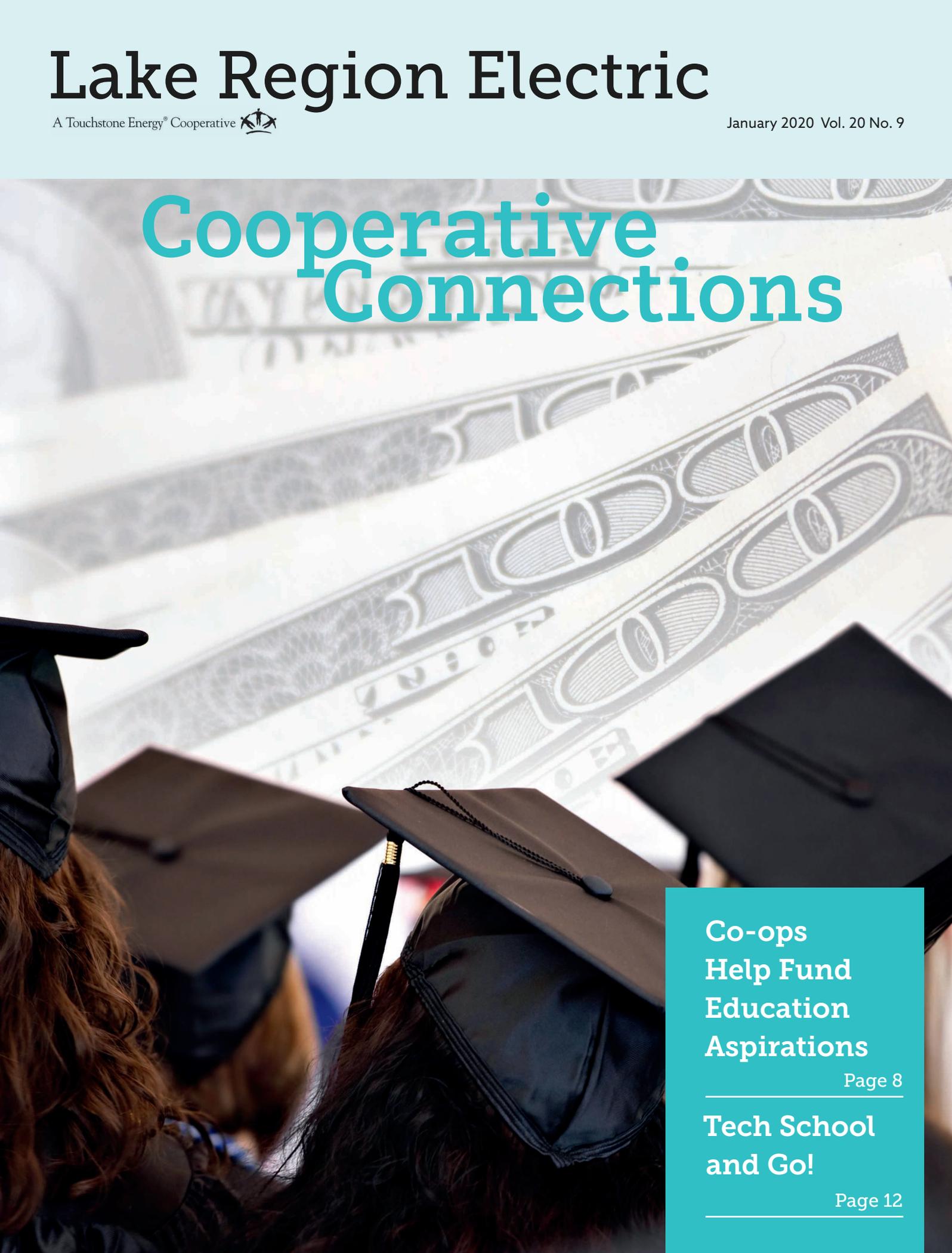


## Cooperative Connections



**Co-ops  
Help Fund  
Education  
Aspirations**

Page 8

**Tech School  
and Go!**

Page 12

# Legislative Proposal Provides Framework for Compromise Co-ops Support Summer Study Recommendation



**Tim McIntyre**

General Manager  
tmcintyre@lakeregion.coop

Lake Region Electric Association has been working with legislators and electric cooperatives across the state to protect electric service territory boundaries in South Dakota and bring long-needed improvements to state law. We believe the framework of a compromise that was recently adopted by a legislative committee in November is a step in the right direction.

Throughout the summer, the state's electric cooperatives have been actively engaged in the discussions surrounding the South Dakota Legislature's Electric Services in an Annexed Area Interim Committee. This legislative 'summer study' committee of nine lawmakers was formed during the 2019 legislative session. The main task of the committee has been to examine an exception in state law that gives municipally owned electric systems the option to take service territory from incumbent utilities when a city annexes new property.

First, a little background knowledge on the issue. There are three distinct electric utility business models in South Dakota.

Investor-owned utilities serve most cities and densely populated urban areas of the state. These utilities are owned by shareholders.

Electric cooperatives serve mostly rural areas of the state. Co-ops are owned by the members they serve and are governed by democratically elected co-op board members.

South Dakota has 310 municipalities but only 35 have municipal electric systems. These systems are owned and operated by city government.

State law establishes territory boundaries for all electric utilities to protect consumers, facilitate efficient long-term planning of the electric grid and to avoid costly duplication of service and infrastructure. However, there are exceptions to this state law. The focus of the legislative summer study has been on the exception that gives the 35 municipal electric systems the option to take over service territory of an investor-owned utility or co-op in newly annexed areas.

South Dakota electric cooperatives have been telling lawmakers since 2018 that it is fundamentally unfair for municipal electric systems to have this option. The proposal adopted by the legislative committee in November provides a path forward to solve this problem.

The framework of the compromise that was adopted on an 8-1 vote would require regular meetings and good faith negotiations between all utilities involved in electric service territory boundaries in newly annexed areas. The compromise framework further states that if the utilities cannot negotiate an agreement as to who will serve the newly annexed areas the Public Utilities Commission would settle the dispute.

Electric co-ops are private corporations owned and governed by the members we serve. Most electric co-op members are the farmers, ranchers, families, and small business owners that are the heartbeat of the South Dakota economy. Electric co-ops have come to the table throughout the past year to find a workable compromise to protect co-op members, electric service territory boundaries and improve state law.

You will hear more about this issue as we approach the 2020 South Dakota Legislative Session. Please, know that your local electric cooperative continues to work to protect its members. We would be happy to have more detailed discussions with you about this issue as it develops.

Thank you and God Bless,  
Tim McIntyre



# Lake Region Electric Ripples

## Cooperative Connections

(USPS 018-904)

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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.

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# Happy New Year

Your Lake Region Electric Association team would like to wish you all a very Happy and Prosperous New Year!

As you prepare for the new year, many are setting goals and making resolutions. It's a tradition, after all; you almost have to do it. Whether the pressure to make resolutions comes from internal personal pressure, from a loved one or just plain pressure of a tradition, remember to set goals that are achievable! Small goals are easier to reach more quickly and we are more apt to maintain small, positive changes. Here are some tips from your LREA family to make small changes that can have a big impact:

If you want to eat better but find you cannot adhere to a strict diet, try making more nutritious choices one at a time.

- Add an extra serving of nutritiously prepared vegetables every day, like steamed or roasted veggies as a side, salsa instead of butter on your baked potato or adding mushrooms to ground beef.
- Cut both sugary and artificially sweetened soft drinks to only one each week. Don't deny yourself. Make it a special treat!
- If you resolved to use the gym but you're not going, find a way to make it engaging and hold yourself accountable.
- Find a gym buddy, go together and hold each other accountable.
- Try a resolution accountability app, like Pact, which attaches monetary value to your dedication.
- If the gym truly isn't for you, don't stress over it. Try other types of physical activity or alternative workouts. Do what moves you – literally and figuratively.

If you resolved to get organized but find yourself still living in clutter, running late or not getting enough sleep, tackle organization with small tasks.

- Section by section, put things away, dust or disinfect and do not allow yourself to re-clutter a cleaned area. Decide if you pick up an object, you must put it down in its rightful place.
- Use your phone's calendar to track every appointment and block off time. Set reminders to provide enough time to get out the door and on the road. You can also use it to remind yourself to go to bed early, give the dog its medication, bake cookies for a bake sale or spend a few minutes tidying at the end of each day.
- Say no to unnecessary or unimportant requests that stretch your time and patience, to which you cannot give your full attention or that sound just plain terrible.
- Most importantly, take time for yourself! Whether it's a few minutes a day or a planned "self-date night" weekly or monthly, take care of yourself first!

We look forward to providing the best service to our members this year!

Have a blessed New Year!

Your Lake Region Electric Association Team



## Winter Electrical Safety Tips

In South Dakota and western Minnesota, December through March is a particularly hazardous time of year for storms and electrical power outages. Heavy snow, ice and wind can ravage power lines, both on the main power grid and at home. Add to that the increased use of home heating equipment such as space heaters and electric blankets and the potential for dangerous electrical hazards and home fires only intensifies.

Keep your home and loved ones safe this season by following these important winter electrical safety tips:

- **Use space heaters safely.** Keep them a minimum of three feet from furniture, bedsprads, drapes or clothes and never leave them unattended when they're on. Don't use extension cords with your space heaters and always unplug the heaters when they're not in use. Keep space heaters away from wet or damp areas and never touch a heater when your body is wet.
- **Use caution with electric blankets.** Never use an electric blanket while you're sleeping. Make sure the plug and cord are in good shape; otherwise it can pose a fire hazard. Be sure to dispose of electric blankets that have worn or damaged areas.
- **Be careful with your kitchen appliances.** While crockpots and other slow-cooking devices get a lot of use in the winter, you should never leave them turned on when no one is home. Leaving them unattended is a major fire risk. And be sure to check electrical kitchen appliances for frayed or damaged cords and plugs before use.
- **Make sure your home is equipped with functioning carbon monoxide detectors.** Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless gas that kills at high concentrations and causes serious and irreversible injuries at lower levels. Deaths from carbon monoxide poisoning increase during the winter months due to the use of common fuels like natural gas, wood and coal. Installing an inexpensive carbon monoxide detector can save your family's life.
- **Are your smoke alarms in working order?** It's important to make sure that you have an adequate number of smoke alarms throughout your home and that they are functioning properly. Simply push the test button to make sure it beeps and replace the batteries if needed.
- **Don't overload circuits or wattage.** Despite the shorter, darker days of winter, don't go above the recommended wattage for your light fixtures. Don't overload wall outlets either and only plug three-prong cords into three-prong outlets. Use extension cords sparingly and only for temporary purposes.
- **Have your home's electrical panel inspected by a licensed electrician.** Because electric usage goes up significantly in winter, you may need an upgrade in order to meet this increased demand.
- **Keep outdoor outlets closed.** Check your outdoor outlets regularly to ensure that they don't have an accumulation of ice and snow on them. Keep them cleared off and closed to avoid moisture from invading the receptacle box and causing an outage.

Source: [www.mrelectricians.us/best-winter-electrical-safety-tips](http://www.mrelectricians.us/best-winter-electrical-safety-tips)

✓ STOP AT THE BANK

✓ GRAB THE GROCERIES

✓ FIND MY POLLING PLACE

✓ REMEMBER TO VOTE

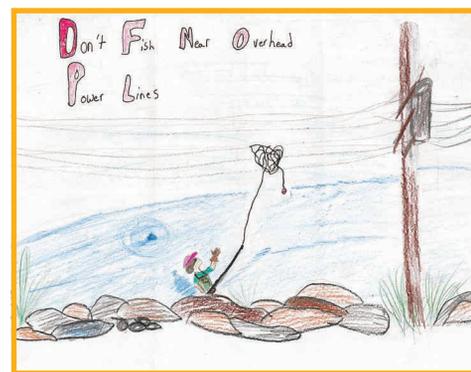


**CO-OPS VOTE**

A PROGRAM OF AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES  
WWW.VOTE.COOP

**ELECTION DAY  
NOVEMBER 3, 2020**

### KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



**"Don't fish near overhead power lines"**

Lily Gums, 14 years old

Lily is the daughter of Dave and Kathy Gums, Clear Lake, S.D. They are members of H-D Electric Cooperative, Clear Lake.

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.

# Super Soups

## Leftover Turkey Chowder

4 slices bacon, chopped	1/4 cup flour
1/2 cup chopped onion	2 cups half-and-half
2 cups water	2 cups cubed cooked turkey
4 medium red potatoes, cut in 1/2-inch cubes (about 2 cups)	1 (8 3/4 oz.) can whole kernel corn, undrained
1 pkg. McCormick® Turkey Gravy Mix	1 tsp. McCormick® Sage, Rubbed

Cook bacon in large saucepan on medium heat until crisp. Add onion; cook and stir 3 minutes. Add water and potatoes. Bring to boil. Reduce heat to low; cover and simmer 5 minutes or until potatoes are tender. Stir gravy mix and flour in medium bowl. Stir in half-and-half with wire whisk until smooth. Stir mixture into saucepan. Add turkey, corn and sage. Bring to boil on medium heat. Reduce heat to low; cover and simmer 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Makes 8 (1 cup) servings.

*Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 258, Fiber 1g, Protein 16g, Cholesterol 68mg, Total Fat 14g, Sodium 427mg, Carbohydrates 17g*

**Pictured, Cooperative Connections**

## Crockpot Potato Soup

1 (30 oz.) bag hash browns	1/2 cup chopped onion
3 (14 oz.) cans chicken broth	1/4 tsp. pepper
1 can cream of chicken soup	1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese

Combine first 5 ingredients in crockpot. Cook on LOW 6 to 8 hours. Add cream cheese 1 hour before serving.

**Bonnie Weber, Aberdeen, SD**

## Taco Soup

1 lb. ground beef, browned and drained	1 (10.75 oz.) can tomato soup
1 can chili beans, undrained	1 soup can water
1 pkg. taco seasoning	Tomato juice

Combine all ingredients; heat through. Serve with shredded cheese, corn chips or crackers if desired.

**Velma Schmitz, Bonesteel, SD**

## Curried Pumpkin Soup

8 oz. sliced fresh or canned mushrooms	1 (15 oz.) can pumpkin
1/2 cup chopped onion	1 (12 oz.) can evaporated milk
2 T. butter	2 T. honey
2 T. flour	1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg
1 tsp. curry powder	Salt and pepper
3 cups vegetable broth	

In a large saucepan, saute mushrooms and onions in butter until tender. Stir in flour and curry powder until blended. Gradually add broth. Bring to a boil; cook and stir 2 minutes or until thickened. Add pumpkin, milk, honey, nutmeg, salt and pepper. Heat through.

**White Tail Ridge Bed & Breakfast, Hermosa, SD**

## Cheddar-Ham Chowder

2 cups water	1/4 cup butter
2 cups cubed potatoes	1/4 cup flour
1/2 cup sliced carrots	2 cups milk
1/2 cup sliced celery	2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese
1/4 cup chopped onion	1 (16 oz.) can corn, drained
1 tsp. salt	1-1/2 cups cubed, cooked ham
1/4 tsp. pepper	

In a large saucepan, bring first 7 ingredients to a boil; reduce heat. Cover and simmer for 8 to 10 minutes or until vegetables are just tender; remove from heat but do not drain. Meanwhile, in a medium saucepan, melt butter and blend in flour. Add milk all at once, cooking and stirring until thickened and bubbly. Add cheese, stirring until melted. Stir into undrained vegetable mixture. Return large saucepan to heat; add corn and ham. Heat through, stirring occasionally.

**Diane Fode, Rapid City, SD**

Please send your favorite brunch, seafood or appetizer/ beverage recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3).

Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in June 2020. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.



# Attention Teens

## Scholarship Opportunities Available Through LREA

Laura London

llondon@lrea.coop

Lake Region Electric Association is dedicated to supporting the youth in the communities that we serve! Education and Concern for Community are two of the seven Cooperative Principles that we are guided by. One way that we show this dedication and concern is by providing scholarship opportunities for youth who intend to further their education by attending a vocational program or a traditional college or university. Lake Region Electric Association has a variety of scholarship opportunities available for area students: The Duane Snaza Memorial Scholarship, the Basin Electric Power Cooperative Scholarship and the Charles Johnson Trust Scholarship.

**The Duane Snaza Memorial Scholarship** was created by Lake Region Electric Association's board of directors to honor a former employee. Duane Snaza worked at LREA for three summers. Duane's parents, Wayne and Jackie Snaza, are member-owners who farm north of Webster.

This \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to one student who is the dependent child, including adopted or stepchild, of member-owners of Lake Region Electric Association. The applicant must be a U.S. citizen and must be a student who is enrolled or is planning to enroll in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited, two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school.

This scholarship is awarded 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.

**The Basin Electric Power Cooperative (BEPC) Scholarship** is funded by LREA's energy partner, Basin Electric. This \$1,000 is awarded to the dependent children, including adopted or stepchildren, of member-owners of Lake Region Electric Association. The applicant must be a U.S. citizen and must be a student who is enrolled or is planning to enroll in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited, two-year or four-year college,

university or vocational/technical school.

Scholarship recipients 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.

**The Charles Johnson Trust** was established to promote education, training, hiring and placement of persons to work and establish life-long careers in the manufacturing and fabrication or trades industry. This scholarship is named in honor of Charles Johnson who was instrumental in the development of industry in Webster. Lake Region Electric Association shares in Charles Johnson's vision and promotion of local manufacturing and industry that support our community.

The scholarship through the Charles Johnson Trust is awarded to students who intend to further their education in order to return to the area with the knowledge and skills necessary to flourish in the trades industries. The scholarship is focused on the Day County community but may be expanded to enhance economic development and community growth in northeast South Dakota. Depending on the number of qualified applicants, this scholarship may be given to one student over the span of two academic school years or divided amongst two or more students for one year.

**To apply** for these scholarship opportunities, students must complete the required criteria and the scholarship application, which can be obtained from your high school counselor, by visiting our website ([www.lakeregion.coop](http://www.lakeregion.coop)) or from the Lake Region Electric Association Office. Applicants must provide all the required information and complete the scholarship application. Submissions **MUST BE POSTMARKED OR RETURNED BY FEB. 10, 2020**, to Lake Region Electric Association, PO Box 341, Webster, SD 57274, in order to be considered eligible for these scholarships. For more information, contact Laura London at Lake Region Electric Association by email: [llondon@lakeregion.coop](mailto:llondon@lakeregion.coop) or by telephone: 605-345-3379 or 1-800-657-5869.



Lighting up your HOLIDAYS!

# LAKE REGION ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION LINE CREW



Have a Safe & Prosperous  
New Year!

FROM YOUR LAKE REGION ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION MANAGERS



# 2020

## HAPPY NEW YEAR LREA OFFICE TEAM



Have a Blessed New Year  
LREA Tech Department



## Happy New Year

from Your Lake Region Electric Association

Board of Directors

HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR!



Member Services Department



Electric cooperatives are offering more than \$100,000 in scholarships for area students.

## COLLEGE AHEAD?

### Electric Cooperatives Offer Scholarships to Fuel College, Technical School Aspirations

**Brenda Kleinjan**

[editor@sdrea.coop](mailto:editor@sdrea.coop)

For more than 30 years, South Dakota's electric cooperatives have been helping fund the continuing education dreams of students planning to attend four-year colleges or technical schools.

Over the decades, the scholarships have funded students on their way to careers in education, medicine, government, energy and everything in between.

Through the Basin Electric Power Cooperative Scholarship Program, each cooperative that is a Basin Electric member cooperative awards a \$1,000 scholarship to the dependent of a co-op member. Additional scholarships through the program are available to the dependents of co-op employees

Several cooperatives offer scholarships to individuals to become electric line workers or electricians. These scholarships, in addition to those awarded by the South Dakota Rural Electric Line Superintendents Association, amount to more than \$10,000.



# Future Engineer?

## Nationwide Scholarship Available

Since its inception three years ago, the Glenn English National Cooperative Leadership Foundation Scholarship Committee has awarded almost \$10,000 in scholarships to individuals pursuing a career in engineering.

This annual opportunity would not be possible without the foresight and generous contributions of the IEEE: Rural Electric Power Committee (REPC). Together, we hope to support future engineers with an interest and passion for defining and solving the electric utility challenges of the future, specifically in the rural parts of America.

### Dates & Deadlines:

- Applications will be accepted starting on Dec. 14, 2019.
- The deadline for application submission is 11:59 p.m. EST on May 15, 2020.
- Winners are selected by a scholarship committee and announced after the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association summer board meeting in Mid-July, 2020.
- Awards are distributed in August/September, 2020.

### Eligibility Requirements

- Must be a US Citizen
- Applicant must be enrolled in an ABET, four-year program of electrical engineering or electrical engineering technology, and have at least a 'B' average in major subjects.
- Applicant must be enrolled as a full-time student.
- Applicant must have already received academic credits equal to at least one year of college.

### Essay Requirement Information

- To be considered for the Engineers of the Future Scholarship, you must submit an essay using the following requirements as your guide:
  - Essays need to be between 1,000 and 1,500 words.
  - Essays must describe, in detail, plans to pursue a career as an electrical engineer, with an emphasis in electric power, in an electrical utility serving a rural area.
  - Essays must demonstrate knowledge of the unique challenges facing the electric industry in Rural America and describe how you might address these issues as an engineer.

But, the majority of scholarship money available from the region's electric cooperatives are not tied to a specific program of study.

A study released this summer by WalletHub.com found that South Dakota has the highest rate of student loan debt of any state in the country while Minnesota finished sixth on the list.

The study, performed by consumer finance website WalletHub.com, had researchers analyze 12 different measures of indebtedness, including average student debt, number of students with debt, and unemployment rate.

South Dakota had the highest proportion of students with debt, and was fourth highest when it

came to percentage of student loan borrowers over age 50.

Some of the scholarships offered by electric cooperatives require that students be in high school, while other scholarships are designed for students that may be returning to school.

Additionally,

students selected to represent their local electric cooperative on the Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., are eligible for a \$10,000 Glenn English Foundation Scholarship. Students can apply for the undergraduate scholarship once they have completed one semester of college or technical school.

Deadlines for local scholarships vary, so check with your local electric cooperative for details.

**South Dakota led the nation in student loan debt, according to a national study.**

Of the scholarships being offered by electric cooperatives, more than \$10,000 is dedicated to students seeking energy-related careers.



# Your Co-op is Renewable!

Lake Region Electric Association is offering a new program to our members! You now have the opportunity to power your home or business with 100 percent renewable energy. The energy we use to power the homes and businesses of our members comes from a diversified mix of coal, hydro, natural gas, wind, waste heat and nuclear. There's no specific way to know which source energy comes from once it's created and sent out on the grid. However, when renewable energy is produced, a renewable energy credit (REC) is created and that REC represents the valuable renewable attributes of that energy form. One REC is equivalent to 1 kilowatt hour (kwh) produced by a renewable energy source.

Lake Region Electric Association has RECs available for purchase to offset your current usage with 100 percent renewable energy through our REC program. This is a voluntary program offered to our members. The electricity you receive will still be the same reliable, affordable energy you've always received from but, by going 100 percent renewable, you'll be supporting current and future renewable projects in our area.

- **When can I get started?** Beginning Jan. 1, you can purchase RECs to cover 100 percent of your usage.
- **How much does it cost?** RECs are \$1 per 1,000 kwh. That

means if your home or business uses 2,000 kwh per month, your RECs will cost you \$2, 1,800 kwh/month will cost \$1.80, etc.

- **Do I need to purchase any special equipment?** No. Lake Region Electric Association will continue to fulfill all your electric needs and you can enjoy the benefits of renewable energy.
- **Where do the RECs come from?** The RECs come from several wind farms in the region that supply renewable energy to Lake Region Electric Association. These include, but are not limited to:
  - **North Dakota:** PrairieWinds 1, Wilton 1 and 2, Baldwin Wind Project and Minot Wind Project
  - **South Dakota:** Crow Lake Wind, the Chamberlain turbines, Day County Wind Farm and South Dakota Wind Project

If you're interested in participating in the Lake Region Electric Association REC program and supporting renewable energy production, please visit our website: [www.lakeregion.coop](http://www.lakeregion.coop) call our office 605-345-337 toll free: 1-800-657-5869 or email our manager of member services, [bkwasniewski@lakeregion.coop](mailto:bkwasniewski@lakeregion.coop). We're excited to help you reach your renewable energy goals!



**POWER  
YOUR HOME  
ON 100%  
RENEWABLE  
ENERGY!**





# Season of Giving

Laura London

llondon@lrea.coop

## Employee Food Drive 2019

Lake Region Electric Association employees held their annual food drive with the proceeds going to the Day County Food Pantry. This year we did things a little differently. In addition to bringing in food items, some employees chose to donate money rather than canned goods. The money was then used to purchase gift certificates from Mike's Jack & Jill in Webster. The gift certificates are written to be used for the purchase of meat items. Gift certificates ranged from \$5 to \$10 for a total of \$125 worth of meat items that can be used by community members in need.

The appreciation for the generosity of Lake Region Electric Association employees was evident on the face of volunteers at the Day County Food Pantry when employees Scott Smith, Nathan Baumgarn and Laura London pulled up in the truck to deliver boxes containing approximately 150 cans and boxes of beans, assorted vegetables, cereals, pastas and other food items. Louise Grajczyk of the Day County Food Pantry was very grateful for the donations and really liked the idea of the gift certificates that will be used to purchase meat from the local grocery store. Tim McIntyre, general manager and CEO of Lake Region Electric Association, pointed out that refrigerator and freezer space at the food pantry is very limited and keeping perishable items for distribution for those in need can be difficult so sometimes we need to think outside the box.

At the request of some members, Lake Region also accepted donations from members to deliver to the food pantry during the Annual Employee Food Drive. Members of Lake Region Electric Association are regularly invited to participate in a food drive during our annual meeting that is held in the summer but due to the limited hours of operation of the food pantry and because some members are unable to attend the annual meeting,



we happily agreed to accommodate the generosity of our members along with our employees during this season of giving.

For any of our members in need or for those wishing to donate, the Day County Food Pantry is open on Tuesdays from 3 to 6 p.m. They are located at 120 W 11th Ave., on the north side of Webster Armory.

## Angel Tree

Employees of Lake Region Electric Association will continue to share their blessings during the holiday season by participating in the Angel Tree. The Angel tags are distributed to local banks after Thanksgiving each year. Lake Region employees are given the option of shopping for gifts on their own, but some choose to donate cash and have another employee do the shopping for them. Employees are looking forward to this opportunity to give back to the communities we serve!

# Technical Schools, Colleges Ready the Workforce

Variety of programs offered for in-demand careers

**Brenda Kleinjan**

editor@sdrea.coop

Each year, more than 10,000 people head to area technical schools and technical colleges to develop the skills employers in the region are seeking.

South Dakota's four technical schools – Lake Area Technical Institute in Watertown, Mitchell Technical Institute in Mitchell, Southeast Technical Institute in Sioux Falls and Western Dakota Technical Institute in Rapid City – have been serving students in the region for the last century, with three of the schools starting in 1968 and the fourth starting in 1969. Neighboring states have similar offerings at schools within easy driving distance of South Dakota.

This fall, Lake Area's campus at Watertown, S.D., was at capacity with 2,228 students. The school notes that students have a 99 percent placement rate after graduation.

Nearly 1,200 students attend Mitchell Tech which notes that 99 percent of its graduates find employment or continue their education. The school also notes that 82 percent of its grads stay in the Rushmore State.

For Southeast Tech's 2017-2018 graduates, the school said that 95 percent are employed or continuing their education, with 95 percent of those employed were employed in a field related to their Southeast Tech program.

Western Dakota Tech is the only technical college serving the western half of the state. It notes that 96 percent of its most recent graduates are working, continuing their education or enlisting in the military.



Among the programs offered at Mitchell Technical Institute in Mitchell, S.D., is South Dakota's only power line program for training future line workers.

## National Leaders

Technical colleges across the region have been recognized for excellence in their field.

The \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, awarded every two years, is the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among America's community colleges. With a singular focus on student success, the Prize highlights institutions with outstanding achievements in four areas: student learning, certificate and degree completion, employment and earnings, and high-levels of access and success for students of color and low-income students.

In November, the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program named the nation's top 150 community colleges eligible to compete for the \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among America's community colleges.

Eleven schools based in Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota made the list:

# Minnesota West Community & Technical College

Technical education needs in southwestern Minnesota have been served by the campuses of Minnesota West Community and Technical College for more than 75 years.

The college has five campuses: Canby, Granite Falls, Jackson, Pipestone and Worthington in addition to centers in Luverne and Marshall.

The college offers a wide array of ever-changing programs and services, including career and transfer preparation, industry and customized training, community education, athletics, performing arts, student organizations, clubs, and personal enrichment. The school provides students opportunities to earn an associate degree, diploma or certificate in more than 60 disciplines, plus convenient campus locations throughout southwest Minnesota as well as online learning opportunities.

The school boasts of its small class sizes, personalized attention and focused, hands-on learning. Its technical programs provide students with the practical skills to begin successful careers in a variety of industries immediately upon graduation. Liberal arts programs at Minnesota West are a great starting point for careers or further study in numerous fields. Credits earned in our associate of arts and associate of science programs are designed for seamless transfer to other Minnesota State institutions.



Lake Area Tech in Watertown was nationally recognized as a top community college.

## ■ MINNESOTA

- Alexandria Technical and Community College
- Minnesota State Community and Technical College
- Northland Community and Technical College
- Ridgewater College
- Saint Paul College

## ■ NEBRASKA

- Central Community College
- Northeast Community College

## ■ NORTH DAKOTA

- Bismarck State College
- North Dakota State College of Science

## ■ SOUTH DAKOTA

- Mitchell Technical Institute
- Southeast Technical Institute

Based on strong and improving student outcomes – including in learning, completion rates, employment rates and earnings, and equity – 15 percent of community colleges nationwide have been invited to apply for the Aspen Prize. Data show that over the last two years, student retention, graduation rates, and degree completion have improved at the top tier of 150 Aspen Prize-eligible colleges.

The 150 community colleges named in November 2019 as eligible to compete for the 2021 Prize were selected from a pool of nearly 1,000 public two-year colleges nationwide using publicly available data on student outcomes. Located in 39 states in urban, rural, and suburban areas,

serving as few as 500 students and as many as 75,000 students, these colleges represent the diversity and depth of the community college sector.

The top 10 finalists for the 2021 Aspen Prize will be named in May 2020. The Aspen Institute will then conduct site visits to each of the finalists and collect additional quantitative data, including employment and earnings data. A distinguished jury will make award decisions in

**Lake Area Technical School in Watertown, S.D., was the 2017 Aspen Prize winner, the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among America's community colleges.**

spring 2021.

Lake Area Technical School in Watertown, South Dakota, was the 2017 Aspen Prize winner. In the 2017-2018 school year, Minnesota West was one of 150 top community colleges nationwide competing for the Aspen Prize while MTI was a 2019 Top 10 finalist.



When the South Dakota Legislature convenes in January, it will transform several ideas into legislative bills, some of which will become state law.

# WHERE DOES A BILL COME FROM

## Legislative Research Council

<http://sdlegislature.gov>

When state legislators are in Pierre every year for the annual legislative session, the majority of their time is spent discussing ideas for changes in state law. Ideas vary from changing only a word or two of a current law, an entire section of law, getting rid of a current state law, or creating a new law.

All of the ideas, regardless of their size or scope, must be presented to the Legislature in the form of bills. Bills are simply the ideas recorded on paper in a prescribed format.

Only legislators and legislative committees may present or introduce bills to the Legislature. However, ideas for bills come from a multitude of sources. First, legislators have their own ideas for bills stemming from their expertise in certain fields, experiences they have had, or observations they have made. Special interest groups are another source of ideas. Members of these groups often ask legislators to sponsor bills promoting their interests.

Many ideas for bills come from government agencies. Each year several bills are introduced at the request of the Governor or on behalf of a department in state government. Those who work closely with state law are often able to

recommend ways to improve it.

Finally, ideas for bills come from those individuals represented by the legislators, the constituents who live in their districts. The next step is to put an idea into the form of a bill. Anyone can draft a bill, but the rules of the Legislature require that all bills be in the proper form and style.

A legislator wishing to introduce a bill generally brings the idea or a draft of the proposed bill to the Legislative Research Council, where staff members will either draft the bill or make final preparations on the bill drafted by others.

The legislator who begins to move the bill through the legislative process is known as the prime sponsor. The prime sponsor may introduce the bill independently or seek other legislators to act as co-sponsors of the bill. Senate bills have senators as prime sponsors, and House bills have house members as prime sponsors. However, members of either house may co-sponsor any bill.

Bills may not be introduced until the first day of a legislative session. However, those elected to serve in the upcoming Legislature may pre-file bills with the Legislative Research Council, up to 30 days in advance of the first legislative day. Interim committees may pre-file legislation under the names of individual legislators who served on the committee.

The rules require executive agencies to pre-file any legislation they wish to have considered. A bill in proper form consists of three main parts: the title, the enacting clause, and the body.

- The title gives the reader a brief summary of the subject of the bill. The SD Constitution dictates that bills embrace only one subject, and that subject must be expressed in the title.
- The enacting clause, “BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA,” is also required by the SD Constitution and indicates that everything listed below it is to become the law of the state.
- The body is the remainder of the bill, the part that will actually become law, if passed. It is divided into sections to make it easier to read and to reference.

In addition to the three main parts, a bill also includes a list of sponsors and a number. The name of the prime sponsor always appears first on the bill and then the co-sponsors are alphabetically listed. If a committee is sponsoring a bill, then only the name of the committee is listed. A number is assigned to the bill upon introduction and is used to identify the bill as it works its way through the process.

During session, legislators spend a majority of their time discussing bills, but bills are not the only proposals that come before the Legislature. Legislators may introduce commemorations and resolutions. Commemorations express legislative recognition and listed below are four types of resolutions that may be introduced:

- A simple resolution is unique in that it pertains to and is acted on by only one house. It is used primarily to express an opinion, gratitude, or condolences, or to make a request of the other house.
- A concurrent resolution expresses an opinion of the Legislature, but it has no force of law. Often it is used to persuade Congress to act in a certain way or to make a request of the Governor or a government agency.
- A joint resolution is, by law, used to propose changes to the SD Constitution and submit them to the voters at the next election. It is also used to ratify or propose amendments to the United States Constitution. Unlike the previous two types of resolutions, a joint resolution only contains matters of legislation.
- A resolution of disapproval allows the Legislature to disapprove of any reorganization of the executive branch done by the Governor during the preceding year. It is the newest type of resolution and used less frequently than the others.

# How An Idea Becomes Law in South Dakota

## Idea

- A bill is simply an idea that someone would like to see become law.
- It could be anything from the penalty for committing a crime to the amount of money that can be spent on a state program.
- The idea can come from anyone, but only a State Representative or State Senator can take the idea and guide it to final passage through the State Legislature.

## Drafting

- The drafting of the idea into a bill is done by the Legislative Research Council, the permanent, non-partisan staff of the Legislature.
- A bill may be filed by any member of the House or Senate, and generally more than one legislator will sponsor a bill. The legislator whose name appears first on the bill is the “prime sponsor.”

## Introduction

- A bill is given to the Chief Clerk of the House or the Secretary of the Senate and is assigned a number. If the bill is sponsored by a Senator, it is a Senate Bill. If the bill is sponsored by a Representative, it is a House Bill.
- The bill is given a First Reading in the “House of Origin.” The “House of Origin” is the chamber that sponsored the bill.
- At a First Reading the bill’s number and title are read aloud.
- The Senate President Pro Tempore or Speaker of the House then assigns the bill to a committee.

## Committee

- A committee’s responsibility is to examine a bill carefully, take testimony for and against the bill, and decide what to do with the bill.
- The committee has the following options:
  - Send the bill to the floor with a “Do Pass” recommendation,
  - Amend
  - “Table” the bill, which kills the bill, unless the full body orders the committee to send the bill to the floor (“Smoke-Out”), or
  - Defer the bill to the day after the last Legislative Day, which also kills the bill.

## Debate

- If a bill reaches the floor, it is debated and voted on by the body.
- If it passes, the bill is sent to the other body, where it goes through the same introduction and committee processes.

## Law

- If a bill passes both the House and Senate, it is sent to the Governor.
- If signed by the Governor, the bill becomes law.
- If vetoed by the Governor, the Legislature has an opportunity to decide whether to override or uphold the veto.
- If the Legislature succeeds in overriding the veto, the bill becomes law.

<http://sdlegislature.gov/docs/studentpage/idealaw.pdf>

## October 19-January 5

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

## November 22-January 5

Winter Wonderland, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-275-6060

## November 26-December 26

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

## December 15-March 31

South Dakota snowmobile trails season, Lead, SD, 605-584-3896

## December 19-21

Strawbale Winery Twilight Flights, Renner, SD, 605-543-5071

## December 21-24, 27-28

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

## December 31

Make-A-Wish New Year's Eve Benefit and Dance, Ramkota Hotel & Convention Center, Doors Open at 7 p.m., Aberdeen, SD, 605-370-4588

## January 10

Taste of Sturgis, Sturgis City Auditorium, Sturgis, SD, 605-347-3233

## January 12

Yoga on the Ice, Main Street Square, Rapid City, SD, 605-716-7979

## January 14-15

Paw Patrol Live! Race to the Rescue, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Barnett Arena, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4111

## January 16-17

Media One Funski, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-339-0000

## January 24-25: Pro Snowcross Races, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876



Photo courtesy: travelsouthdakota.com

## January 17

Justin Moore & Tracy Lawrence, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Barnett Arena, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4111

## January 18

Lakota Games on Ice, Prehistoric Indian Village, Mitchell SD, 605-996-5473

## January 18

Heroes Skate Day, Main Street Square, Rapid City, SD, 605-716-7979

## January 31-February 2

12th Annual Winterfest of Wheels, Convention Center, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-231-3100

## January 31-February 2

Winterfest, Lead, SD, 605-584-1100

## January 31-February 9

Annual Black Hills Stock Show & Rodeo, Rapid City, SD, 605-355-3861

## February 1

Lake Hendricks Fishing Derby, Hendricks, MN, 507-828-2113

## February 1

Living History Fair, Brookings Renegades, Lake Area Technical Institute, Watertown, SD, 605-693-4589, dhuebner@itctel.com

## February 10-16

Frost Fest, Brookings, SD, 605-692-6125

## February 14

Snow Ball, Brookings, SD, 605-692-6700

## February 21

KORN and Breaking Benjamin, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4111

## February 21-22

Mardi Gras Weekend, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

## February 26

The Harlem Globetrotters, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center Barnett Arena, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4111

## February 27-March 1

SD State Dart Tournament, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4111

## March 3

RCCA presents Young Irelanders, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4111

## March 14

28 Below Fatbike Race, Ride and Tour, Lead, SD, 605-641-4963

## March 20-21, 27-28

Annual Schmeckfest, Freeman, SD, 605-925-4237

## March 28

Annual Ag Day at the Washington Pavilion, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-6000

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.