Cooperative Connections

Electric Co-op Leaders Get Involved Locally

Page 8

Rounding Up for a Cause

Page 12
Very few corporations provide the end user the opportunity to be involved or have a say in its leadership or governance. Those end use customers don’t get to vote on Board representation—they simply buy the product and hope the organization is being run ethically and efficiently. Electric cooperatives are different. The end use customer of a co-op is a member-owner. They own a piece of the business. Members can run for the Board, vote on representation, bring forward bylaw amendments and vote on those amendments. That’s because co-ops were built on seven principles—one of which is democratic member control.

In the coming weeks and months, you will be invited to attend your district meeting. At the core of the meetings are elections, where you will be able to vote for a fellow member to serve as your representative on the Sioux Valley Energy Board. This is a right that you are afforded because you are a member. There will be six elections this year, which is more than usual. The Board made the decision to stagger terms so there would be more continuity when a director decides to retire or is defeated, and a new director is elected. Typically, Board terms are three-years, but there is a portion of the districts which will elect a director for a two-year term which will help with the staggering process.

Two of our Directors have decided to retire from the Board. Henning Hansen has represented District 1 (Eastern Brookings County) for 20 years. Arlyn Zylstra, of rural Edgerton, served on the Board for 13 years representing District 10 (Southern end of Pipestone County and the Northern part of Rock County). Only one candidate, Donald DeGreef, filed a petition to run for Hansen’s vacant seat but there will be a contested election to fill Zylstra’s seat—Lucas Roskamp and Leon Spronk both submitted valid petitions. You can read their bios on page 7. Directors Hansen and Zylstra have been valuable members of the Board for many years and will be missed. However, we are excited to welcome new leadership to the Cooperative as well!

There will also be elections in districts 2, 3, 4 and 6. These are not contested elections as only incumbent directors filed petitions to run for the Board. I encourage you to attend your district meeting and take part in the democratic process. The people you elect have significant responsibilities to the Cooperative and its members. They are responsible for setting rates, hiring the CEO, establishing policy and developing strategy for the Cooperative.

In addition to the elections, we will provide you a preview of the rate forecast, discuss how demand impacts the Cooperative’s power bill and talk about some of our new Energy Service programs including electric vehicle incentives and rates. You can find a schedule of the meetings on page 3. A postcard will also be sent to you informing you of the date, location and time for your respective meeting. Members are invited to attend any of the meetings but to be eligible to vote, you must be a member within that specific district. We hope to see you in the coming weeks at the 2019 Sioux Valley Energy District Meetings!
Sioux Valley
Energy
Cooperative
Connections

(USPS No. 497-440)
General Manager/CEO: Tim McCarthy
Editor: Carrie Vugteveen
Board of Directors
President: Allan Weinacht, Colton, S.D.
Vice President: Gary Fish, Brandon, S.D.
Secretary: Allan Kooima, Volga, S.D.
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Dan Leuthold, Ellsworth, Minn.
Bruce Martinson, Jasper, Minn.
Gregg Johnson, Pipestone, Minn.
Rodney DeMent, Humboldt, S.D.
Dave Daniel, Wentworth, S.D.

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Sioux Valley Energy is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Sioux Valley Energy 2019 District Meetings
*All Members Welcome*

Complimentary Meal: 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
Meeting: 7:00 p.m.
Menu: Turkey, dressing, mash potatoes and gravy, green beans and cookie

Thursday, February 21
District 8 - Location: Grand Prairie Event Center, Luverne, MN

**Monday, February 25
District 6 - Location: Brandon Valley High School, Brandon, SD

Thursday, February 28
District 9 - Location: Pipestone High School, Pipestone, MN

Monday, March 4
District 5 - Location: Tri-Valley School, Colton, SD

**Tuesday, March 19
District 1 - Location: Elkton Community Center, Elkton, SD

**Thursday, March 21
District 10 - Location: Edgerton Public School, Edgerton, MN

**Monday, March 25
District 2 - Location: Sioux Valley School, Volga, SD

**Tuesday, March 26
District 3 - Location: William J. Janklow Community Center, Flandreau, SD

Thursday, March 28
District 7 - Location: West Central School, Hartford, SD

**Monday, April 1
District 4 - Location: Madison High School Commons, Madison, SD

**Denotes Election Meetings
Protecting Your Home and Business

Every year, electrical equipment, wiring, appliances and tools cause injuries and fires at both homes and workplaces. Paying close attention to the condition of electrical equipment and taking appropriate and prompt action to correct electrical problems can help to ensure your safety and the safety of those around you. Below are guidelines to help identify and reduce electrical hazards.

Electrical Outlet Safety
- Avoid overloading outlets with too many appliances and ensure that electrical loads are appropriate for the circuits.
- Unplug appliances when they are not in use to conserve energy as well as minimize the opportunities for electric shock or fire.
- Use outlets instead of relying on extension cords and power strips. Consider having additional permanent outlets installed where needed.
- Use Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) in wet/damp areas like kitchens, bathrooms and outdoors.

Electrical Cord Safety
- Inspect electrical cords to ensure that they are not frayed, cracked or damaged.
- Do not place electrical cords in high traffic areas, under carpets or across doorways where they pose a potential tripping hazard or could be easily damaged.

Certification and Awareness
- Ensure that all electrical products and equipment are certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), and read the manufacturer's instructions carefully.
- Allow only trained and qualified electrical workers to perform work on electrical equipment.
- Be aware of signs of electrical problems such as flickering lights and/or buzzing, sizzling or humming sounds from electrical systems.

Source: www.acadaiainsurance.com

SAFETY TIPS

KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER

Ladder Safety and How It Affects Everyone

THE NUMBERS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES

+700
ladder injuries every day*

113
deads caused by falls each year*

6-10 ft.
The most common ladder falls happen between 6 and 10 feet off the ground

WHETHER YOU’RE USING A LADDER AT HOME OR AT WORK, THESE NUMBERS AFFECT YOU.

2 most common ladder accidents include**:
1. Missing the last step when climbing down
2. Overreaching

*"National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS) 2017 Data Highlights", 2017, CPSC
**"Fall Safety: A Training and Citation Guide" - United States, 2018, American Ladder Institute

Take safety into your own hands by taking ladder safety seriously. Visit www.LadderSafetyMonth.com to learn more.

National Ladder Safety Month is presented by

Certification and Awareness

Cooperative Connections | March 2019

“Be careful with farm equipment around power lines.”

Carson Lee, 10 years old

Carson is the son of Chris and Marisa Lee, Fairfax, Minn. They are members of Renville-Sibley Co-op Power, Danube, Minn.

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.
Clam Chowder Dip

2 slices bacon, chopped
1/3 cup chopped onion
1 pkg. McCormick® Original Country Gravy Mix
1-1/2 cups milk

1 cup shredded white Cheddar cheese, divided
1 (6.5 oz.) can chopped clams, drained
2 tsp. McCormick® Parsley Flakes

Cook bacon in large skillet on medium-high heat until crisp. Remove bacon, reserving drippings in pan. Add onion; cook and stir 2 to 3 minutes or until translucent. Stir in gravy mix, milk and 1/2 cup shredded cheese. Bring to boil. Reduce heat and simmer 2 minutes or until gravy starts to thicken. Remove from heat. Stir in clams. Pour into 9-inch glass pie plate. Sprinkle with remaining 1/2 cup cheese. Bake at 350°F for 15 minutes or until cheese is melted. Sprinkle with bacon and parsley. Serve with toasted baguette slices or crackers. Makes 12 servings.

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 94, Total Fat 6g, Saturated Fat 3g, Protein 4g, Cholesterol 9mg, Sodium 278mg, Fiber 1g, Carbohydrates 6g.

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Crab Quiche

4 beaten eggs
3/4 cup milk
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. ground thyme
1 T. diced pimento
1-1/2 cups chopped broccoli
1 cup chopped imitation crab
1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
1 cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese
2 T. minced onion
1 unbaked 10-inch pie shell

Mix together first 5 ingredients; set aside. Combine broccoli, crab, cheeses and onion; spread in piecrust. Pour liquid mixture over all. Bake at 350°F for 50 to 55 minutes. Let cool 10 to 15 minutes before cutting.

Barbara Angerhofer, Hendricks, MN

Tilapia Parmesan

2 lbs. tilapia fillets
2 T. lemon juice
1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
1 cup chopped imitation crab
1/4 tsp. dried basil

In a buttered 9x13-inch baking dish, lay fish fillets in a single layer. Do not stack fillets. Brush with juice. Bake at 375°F for 10 to 20 minutes or until fish flakes. Meanwhile, combine cheese, mayonnaise, butter, onions and basil. Spread cheese mixture on fish fillets and bake an additional 5 minutes or until golden brown.

Cortney Reedy, Tea, SD

Please send your favorite appetizer, beverage, casserole or dairy 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 2019. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and co-op name.
QUARTERLY CHALLENGE TO SAVE MONEY AND WIN BIG!

You Could be a Winner!

Watch for our quarterly Energy Makeover Contest to have chances to win valuable prizes to enhance efficiency and conservation efforts in your home or business. Learn how little changes can help you save big!

The information gathered will help Sioux Valley Energy continue to educate our members about energy saving practices, safety, and to ensure the programs we offer meet your needs.

- Enter for a chance to win a programmable/smart thermostat including installation and programming from a contractor of your choice up to a $600 value.

Please complete the entry below and mail to Sioux Valley Energy, Energy Makeover Contest, PO Box 216, Colman, SD 57017. The entry is also available online at www.siouxvalleyenergy.com. One entry per member. Entries must be received by March 31, 2019.

Take Control of Your Savings!

Name: _____________________________________________
Address: ___________________________________________
City: _______________________________________________
State:______Zip: _________________________________
Account Number: _________________________________
Phone Number: _____________________________________
Email: ____________________________________________

I would like more information on:

- Heat Pump Rebate  - Electric Heat Rebate
- Marathon/Westinghouse Water Heaters
- Energy Audit  - Weatherization Program
- Electric Vehicle Program rebate
- Time of Use Rate  - SmartHub Program  - Yard Light Rebate
- Commercial/Ag LED Program
- Irrigation Rebate  - Renewable Energy Program  - Energy Saving Tips

CHALLENGE - FIRST QUARTER
TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR SAVINGS

Did you know that heating and cooling accounts for about half of your energy dollars?

Using smart control technology and adjusting your thermostat is one way to reduce your heating and cooling cost, putting more money in your wallet. Turning your thermostat down just a couple degrees in the winter and up a few degrees in the summer can save you money.

Reset your thermostat when you are asleep or away from your home or business. You can reduce your usage as much as 10% a year by simply turning your thermostat back 7 to 10 degrees from its normal setting for 8 hours a day. You can do this automatically without sacrificing comfort by installing an automatic setback or programmable thermostat.

About half of all thermostats sold are smart devices with an app allowing remote control and usage management by a mobile or tablet device. Many smart thermostats have the added convenience of learning your heating and cooling behavior and will auto-schedule based upon your preferences.

When purchasing a programmable thermostat, choose one that is appropriate for your type of equipment and read the instructions to ensure you get the optimal benefit based on the efficiency of your equipment.
Candidate Profiles

- Director Elections will take place in six districts this year. Incumbent directors Gary Fish (District 6), Allan Kooima (District 2), Bruce Martinson (District 3) and Dave Daniel (District 4) are all running unopposed. Petitions were filed in Districts 1 and 10 to replace retiring directors Henning Hansen (District 1) and Arlyn Zylstra (District 10). A full schedule of district meeting locations and dates are listed on page 3.

District 1

Donald DeGreef - Brookings, SD
I retired from 3M Company in Brookings four years ago after 31 years service. While there I held positions as a Plant Maintenance Engineer and Energy Champion, Project Engineer, Database Engineer, Computer Systems Engineer, and Electronics/Electrical Technician. Before 3M, I worked at Daktronics in Brookings as a Project Engineer and Installation manager. Before moving back to Brookings with my wife, Bernadette and 2 daughters, we lived in Fort Collins, Colorado. I worked for Ideal Basics Industries Cement Plant as an Instrumentation Engineer, Project Controls Engineer/Process Controls Programmer.

We had moved to Fort Collins from Superior, Nebraska where I was an Electrical Supervisor at the Ideal Basics’ cement plant. We moved to Superior, Nebraska from Fort Riley, Kansas after serving five years with the Army’s Signal Corp both there and overseas. I joined the Army after graduating from SDSU with an Engineering Degree.

With my jobs at 3M and Ideal, I worked closely with our electrical providers, and I was always interested in the explanations of their rate structure and how it impacted our electrical costs. I am hoping by being on the Sioux Valley Energy Board, I will learn more about how electrical energy is brought to their customers and maybe help Sioux Valley and customers find ways to cut costs and keep rates low.

My wife and I have been Sioux Valley customers for over 25 years. I feel being a residual customer and an industrial customer representative gives me a good insight from different customer points of view. My hobbies include: gardening, woodworking, beekeeping and hunting. My wife, Bernadette, and I live on a small acreage east of Brookings. We have been married for 47 years. We have two daughters and three grandchildren.

District 10

Lucas Roskamp - Edgerton/Trosky, MN
I grew up on our farm and attended school in Edgerton. Upon graduation, I attended Ridgewater College where I earned degrees in Farm Operations and Ag Business. After college, I was employed at Cargill in Pipestone and then Chandler Co-Op in Lake Wilson. I am married and have three children at home.

Initially, I wanted to be a SVE Director for all the fame and fortune I was sure it would bring, but then I was told that wasn’t the case. In all seriousness, I am interested in learning more about SVE and where we get our electricity, and being on the board will help that.

Working in the elevator and agronomy business, I learned to work well with others and to be helpful to the customers. I will bring a young, fresh perspective to the board and will help make decisions for future long-term and affordable electric service.

Leon Spronk - Edgerton, MN
Education and Career
- SDSU graduated BS Animal Science December 1974 Livestock and Meats judging Teams
- John Morrell and Co Sioux Falls, SD January 1975 – April 1981 Started as Hog Buyer then Hog Evaluation Department Manager then Cattle Buyer
- Dugdale-Dupaco-Beef America Norfolk, NE 1983-1998 Cattle Buyer
- Monfort-Conagra-Swift Grand Island,NE and Greeley, CO 1999-2005 Cattle Buyer
- Greater Omaha Packing Co Omaha, NE 2006-2015 Cattle Buyer 2015-2017 Head Cattle Buyer
- Farmer/Retired Cattle Buyer Edgerton, MN 2017-Present

Other Activities:
- Member of First Christian Reformed Church Edgerton, MN – Presently serving as Elder and Vice Chairman Board of Directors of former Ellison Meat Co. Pipestone, MN. Enjoy pheasant hunting and fishing.
- Why do I want to be a SVE director? I have been an electric cooperative member since 1976 at rural Garretson, SD until 1988 and then at rural Edgerton, MN until present. I am interested in energy conservation and new technology having built a new house on our acreage in 2011 and installing a geothermal heating and cooling system. I am always looking for new ways to increase my personal energy efficiency and reducing my carbon footprint.
- What skills/assets would you bring to the board of directors? For 41 years I have traveled Eastern South Dakota and Southwestern Minnesota buying cattle from many of SVE’s livestock producers. I know and understand many of their concerns and challenges. I have much to learn but also much to share.
LOCAL COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Co-op Leaders Contribute to Local Boards, Youth Programs and More

Brenda Kleinjan

When cooperatives say they are committed to their communities, it's not just lip service. It's service rooted in fact.

From city councils, township boards and county commissions to school boards, church boards and other community organizations, co-op employees and directors are answering the call to serve on boards of various shapes and sizes.

Some specialize, focusing their involvement in one arena. Others are generalists, taking the skills and lessons they've learned through their roll at their local electric cooperative and translating it to benefit their local community through involvement on several boards and groups.

For much of his co-op career, Mike Bowers has also served on boards associated with the Rapid City YMCA. Bowers, the manager of Rushmore Engineering, a part of Rushmore
Electric Power Cooperative in Rapid City, has spent 20 years on the YMCA building committee. He’s also been a part of the YMCA board of directors for 10 years, serving as secretary and board chairman. But, his Y involvement has even deeper roots.

“I grew up with the Y,” said the Wisconsin native. “I’ve been a Y member here for 42 years. I joined the Y the first month I was in town and never looked back.”

Bowers said the YMCA’s commitment to people in the community is appealing and resonates well with the work of electric cooperatives.

“Both invest in the community, absolutely,” Bowers said. “The YMCA is very much a cooperative structure; not-for-profit, open to all and every member is an owner, if you stop to think about it.”

The Rapid City YMCA and the Rapid City Area Schools are in the midst of a $10 million renovation of a 68,000 square foot building in downtown Rapid City that once housed an electric and gas utility company. When completed, the facility will house YMCA early childhood development and also provide infant childcare as well as hold school district administrative offices.

The facility, which is slated to open in August, will be known as the Rapid City Education Center. It recently secured $1.1 million in funding from the Rapid City Vision Fund.

“We all need to be involved and give back to the community.”

“The Rapid City Education Center will more than double our capacity for childcare,” Bowers said.

Bowers sums up his work with the YMCA succinctly.

“This is the way I want to be involved and give back,” said Bowers.

Bowers is not alone in his commitment to his local community.

From youth wrestling, basketball, baseball and football programs to coaching varsity-level sports and serving as referees, co-op employees and directors are working alongside their neighbors to ensure these programs succeed.

You’ll also find co-op employees and directors setting aside their co-op hats to take on the work of members of school boards at several districts across the state.

Dozens of co-op employees serve as trustees and council members of towns and communities across the state. More than a dozen township boards are comprised of officers who work for electric cooperatives or who serve as a director for an electric cooperative. County commissions from Custer County in the west to Grant County in the northeast – and a few counties in between – have co-op employees and directors serving on their governing boards.

And, the work doesn’t stop there. You’ll find co-op directors and employees in service organizations like Lions, Rotary and Kiwanis, on in veteran’s organizations like the American Legion and VFW, church boards, airport, library and transportation boards.

As Bowers notes, “We all need to be involved and give back to the community.”
Youth Program Prepares Students

Ready to Lead

Session Two of the 2019 EmPOWER Youth Leadership Program centered around helping students explore their leadership abilities and improving their health. Motivational speaker, Craig Hillier provided hands-on leadership training while Avera employees guided students in learning about stress management and healthy eating.

EmPOWER Youth Coordinator, Chinelle Christensen, says this year’s group of EmPOWER Leaders are exceptional.

“I have no doubt that these students will do great things. They have really stepped up to the plate and out of their comfort zones to develop their leadership abilities. I am proud of each and every one of them!”
Lake County Food Pantry

The Lake County Food Pantry was recently awarded $1,500 from Operation Round Up to support the ‘Kids Pantry Backpack Program’. The program helps feed Lake County kids who are in need. In total, 160 public school students from pre-school through fifth grade and Head Start receive food backpacks each week. Valiant Living and Bethel Home residents in Madison prepare the backpacks during the school year. SVE Operation Round Up funds have been an essential part of sustaining the program as the cost of food each week is approximately $700. The Lake County Food Pantry relies entirely on volunteers to help with the Backpack Program and all other aspects of food distribution.

Operation Round Up has provided communities and organizations more than $1.65-million since the year 2000. Nearly 75 percent of SVE members and employees participate in the program. The average member will contribute approximately $6.00 per year. To learn more about Operation Round Up and how to apply for a grant, log on to https://www.siouxvalleyenergy.com/my-community/operation-roundup.

Co-op In the Classroom

Sioux Valley Energy held multiple “Co-op in the Classroom” presentations during the months of January and February. More than 1,000 local elementary students took part in the program from the following schools: Estelline Elementary School, Red Willow Colony, Edgerton Public School, Edgerton Christian Elementary, Brookings Camelot Intermediate School, Brandon Valley Intermediate School, Brandon Elementary, Elkton Public School, St. Mary Grade School and Luverne Elementary. This program was developed by the Cooperative’s power supplier, East River Electric.

Pictured: Brookings Fifth Grader, Lauren Bortnem, generates power while pedaling a bike during a ‘Co-op in the Classroom’ presentation conducted by Education & Outreach Coordinator, Jennifer Gross. Sioux Valley Energy’s power supplier, East River Electric, provides the program to area schools.
Central Electric Cooperative’s Operation Round Up® program awarded $2,300 to Helping with Horsepower, a therapeutic riding program at Reclamation Ranch outside of Mitchell, S.D., for a lift that allows wheelchair-bound clients to ride horses.

Kimball School received $1,000 from Central Electric Cooperative’s Operation Round Up® program to update their former playground for safety, entertainment and school pride.

MAKING CHANGE

Contributions by Co-op Members Add Up for Good

Brenda Kleinjan

Thirty years ago, South Carolina’s Palmetto Electric Cooperative conceived of an idea to benefit residents in the three counties it serves. By having members round up their monthly electric bills, co-op members could have a lasting impact on charitable groups in the area.

Since that beginning in 1989, Operation Round Up® has been an incredibly successful way in which the co-op and its members have been able to help the less fortunate in their community. Through Operation Round Up, Palmetto Electric automatically rounds up a participating member’s electric bills to the next highest dollar. For example, a consumer’s monthly bill of $52.73 would be automatically rounded up to $53, with the additional 27 cents going to the Operation Round Up fund. On an annual basis, the co-op is able to donate roughly $6 for each participating customer – and that pool of money is then allocated to a variety of worthy causes throughout their service area.

The concept spread nationwide and today, several cooperatives in South Dakota and western Minnesota have the program.
Since 2000, members at Sioux Valley Energy have awarded more than $1.5 million to community groups, including funding more than $10,000 in scholarships each year to members and their children.

Across the border at Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative in Tyler, Minn., their Operation Round Up board funds grant requests ranging from fire department requests to school and other educational requests.

Danube, Minn.-based Renville-Sibley Co-op Power Association is launching its Operation Round Up in June.

“All co-ops adhere to the seven cooperative principles, including “Concern for Community.” The Operation Round Up program is the perfect embodiment of this core principle,” said Lenae Wordes, Renville-Sibley’s communications manager. “The average co-op member donates $6 with a maximum possible contribution of $11.88 per year. This may not seem like a large amount, but when combined with nearly 1,900 of Renville-Sibley Co-op Power member accounts, it adds up to make an impact.”

“Renville-Sibley’s program will operate with a board of trustees that is different from the board of directors for the electric co-op. This allows a group of members to focus on the mission of representing our communities,” said Wordes.

In the Watertown, S.D., area, Codington-Clark Electric’s Operation Round Up has helped 4-H clubs, a child hunger group and a local living history fair.

Central Electric Cooperative in Mitchell, S.D., awarded $12,500 to 10 groups in November 2018. Among the groups receiving funding were community improvement associations and community centers, speed meters for two cities, 4-H, Habitat for Humanity and other groups. Since launching the program in 2015, the program has made $72,500 in awards.

“Applications typically come from volunteers in your community who feel strongly about a project and making a difference,” said Courtney Deinert, Central’s manager of communications.

For the past 10 years, members of Oahe Electric Cooperative in Blunt, S.D., have distributed more than $92,000 to groups and organizations in Hughes and Sully counties. The money raised has helped volunteer fire departments, animal rescue shelters and other groups selected by the Operation Round Up Board of Trustees.

At Elk Point, S.D., Union County Electric Cooperative started its program in 2018. This year, it awarded $4,000 to four organizations including the local historical society, the Boys and Girls Club, an animal rescue and the local Veterans of Foreign Wars group.

Co-op members at West River Electric Association in Wall, S.D., are also involved. In 2018, the Operation Round Up fund awarded more than $8,200 to groups ranging from rodeo booster clubs and cemetery associations to ambulance services, athletic groups and pre-school and community groups. One award helped purchase a heater for the New Underwood city pool.

Contact your local cooperative to find out what ways they are involved in their communities and how to participate.
Did you know squirrels, lightning and trees have something in common? They can knock out your electricity.

Electric cooperatives work hard to keep your lights on all the time, but “you’re going to have power outages, and that’s just the way it is,” says Tony Thomas, senior principal engineer with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

An electric utility’s basic job of keeping the power flowing 24/7 calls for maintaining a complex network of power plants, poles and wires. But it also means battling the unpredictable. Thomas cites the top three troublemakers to electric reliability as trees falling on power lines and other interferences from vegetation, lightning strikes and animals going about their daily routines, especially squirrels chewing on electrical equipment.


Humans contribute to power outages as well, with vandals deliberately damaging electrical equipment and drivers accidentally crashing into utility poles.

Statistics say the lights are almost always on.

Numbers collected from electric utilities show that power in the United States is incredibly reliable. According to these figures, the percentage of time that the average American has electricity at the flip of a switch is 99.97… oh forget it, you get the idea. Thomas says what’s most important to know about those numbers is that they don’t change much.

“I don’t see big swings from year to year,” says Thomas. “If things are fairly consistent, that means the utility is operating about as efficiently as it can.”

But utilities still try to improve on that reliability. Among the techniques being used to foil critter catastrophes are snake barriers around substations, buzzard shields on transmission towers and mesh coverings on wood poles to protect them from woodpeckers.

For some of the other causes of outages like trees and lightning, there’s now an app for that.

Utilities operate extensive right-of-way programs to keep vegetation away from power lines, from clearing underbrush to publicity campaigns asking people not to plant trees where they can fall on power lines. These days, those efforts can be aided by digital software that forecasts the growth of trees and other plants so that utilities can prune branches before they cause a problem.

Other software tries to manage lightning by analyzing the age and wear on the utility’s equipment that minimizes the damage from lightning strikes so it can be replaced before it fails.

Fighting storms and squirrels are two ways to keep the power on, but by far the biggest part of reliability comes from the decades of building, maintaining and updating the massive machinery of the nation’s electric grid. More than 8,500 power plants generate electricity that is shipped through 200,000 miles of high-voltage transmission lines. Banks of substations and transformers step-down that voltage to send it to homes and businesses through 5.5 million miles of local distribution lines.

Keeping that network up and running calls for a lot of planning among utilities to anticipate how electricity will be used in the future. Part of that reliability planning has focused on protecting the electricity system from computer-based digital attacks.
The never-ending job of cyber security

Bridgette Bourge is among those overseeing how digital technology affects reliability for electric co-ops and their consumer-members. As director of government affairs for NRECA, she sees both the positives and the negatives to the latest internet-based, or cyber, technology.

“Cyber helps a lot on reliability because it gives us the ability to monitor and know everything right away,” she says. “But whenever you increase reliability through a technology, you do potentially open up vulnerabilities as well from the security angle.”

For any organization, including electric utilities, the benefits of the internet come infested with mischief makers. Bourge says it’s routine for a company to receive tens of thousands of attempts each day to break into its computer network. Those “knocks” at the cyber door can come from individuals, countries and organizations, or from the army of automated “bots” roaming the internet worldwide, testing for weaknesses where a hacker could enter.

For a utility, a troublemaker inside the computer network could affect electric service, and that’s why NRECA has organized a variety of cyber reliability programs.

Bourge says those cyber reliability programs aim to help protect against a range of threats, from broad attempts to shut down parts of the electric grid, to more focused efforts to corrupt pieces of software used by electric cooperatives.

As community-based, member-led businesses, electric co-ops have a unique interest in protecting the reliability of the local community’s energy supply.

NRECA’s cyber protection efforts include a national program of working closely with the nation’s electric co-ops to share the techniques for protecting utility systems from internet invaders. NRECA also works closely with federal government cybersecurity groups in the Department of Energy and the Department of Homeland Security.

NRECA is also part of a national program to create a cyber mutual assistance agreement. Much like how groups of line-workers from an electric co-op travel to help restore power after a hurricane, these cyber agreements would be able to utilize teams of information technology experts in the case of a cyber incident.

“You can’t solve cybersecurity,” says Bourge. “No matter what you do today, the bad guys are going to figure out a way around it tomorrow. You have to keep thinking about the next step.”

Bourge sees electric co-ops as well-placed to pay attention to cybersecurity. She says as community-based, member-led businesses, electric co-ops have a unique interest in protecting the reliability of the local community’s energy supply.

“Electric cooperatives take cybersecurity very seriously,” says Bourge. “It’s built into their DNA.”

Paul Wesslund writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56 percent of the nation’s landscape.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 21-23</td>
<td>Sno Jam Comedy Festival, Sioux Falls, SD, siouxfallsjo</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 24, March 24</td>
<td>Meat Shoot, Gun Club, Practice rounds at 10 a.m., Shoot starts at 11 a.m., 2378 310th St., Rock Valley, IA, 712-540-9757, 712-470-6794 or 712-451-8366</td>
<td>Lead, SD, 605-584-3435</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 1-2</td>
<td>Mardi Gras Weekend, Main Street, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 3</td>
<td>Meat Shoot, Crooks Gun Club, Practice rounds at 10 a.m., Shoot starts at 11 a.m., 2808 W. 84th St. N., Sioux Falls, SD, 605-941-1984</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 9-12</td>
<td>Summit League Basketball Championship, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7288</td>
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<td>March 10</td>
<td>Meat Shoot, Sportsmen’s Club, Practice rounds at 10 a.m., Shoot starts at 11 a.m., 48605 255th St., Garretson, SD, 605-359-3844</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 14-16</td>
<td>SD State Class AA Boys and Girls Basketball Tournament, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 16-17</td>
<td>Dakota Territory Gun Show, Codington City Ag Building, Watertown, SD, 605-793-2347</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 17</td>
<td>Meat Shoot, Izaak Walton League, Practice rounds and shoot starts at 11 a.m., 5000 North Oakview Place, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-359-9516</td>
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<td>March 23</td>
<td>Ag Day, Washington Pavilion, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-6000</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 29-30, April 5-6</td>
<td>Annual Schmeckfest, Freeman, SD, 605-925-4237</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 29-31</td>
<td>Black Hills Home Builders Home Show, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD, 605-348-7850</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 4</td>
<td>McCrossan Banquet Auction featuring Loop Rawlins and the PBR, 5:30 p.m., Arena, Sioux Falls, SD, Tickets: $75 each, 605-339-1203, <a href="http://www.mccrossan.org">www.mccrossan.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>April 5-5</td>
<td>Holiday Arts Spring Craft Show, Masonic Hall, Mitchell, SD, 605-359-2049</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 5-6</td>
<td>Forks, Corks and Kegs Food, Wine and Beer Festival, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876</td>
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<td>April 5-7, 11-14</td>
<td>Green Earth Players presents Drinking Habits, April 5, 6, 11, 12 and 13 at 7:30 p.m., April 7 and 14 at 2 p.m., Palace Theatre, Luverne, MN, 507-283-9226</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 5-7</td>
<td>Professional Bull Riders Unleash the Beast Tour, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-367-7288</td>
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<td>April 13</td>
<td>Izaak Walton Dinner and Raffle, Broasted Chicken and Pork Chop Dinner, Izaak Walton Clubhouse, 6:30 p.m., Annual Fund Raiser for The Conservation of the Soil, Air, Woods, Waters and Wildlife, Sioux Falls, SD</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 26-28 and May 3-5</td>
<td>The Opland Singers Spring Festival of Music, Friday and Saturday 7:30 p.m., Sunday 2 p.m., Pipestone Performing Arts Center, Pipestone, MN, 507-825-2020 or 877-722-2787</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 1-5</td>
<td>Black Hills Film Festival, Hill City, SD, 605-574-9454</td>
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<td>May 4</td>
<td>Consignment Auction, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644, <a href="http://www.prairievillage.org">www.prairievillage.org</a></td>
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<td>May 5</td>
<td>Opening Day, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644, <a href="http://www.prairievillage.org">www.prairievillage.org</a></td>
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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.
Bylaws & Articles of Incorporation

Sioux Valley Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Printed February 2019
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ARTICLE I.
MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. Qualifications and Obligations.
Any person, firm, association, corporation, limited liability company, trust, or local, regional, state, federal, or national government, including an agency or division of government, (hereinafter referred to as “Patron”) shall become a member of Sioux Valley Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc. (hereinafter called the “Cooperative”) by purchasing electric energy furnished by this Cooperative. As a condition for receiving service, such member agrees to:

(a) Make a request for electric service prior to being furnished with the same, and

(b) Comply with and be bound by the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, policies, rules, regulations, general terms and conditions for electric service as adopted by the Board of Directors (hereinafter referred to as “Board”);

(c) Submit a security deposit, a supplemental electric service contract, contribution in aid of construction, facilities extension fees, or electric service contracts in such form as may be required by the Cooperative; and

(d) Grant of property rights as required by the Cooperative for Cooperative purpose, a Member shall: (1) provide the Cooperative safe and reliable access to or use of Member property; and (2) pursuant to terms and conditions specified by the Cooperative, grant or convey to the Cooperative easement, right-of-way, license, or other right or interest in Member property.

A “Cooperative Purpose” is the installing, constructing, inspecting, measuring, providing, monitoring, operating, maintaining, removing, relocating, upgrading, or replacing Cooperative Equipment or Cooperative Service to one or more of its Members or Customers.

(e) Cause all premises covered by the membership to be wired according to applicable City, State and Federal specifications and the specifications of the Cooperative. Each member shall be responsible for, and shall indemnify the Cooperative, or any other person against injury, loss or damage resulting from the defective or improper use
or maintenance of the member’s premises, wiring and any apparatus connected thereto.

No membership certificate shall be issued, and subject to Article I, Section 2 of these Bylaws, all memberships shall be automatically effective upon receipt of electric service from the Cooperative as evidenced from the books and records of the Cooperative. No member may hold more than one (1) membership in the Cooperative, and no membership in the Cooperative shall be transferable, except as provided in these Bylaws.

In the event a patron wants electric service but does not desire to be a member of the Cooperative, said patron may file a written election of non-membership with the Cooperative and shall thereafter be considered a non-member patron not entitled to the rights and privileges of membership, but shall continue to be bound by contractual conditions of service.

SECTION 2. Membership Record.
Membership in the Cooperative shall be evidenced by enrolling the name of a member upon the membership record kept and maintained in the office of the Cooperative, which record shall be available for inspection by any authorized person as established by Board policy.

SECTION 3. Joint Membership and the Effect of Death, Legal Separation or Divorce Upon Same.
A legally married couple may apply for a joint membership and, subject to their compliance with the requirements set forth in Section 1 of this Article, may be accepted for such membership. The term “member” as used in these Bylaws shall be deemed to include a legally married couple holding a joint membership and any provisions relating to the rights and liabilities of membership shall apply equally with respect to the holders of a joint membership. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the effect of the hereinafter specified actions by or in respect of the holders of a joint membership shall be as follows:

(a) The presence at a meeting of either or both shall be regarded as the presence of one member, and of constituting a joint waiver of notice of the meeting;

(b) The vote of either separately or both jointly shall constitute one joint vote;

(c) A waiver of notice signed by either or both shall constitute a joint waiver;
(d) Notice to either shall constitute notice of both;

(e) Expulsion of either shall terminate the joint membership;

(f) Withdrawal of either shall terminate the joint membership;

(g) Either but not both may be elected or appointed as an officer or director, provided that the one being elected or appointed as an officer or director meet the qualifications for such office as set forth in Article IV, Section 5, which shall apply only to the candidate.

Upon the death of either spouse of a joint membership, such membership shall continue to be held solely by the survivor in the same manner and to the same effect as though such membership had never been joint; provided, that the Estate of the Deceased shall not be released from any debts due the Cooperative. Upon the legal separation or divorce of the holders of a joint membership, such membership shall continue to be held solely by the one who continues directly to occupy or use the premise covered by such membership, in the same manner and to the same effect as though such membership had never been joint; PROVIDED, that the other spouse shall not be released from any debts due the Cooperative.

SECTION 4. Conversion of Membership.
A membership may be converted to a joint membership upon written request of the holder thereof and the Agreement by such holder and his or her spouse to comply with the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and rules and regulations adopted by the Board.

SECTION 5. Purchase of Electric Energy.
Each patron shall, as soon as energy shall be available, purchase from the Cooperative all purchased electric energy required on the premises specified in that patron’s Request for Service and shall pay therefore at rates which shall, from time to time, be fixed by the Board. It is expressly understood that amounts paid for electric energy in excess of the cost of service are furnished by patrons as capital and each patron shall be credited with the capital so furnished, as provided in these Bylaws. Each patron shall pay to the Cooperative such minimum amount, regardless of the amount of electric energy consumed, as shall be fixed by the Board from time to time. Each patron shall also pay all amounts owed by him or her to the Cooperative as and when the same shall become due and payable. When the patron has more than one (1) service connection from the Cooperative, any payment to the Cooperative shall be deemed to be allocated and credited to his or her outstanding accounts for all such service connections in such manner as the Board of Directors shall determine from time to time.
Further, when a patron makes an undesignated payment to the Cooperative for multiple services being billed by the Cooperative, the Cooperative may apply any and all amounts paid by such patron to any and all of the accounts for which patron is being billed in such manner as determined by the Board in its sole discretion.

As required or allowed by law, and as determined by the Board; if a patron substantially reduces or ceases the patron’s use, receipt or purchase of Cooperative services, either singly or in combination, then the Cooperative may charge the patron and the patron shall pay the Cooperative the costs and expenses incurred by the Cooperative in relying upon the patron’s pre-reduction or pre-ceasing use, receipt or purchase of the Cooperative’s services. The Cooperative shall provide Cooperative services to Members in a reasonable manner. The Cooperative, however, does not insure, guarantee, or warrant that it will provide adequate, continuous, or non-fluctuating electric energy or other Cooperative service. The Cooperative is not liable for damages, costs, or expenses, including attorney fees or legal expenses, caused by the Cooperative providing inadequate, non-continuous, or fluctuating electric energy or other Cooperative service, unless the damages, costs, or expenses are caused by the Cooperative’s gross negligence or willful misconduct. The Cooperative’s responsibility and liability for providing a Cooperative service terminates upon delivery of the Cooperative service to a Member.

In the event such facilities of the patron are interfered with, impaired in their operation or damaged by the patron, or by any other person when the patron’s reasonable care and surveillance should have prevented such, the patron shall indemnify the Cooperative and its employees, agents and independent contractors against death, injury, loss or damage resulting therefrom, including, but not limited to, the Cooperative’s costs of repairing or relocating any such facilities and its loss, if any, of revenues resulting from the failure or defective functioning of its metering equipment. In no event shall the responsibility of the Cooperative extend beyond the point of delivery.

SECTION 6. Termination of Membership.
Any member may withdraw from membership upon compliance with such uniform terms and conditions as the Board may prescribe. The membership of a member who has ceased to purchase energy from the Cooperative shall be canceled under such terms and conditions as prescribed by the Board. The Board of the Cooperative may, by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of all the Directors, expel any member who fails to comply with any of the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws or rules.
or regulations adopted by the Board, but only if such member shall have been given written notice by the Cooperative that such failure makes him/her liable to expulsion and such failure shall have continued for at least ten (10) days after such notice was given. Any expelled member may be reinstated by vote of the Board or by vote of the members at any annual or special meeting.

Upon the withdrawal, death, cessation of existence or expulsion of a member, the membership of such member shall thereupon terminate. Termination of membership in any manner shall not release a member or his/her estate from any debts due the Cooperative.

ARTICLE II. RIGHTS AND LIABILITIES OF MEMBERS

SECTION 1. Property Interest of Members. Upon dissolution, after all debts and liabilities of the Cooperative shall have been paid, and all capital furnished through patronage shall have been retired as provided in these Bylaws, the remaining property and assets of the Cooperative shall be distributed among the members and former members in the proportion in which aggregate patronage of each bears to the total patronage of all members during the ten (10) years next preceding the date of the filing of the certificate of dissolution.

SECTION 2. Non-Liability for Debts of the Cooperative. The private property of the members shall be exempt from execution or other liability for the debts of the Cooperative and no member shall be liable or responsible for any debts or liabilities of the Cooperative.

SECTION 3. Publication and Subscription Fees. The Board is hereby authorized to assess and collect from the revenues from each patron each year the amount necessary to pay the subscription fee for the Cooperative’s official publication, which is a newsletter or periodical published either by the Cooperative alone or in cooperation with others for the purpose of providing information and notice to the patrons.
ARTICLE III.
MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

SECTION 1. Annual Meeting.
An Annual Meeting of the members of this Cooperative may be held at
the principal place of business of this Cooperative, or such other place
conveniently located in the general service area served by it, and at such date
and hour as may be determined by the Board and designated in the notice
of the meeting. It shall be the responsibility of the Board to make adequate
plans and preparations for the Annual Meeting. Failure to hold the Annual
Meeting at the designated time shall not work a forfeiture or dissolution of
the Cooperative.

SECTION 2. Special Meetings.
Special Meetings of the members may be called by Resolution of the Board
or upon the written request signed by any three (3) Directors, by the President
or by ten (10%) percent or more of the members and it shall thereupon be
the duty of the Secretary to cause Notice of such meeting to be given as
hereinafter provided. Special meetings shall be held at the principal place
of business of this Cooperative or such other place conveniently located in
the general service area at such date and hour as may be determined by the
Board.

SECTION 3. Notice of Members’ Meetings.
Written or printed notice stating the place, day and hour of the meeting and,
in case of a special meeting or an annual meeting at which business requiring
special notice is to be transacted, the purpose or purposes for which the
meeting is called, shall be delivered to each member not less than ten (10)
days nor more than twenty-five (25) days before the date of the meeting,
either personally or by mail, by or at the direction of the Secretary, or, upon
a default in duty by the Secretary, by the persons calling the meeting. If
mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the
United States mail, addressed to the member at his/her address as it appears
on the records of the Cooperative with postage thereon prepaid. The failure
of any member to receive notice of an annual or special meeting of the
members shall not invalidate any action that may be taken by the members at
any such meeting.

SECTION 4. Quorum.
A quorum necessary to the transaction of business at any meeting of the
members shall be at least two-hundred (200) members, except for the election
of directors at district meetings. In determining a quorum on a question
submitted to a vote by mail, members present in person, or represented by mail votes, shall be counted. The quorum shall be established by a registration of the members present at such meetings, which registration shall be verified by the President and Secretary and shall be reported in the Minutes of the meeting.

**SECTION 5. Voting.**
Each member of the Cooperative shall be entitled to one (1) vote on each matter submitted to a vote at each meeting of the members. The spouse of a member may vote on behalf of the member unless the member has indicated otherwise. All questions shall be decided by a vote of a majority of the members voting thereon in person, except as otherwise provided by law, the Articles of Conversion or these Bylaws. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted. Any member who is absent from any Annual or Special Meeting of the members may vote by mail at such meeting upon any motion or resolution pertaining to the borrowing of funds or the mortgage, lease or other encumbrance of property. The Secretary shall enclose with the notice of such meeting an exact copy of such motion or resolution to be acted upon and such absent member shall express his/her vote thereon by placing a cross (x) in the space provided therefore opposite each such motion or resolution. Such absent member shall enclose each such copy so marked in a sealed envelope bearing his/her name and address to the Secretary at Colman, South Dakota. When such written vote so enclosed is received by mail from any absent member, it shall be counted as a vote of such member at such meeting. If a husband and wife hold a joint membership and are absent from any Annual or Special Meeting of the members, they shall jointly be entitled to vote by mail as provided in this section. The failure of any absent member to receive a copy of any such motion or resolution shall not invalidate any action which may be taken by the members at any such meeting. Voting by members other than members who are natural persons shall be allowed upon the presentation to the Cooperative, prior to or upon registration at each member meeting, of satisfactory evidence, entitling the person presenting the same to vote.

**SECTION 6. Order of Business.**
The Board shall determine the agenda and order of business for member meetings.

**SECTION 7. Resolutions.**
Any member may introduce a Resolution at an Annual Meeting of the Cooperative or at any special meeting of the Cooperative, so long as said Resolution is submitted in written form. Any such Resolution that is approved by the members at any such meeting shall not be binding upon the Cooperative and shall be advisory only.
SECTION 1. General Powers and Duties.
The business and affairs of the Cooperative shall be managed by a Board of Directors consisting of eleven (11) Directors, which Board shall exercise all of the powers of the Cooperative, except such as are by law, the Articles of Incorporation, Conversion or Merger or these Bylaws conferred upon or reserved to the members. It shall be the duty of each Director to participate in such activities as are deemed necessary to enhance the prestige of the Cooperative, broaden its operation and fulfill its public obligations as a member of the community and the Rural Electrification Program, and in furtherance thereof to devote reasonable time and attendance at meetings of affiliated organizations and at training sessions designed to assist Directors and Officers in carrying out their duties.

SECTION 2. Election and Tenure of Office.
The Cooperative shall be comprised of ten (10) director districts. The members from within each district shall nominate and elect a qualified Director from within their district. The Directors are elected for three (3) year terms on a staggered term basis. The existing staggered terms shall remain in effect unless it shall appear to the Board that additional modifications will be necessary to maintain the staggered term concept, at which time the Board may make such adjustments as they deem necessary and appropriate. Terms of office of newly elected Directors shall commence immediately following the Annual Meeting of the members on such date as said meeting is held from year to year, provided said terms shall commence no later than July 1 of each year.

SECTION 3. Nomination and Election of Directors District Meetings.
The Board shall fix the date, hour and place of a meeting of the members in each district for which a Director is to be nominated and elected. If, in the opinion of the Board, a suitable place for the conduct of the meeting is not available in such district, then the Board shall designate a suitable meeting place reasonably near the district. The Notice of such meeting shall be given by publication of Notice thereof in the Cooperative’s monthly publication in the issue published next prior to the date of such meeting or by delivery to each member located in such district as provided for in Article III, Section 3 hereof. The Notice shall include the names of all nominees and notify members that a Director will be elected at the meeting. The meeting shall, however, be open for discussion of any other matters pertaining to the
business of the Cooperative, regardless of whether or not such matters were listed in the Notice of the meeting.

Whenever a vacancy in a Director’s position shall exist by virtue of a Director’s term expiring, any person who meets the Director qualifications as set forth in these By-Laws, may become a candidate for the office of Director for such vacancy by filing at the Corporate Headquarters or a Sioux Valley Energy Service Center at least sixty (60) days prior to the date of the District Meeting, a Nominating Petition setting forth the name of the person so nominated for the office of Director, which Petition must be signed by at least ten (10) members in good standing who also reside within the District in which the vacancy exists. If no Petitions are timely received, nominations shall be received from the floor at the District Meeting. If one (1) or more Nominating Petitions are timely received, no nominations shall be received from the floor at the District Meeting. At said District Meeting, the members present and voting shall select by secret written ballot a Director to fill the expired term in that District. Each member present and voting shall be entitled to vote for one (1) Director Nominee. The Director candidate receiving the most votes shall be declared to be the elected Director of the Corporation from the particular District. In the event there are no more Director nominees than there are vacancies, the Director candidate may be elected by voice vote at the District Meeting.

The meeting shall be called to order by the Director residing within the district or, in his or her absence or refusal to act, by any other Director of the Cooperative. In the absence of a Director, any member residing within the district may call the meeting to order.

The Director or person calling the meeting to order shall appoint a Chairperson to preside at said meeting. The Chairperson shall be someone other than the Director. The Chairperson shall appoint a Secretary to act for the duration of the meeting. A quorum of twenty-five (25) members present and who reside within the District shall be necessary to conduct the election portion of said meeting.

Following the balloting, the name of the persons nominated and the number of votes received by each candidate shall be set forth in the Minutes, which shall specify the duly elected Director, following the vote. A copy of the Minutes signed by the Secretary and Chairperson of the District Meeting shall be delivered to the Cooperative within five (5) days of such District Meeting.

In the event of a tie vote between candidates receiving the highest number
of votes, none of the candidates shall be elected and a run-off election shall be held between the candidates who tied in receiving the highest number of votes, said election to be held at the same meeting. If the tie is not resolved by the re-balloting, the winner shall be resolved by the flip of a coin.

SECTION 4. Director Districts.
The territories served by the Cooperative shall be divided into ten (10) districts. Each district, other than District No. 6, shall be represented by one Director. The ten (10) districts shall be as follows:

**District No. 1** shall be made up of those Townships in Brookings County, South Dakota, which lie within Ranges 47, 48 and 49 and Townships 109, 110, 111 and 112; and Range 50 and Townships 111 and 112.

**District No. 2** shall be made up of those Townships in Brookings County, South Dakota, which lie within Ranges 51 and 52 and all that part of Kingsbury County, South Dakota, served by the Cooperative.

**District No. 3** shall be made up of all Townships in Moody County, South Dakota.

**District No. 4** shall be made up of all Townships in Lake County, South Dakota.

**District No. 5** shall be made up of those Townships in Minnehaha County, South Dakota, which lie within Ranges 50, 51 and 52 and Townships 103 and 104.

**District No. 6** shall be made up of those Townships in Minnehaha County, South Dakota, which lie within Range 47, 48, 49 and Townships 101, 102, 103 and 104. Two “at large” Directors will represent District No. 6. At the first election following the passage of this amendment, one at large director shall be elected for a two year term and thereafter the elected director shall serve a three year term, and one at large director shall be elected for a three year term.

**District No. 7** shall be made up of those Townships in Minnehaha County, South Dakota, which lie within Ranges 50, 51 and 52 and Townships 101 and 102.

**District No. 8** shall be made up of those Townships in Rock County, Minnesota, which lie within Range 44, 45, 46 and 47 and Townships 101 and 102.
**District No. 9** shall be made up of those Townships in Pipestone County, Minnesota, which lie within Range 44, 45, 46 and 47 and Townships 106, 107 and 108. The first Director elected from District 9 following the passage of this amendment shall be seated for a two year term and thereafter the elected director shall serve a three year term.

**District No. 10** shall be made up of those Townships in Pipestone County, Minnesota and Rock County, Minnesota, which lie within Range 44, 45, 46 and 47 and Townships 103, 104 and 105. The first Director elected from District 10 following the passage of this amendment shall be seated for a one year term and thereafter the elected director shall serve a three year term.

The District make up shall be reviewed by the Board of Directors at least every five (5) years to evaluate the equitable allocation of Directorships and Director Districts considering capital investment requirements, meters installed and members served, quantities of energy and service consumed, geographic considerations and other factors rationally focused on a broad and fair representation of the members and their interests. Any proposed alteration of Bylaws setting out district territories recommended by the Board will be submitted to the membership for consideration at the next annual meeting. A District revision may not increase an existing Director’s term or shorten an existing Director’s term unless the affected Director consents in writing.

**SECTION 5. Qualifications.**

Any member shall be eligible to be nominated or elected or to remain a Director, provided that:

(a) They are a natural person receiving electric service from the Cooperative at their primary residence or meet the qualifications for corporate representation;

(b) They have the capacity to enter legally binding contracts;

(c) They have been and shall remain a resident of the district for which they are or were nominated or elected for at least one (1) year prior to nomination, and continue to reside therein during their entire term as Director;

(d) While a Director and during the five (5) years immediately prior to becoming a Director, they have not been convicted of a felony;
(e) They or their spouse are not employed by, materially affiliated with or have a material financial interest in any individual or entity which either is:

(i) Directly and substantially competing with the Cooperative, or any of its subsidiaries; or

(ii) Selling goods and services in substantial quantity to the Cooperative or its subsidiaries; or having sold goods or services in substantial quantity to the Cooperative or its subsidiaries within three (3) years of seeking nomination.

(iii) Possessing a substantial conflict of interest with the Cooperative or any of its subsidiaries; or

(iv) They are not in any way employed by the Cooperative or any of its subsidiaries nor have they been employed by the Cooperative or its subsidiaries within three (3) years of the directors nomination, and

(v) They are not a close relative of any existing Director or existing employee of the Cooperative or its subsidiaries. For the purpose of this section only “close relative” shall mean a person who is either a child, grandchild, stepchild, parent, grandparent, stepparent, brother or sister, by blood or in-law, of the principal.

(f) A designated representative of any non-human member such as a corporation, shall, notwithstanding that he or she does not receive service from the Cooperative at their primary residential abode, be eligible to become a Director, if:

1) He or she is an officer of said non-human member; and

2) He or she is in substantial permanent occupancy, direction or use of the premises served by the Cooperative; and

3) He or she is a permanent year round resident within the district for which the Corporation or non-human member is receiving service, and

4) Otherwise meets the qualifications set forth herein, provided, however, that no more than one (1) such person as the designated representative may serve on the Board at the same time and in
the event that he or she should resign or is unwilling to so act, the
directorship shall become vacant.

SECTION 6. Removal of Directors by Members.
Any member who resides within a district may bring charges against a
Director from within that District by filing at the Corporate headquarters
such charges in writing, together with a Petition signed by at least ten (10%)
percent of the members residing within said district, or three hundred (300)
whichever is lesser, requesting the removal of such Director by reason
thereof. In the event charges are filed in the above manner, the Board of
Directors shall schedule a special meeting of the members of said District,
to be held within 90 days of the date of such charges; to consider the charges
filed against said Director. Such Director shall be informed in writing of the
charges at least ten (10) days prior to the special meeting of the members at
which the charges are to be considered. He or she shall have an opportunity
at the meeting to be heard in person or by counsel and to present evidence
in respect of the charges; and the person or persons bringing the charges
against him or her shall have the same opportunity. The question of the
removal of such director shall be considered and voted upon at the meeting
of the district members and any vote to remove said Director from office
shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members present at said
meeting.

SECTION 7. Removal of Directors by the Board of Directors.
Any Director may be removed from the Board by a vote of three-fourths
(3/4) of the Directors at a duly constituted and conducted Meeting of the
Board. Such removal must be for cause and the persons subject to such
removal shall be informed in writing of the charges at least twenty-five
(25) days prior to the Meeting of the Board in which the charges are to be
considered, and shall have an opportunity at the meeting to be heard in
person or by counsel and to present evidence with respect to the charges.
The Directors bringing the charges against the Board Members shall have
the same opportunity.

SECTION 8. Resignation or Death.
Any Director may resign his or her position at any time. Such resignation
shall be made in writing, shall be submitted to the Board and shall take
effect at such time as specified therein.

Any Director who is absent from three (3) out of twelve (12) consecutive
Regular Meetings of the Board or who is certified by a medical doctor to
be unable to physically or mentally perform his or her duties as a member
of the Board of Directors shall be deemed to have so tendered his or her
resignation from the Board, but such resignation shall not be considered effective unless and until a three-fourths (3/4) majority of the remaining Board accepts such resignation and declares that Board seat vacant.

SECTION 9. Vacancies.
The unexpired remainder of any vacant Director’s term on the Board shall be filled by the vote of the members of the district in which the vacancy exists at the next regular district meeting. If the next district meeting is more than ninety days from the time a vacancy occurs, the petition, nomination and election process described in Article IV, Section 3, will be employed. If the next district meeting is ninety days or fewer from the time a vacancy occurs, nominations shall be received from the floor at the district meeting and the election shall proceed as described in Article IV, Section 3. The director elected to fill the unexpired portion of a term shall be seated immediately.

SECTION 10. Compensation.
Directors shall be authorized, by resolution of the Board to establish compensation and other benefits for Cooperative employees and for their services as Directors of the Cooperative. No Director shall receive compensation for serving the Cooperative in any other capacity, nor shall any close relative of a Director receive compensation for serving the Cooperative, unless the payment and amount of compensation shall be specifically authorized by vote of the Board or the service by such Director or close relative shall have been certified by the Board as an emergency measure.

ARTICLE V.
MEETINGS OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 1. Regular Meetings.
A Regular Meeting of the Board may be held without notice, immediately after the adjournment of the Annual Meeting of the members, or as soon thereafter as convenient. A Regular Meeting of the Board shall also be held monthly at such date, time and place as the Board may provide by resolution. Such Regular Monthly Meeting may be held without notice other than such resolution fixing the time and place thereof; provided, however, that any Board Member absent from any meeting of the Board at which such a resolution initially determines or makes any change in the date, time or place of a Regular Meeting shall be entitled to receive written notice of such determination or change at least five (5) days prior to the next meeting of the Board.
SECTION 2. Special Meetings.
Special Meetings of the Board may be called by the President or by any three (3) Directors and it shall thereupon be the duty of the Secretary to cause such notice of said meeting to be given as hereinbefore provided. The President or the Directors calling the meeting shall fix the time and place for the holding of the meeting.

SECTION 3. Meetings by Teleconference.
Regular or Special Meetings of the Board may be by teleconference if conducted in accordance with State Law pertaining thereto.

SECTION 4. Notice of Directors’ Meetings.
Written notice of the time, place and purpose of any Special Meeting of the Board shall be delivered to each Director not less than five (5) days previous thereto, either personally or by mail, by or at the direction of the Secretary, or upon a default in duty by the Secretary, by the President or the Directors calling the meeting. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail addressed to the Director at his/her address as it appears on the records of the Cooperative, with postage thereon prepaid. Written notice may also be made by electronic mail (E-mail), provided that the Director has provided the Cooperative in advance with his or her E-mail address and consents to said notice by electronic mail.

SECTION 5. Quorum.
A majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum, provided that, if less than such majority of the Directors is present at said meeting, a majority of the Directors present may adjourn the meeting from time to time; and further, that the Secretary shall notify any absent Directors of the time and place of such adjourned meeting. The act of the majority of the Directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board, except as otherwise provided in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VI.
OFFICERS

SECTION 1. Number.
The officers of the Cooperative shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and such other officers as may be determined by the Board from time to time. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be held by the same person.

SECTION 2. Election and Term of Office.
The officers shall be elected by ballot annually, by and from the Board, said election to be held at the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting following
the Annual Meeting, or as soon thereafter as may conveniently be scheduled. Each officer shall hold office until the first meeting of the Board following the next Annual Meeting of the members or until his or her successor shall have been elected and shall have qualified. A vacancy in any office shall be filled by the Board for the unexpired portion of the term.

SECTION 3. Removal of Officers and Agents by Directors.
Any officer or agent elected or appointed by the Board may be removed by the Board whenever in its judgment the best interests of the Cooperative will be served thereby. The officer against whom such charges have been brought shall be informed in writing of the charges at least ten (10) days prior to the Board Meeting at which the charges are to be considered and shall have an opportunity at the meeting to be heard in person or by counsel and to present evidence in respect to the charges; and the members of the Board bringing the charges against him/her shall have the same opportunity.

SECTION 4. President.
The President shall:
(a) Be the principal executive officer of the Cooperative and, unless otherwise determined by the members or the Board, shall preside at all meetings of the members and the Board;

(b) Sign, with the Secretary, any deeds, mortgages, deeds of trust, notes, bonds, contracts or other instruments authorized by the Board to be executed, except in cases in which the signing and execution thereof shall be expressly delegated by the Board or by these Bylaws to some other officer or agent of the Cooperative or shall be required by law to be otherwise signed or executed; and

(c) In general, perform all duties incident to the office of President and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board from time to time.

SECTION 5. Vice President.
In the absence of the President, or in the event of his/her inability or refusal to act, the Vice President shall perform the duties of the President, and when so acting, shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the President. The Vice President shall also perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him/her by the Board.

SECTION 6. Secretary.
Except as otherwise provided by the Board or these Bylaws, the Secretary
shall be responsible for:

(a) Preparing Minutes of Board and Member meetings;

(b) Authenticating the Cooperative’s records; and

(c) Affixing the Cooperative’s seal to a document authorized and approved by Board members

(d) In general, performing all duties incident to the office of Secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him/her by the Board.

SECTION 7. Treasurer.
Except as otherwise provided for by the Board or these Bylaws, the Treasurer shall perform all duties and have all responsibilities; and may exercise all authority prescribed by the Board.

SECTION 8. Manager/Chief Executive Officer.
The Board shall retain a Manager who may be, but who shall not be required to be, a member of the Cooperative. This individual may also be designated as a Chief Executive Officer or Executive Vice President. The person so retained shall perform such duties and shall exercise such authority as the Board may, from time to time, vest in him/her.

The Treasurer and any other officer or agent of the Cooperative charged with responsibility for the custody of any of its funds or property shall be bonded or insured in such sums and with such surety as the Board shall determine. The Board, in its discretion, may also require any other officer, agent or employee of the Cooperative to be bonded or insured in such amount and with such surety as it shall determine.

SECTION 10. Compensation.
The powers, duties, and compensation of officers and agents of the Board shall be fixed by the Board.

SECTION 11. Reports.
The officers of the Cooperative shall submit at each Annual Meeting of the members reports covering the business of the Cooperative for the previous fiscal year. Such reports shall set forth the condition of the Cooperative at the close of such fiscal year.
ARTICLE VII.
NON-PROFIT OPERATIONS

SECTION 1. Interest or Dividends on Capital Prohibited.
The Cooperative shall at all times be operated on a cooperative non-profit basis for the mutual benefit of its patrons. No interest or dividends shall be paid or payable by the Cooperative on any capital furnished by its patrons.

In the furnishing of electric energy, the Cooperative’s operations shall be conducted that all patrons will, through their patronage, furnish capital for the Cooperative. In order to induce patronage and to assure that the Cooperative will operate on a non-profit basis, the Cooperative is obligated to account on a patronage basis to all its patrons, members and non-members alike, for all amounts received and receivable from the furnishing of electric energy in excess of operating costs and expenses properly chargeable against the furnishing of electric energy. All such amounts in excess of operating costs and expenses at the moment of receipt by the Cooperative are received with the understanding that they are furnished by the patrons, members and non-members alike, as capital. The Cooperative is obligated to pay by credits to a capital account for each patron all such amounts in excess of operating costs and expenses. The books and records of the Cooperative shall be set up and kept in such a manner that at the end of the fiscal year, the amount of capital, if any, so furnished by each patron is clearly reflected and credited in an appropriate record to the capital account of each patron, and the Cooperative shall, within a reasonable time after the close of the fiscal year, notify each patron of the amount of capital so credited to patron’s account. All such amounts credited to the capital account of any patron shall have the same status as though they had been paid to the patron in cash in pursuance of a legal obligation to do so and the patron had then furnished the Cooperative corresponding amounts for capital.

Notwithstanding anything contained herein to the contrary, the Board may divide the business of the Cooperative into one (1) or more various and different departments or pools using rules of reasonable application so that amounts received and receivable from the operation of the Cooperative’s business will be considered proceeds to one (1) or more various departments or pools and each of such departments or pools shall have operating costs and other expenses or deductions properly chargeable to the total proceeds of said department or pool.
All other amounts received by the Cooperative from its operations in excess of costs and expenses shall, insofar as permitted by law, be (a) used to offset any losses incurred during the current or any prior fiscal year and (b) to the extent not needed for that purpose, allocated to its patrons on a patronage basis and any amount so allocated shall be included as a part of the capital credited to the accounts of patrons, as herein provided.

SECTION 3. Retirement of Capital Credits.
In the event of dissolution or liquidation of the Cooperative, after all outstanding indebtedness of the Cooperative shall have been paid, outstanding capital credits shall be retired without priority on a pro-rated basis before any payments are made on account of property rights of members. If, at any time prior to dissolution or liquidation, the Board shall determine that the financial condition of the Cooperative will not be impaired thereby, the capital then credited to patrons’ accounts may be retired in full or in part. The Board shall determine the method basis, priority and order of retirement, if any, for all amounts heretofore and hereafter furnished as capital.

Further, the Board shall have the power to adopt rules providing for the separate retirement of that portion of capital credited to the accounts of patrons that corresponds to capital credited to the account of the Cooperative by organizations in which the Cooperative is a member. Such rules shall (a) establish a method for determining the particular portion of capital credited to each patron for each applicable fiscal year, (b) provide for separate identification on the Cooperative books of the separate portion or portions of capital credited to the Cooperatives’ patrons, (c) provide for appropriate notification to patrons with respect to the separate portions of capital credited to their accounts and (d) preclude a general retirement of these separate portions of capital credited to patrons for any fiscal year prior to the general retirement of other capital credited to patrons for the same year or of any capital credited to patrons for any prior fiscal year.

The retirement of capital credits of any patron may be applied to any obligation that the patron may owe the Cooperative for any services or products purchased from or through the Cooperative.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of these Bylaws, the Board, at its discretion, shall have the power at any time upon the death of any patron, who was a natural person, if the legal representatives of his/her estate shall request in writing that the capital credited to any such patron be retired prior to the time such capital would otherwise be retired under the provisions of these Bylaws, to retire capital credited to such patron immediately upon
such terms and conditions as the Board, acting under policies of general application and the legal representatives of such patron’s estate shall agree upon; provided, however, that the financial condition of the Cooperative will not be impaired thereby. The death of either spouse who is a party to a joint membership shall constitute a termination of said membership and shall be treated in all manners as the death of any other patron for early retirement of patronage capital as provided for in these Bylaws.

When a patron is no longer receiving electric service from the Cooperative, the Board, in its sole discretion, is authorized to apply any capital credits of the former patron, discounted at the rate established for other authorized early retirement of capital credits, against any obligations that the patron may owe the Cooperative for any services or products purchased from or through the Cooperative.

SECTION 4. Assignment of Capital Credits.
Capital Credits to the account of each patron shall be assignable only on the books of the Cooperative pursuant to written instructions from the assignor and only to successors in interest or successors in occupancy in all or a part of such patron’s premises served by the Cooperative unless the Board, acting under policies of general application, shall determine otherwise.

If the member ceases to receive electric service from the Cooperative and two (2) or more names appear on the membership record, the Capital Credits shall be assigned in the first name mentioned unless otherwise arranged and stated in writing between or among them.

In the event of the death of one of the joint members, patronage shall be assigned and vested in the name of the surviving joint member. If any married couple as members are divorced or legally separated, the Capital Credits shall be assigned and vested in the name of the member who continues to directly occupy or use the premises covered by the membership unless informed by a Court having jurisdiction over the matter to the contrary.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of the Bylaws, if any patron or former patron fails to claim any cash retirement of Capital Credits or other payment from the Cooperative, then such failure shall be and constitutes an irrevocable assignment and gift by such patron of such capital credit or other payments to the Cooperative.

Failure to claim any such payment within the meaning of this section shall include the failure of such patron or former patrons to cash any check mailed
to patron by the Cooperative at the last address furnished by patron to the Cooperative.

The assignment, gift or forfeiture of Capital Credits shall become effective only upon the expiration of the time and in the matter and under the conditions provided by the state law applicable to the Member’s capital credit allocation.

The Notice by mail herein provided shall be one mailed by the Cooperative to such patron or former patron at the last known address. If Notice by publication is given, such publication shall be one insertion in a newspaper or the Cooperative newsletter circulated in the service area of the Cooperative.

The sixty (60) day period following the giving of such Notice, either by mail or publication, shall be deemed to terminate sixty (60) days after the mailing or publication of such Notice.

**SECTION 5. Other Patronage Allocations.**
In the event that the Cooperative should engage in the business of furnishing goods or services other than the delivery of electric energy, all amounts received and receivable therefrom which are in excess of costs and expenses, properly chargeable against the furnishing of such goods or services, may be allocated annually and returned to the patrons of this Cooperative, or may be used by the Cooperative as permanent, non-allocated capital. In addition, all amounts allocated to the Cooperative from other organizations that furnish services, supplies or products to the Cooperative may be allocated annually and returned to the patrons of this Cooperative, or may be used by the Cooperative as permanent, non-allocated capital. The Board of Directors shall determine the method, basis, priority and order of retirement, if any, for all such amounts heretofore or hereafter allocated to the patrons of this Cooperative.

**ARTICLE VIII. ENCUMBERING OR DISPOSING OF PROPERTY**

**SECTION 1. Encumbering Cooperative Property.**
The Board shall have full power to authorize the execution and delivery of a mortgage or mortgages, or a deed or deeds of trust of, or the pledging or encumbering of any or all of the property, assets, rights, privileges,
licenses, franchises and permits of the Cooperative, whether acquired, or to be acquired, and wherever situated, as well as the revenues therefrom, all upon such terms and conditions as the Board shall determine, to secure any indebtedness of the Cooperative to the United States of America or any agency or instrumentalities thereof, or any other lender.

SECTION 2. Other Disposition.
Except as provided in Section 1 of this Article, the Cooperative may not sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of all or a substantial portion of its property, unless such sale, lease, or other disposition is authorized by the affirmative vote of not less than a majority of all members of the Cooperative; members voting thereon must be present and vote in person; provided, however, that notwithstanding any other provisions of this Article, or any other provisions of law, the Board may, upon the authorization of a majority of all members of the Cooperative at a meeting of members thereof, called for that purpose, sell, lease or otherwise dispose of all or a substantial portion of its property to another cooperative or to the holder or holders of any notes, bonds or other evidences of indebtedness issued to the United States of America or any agency or instrumentality thereof or any other lender.

ARTICLE IX.
SEAL

The Corporate Seal of the Cooperative shall be in the form of a circle and shall have inscribed thereon the name of the Cooperative and the words “Corporate Seal.”

ARTICLE X.
FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

SECTION 1. Contracts.
Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, the Board may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents, to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name and on behalf of the Cooperative, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

SECTION 2. Checks, Drafts, etc.
All checks, drafts and other orders for the payment of money, and all notes, bonds or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the Cooperative shall be signed, and/or countersigned by such officer or officers, agent or agents, employee or employees of the Cooperative and in such a
manner as shall from time to time be determined by resolution of the Board.

SECTION 3. Deposits.
All funds except petty cash of the Cooperative shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the Cooperative in such banks, governmental entities or other institutions as the Board may select.

SECTION 4. Fiscal Year.
The fiscal year of the Cooperative shall begin on the first day of January of each year and shall end on the thirty-first day of December in the same year.

ARTICLE XI.
MISCELLANEOUS

SECTION 1. Membership in Other Cooperatives.
The Cooperative shall not become a member of or purchase stock in any other organization without an affirmative vote of the members at a duly held meeting, the notice of which shall specify that action is to be taken upon such proposed membership or stock purchase; provided, however, that the Cooperative may upon the authorization of the Board, purchase stock in or become a member of any corporation or organization organized on a non-profit basis for the purpose of engaging in or furthering the cause of rural electrification, or of any other organization, when in the opinion of the Board such membership will promote the interest of the Cooperative.

SECTION 2. Waiver of Notice.
Any member or Director may waive in writing any notice of a meeting required to be given by these Bylaws, either before or after such meeting. The attendance of a member or Director at any meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting by such member or Director, except in case a member or Director shall attend a meeting for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business on the grounds that the meeting has not been lawfully called or convened.

The Board shall have the power to make and adopt such policies, rules and regulations, not inconsistent with law, the Articles of Conversion or these Bylaws, as it may deem advisable for the management of the business and affairs of the Cooperative.

SECTION 4. Accounting System and Reports.
The Board shall cause to be established and maintained a complete accounting system which, among other things, and subject to applicable laws and rules and regulations of any regulatory body, shall conform to generally accepted accounting standards. The Board shall also after the close of each fiscal year cause to be made by a certified public accountant a full and complete audit of the accounts, books and financial condition of the Cooperative at the end of such fiscal year. A report of such audit shall be submitted to the members at the next following Annual Meeting.

SECTION 5. Area Coverage.
The Board shall make diligent effort to see that electric service is extended to all unserved persons within the Cooperative’s service area who (a) desire such service, and (b) meet all reasonable requirements established by the Cooperative as a condition of such service.

Unless otherwise provided in these Bylaws, the rules of parliamentary procedure as provided in “Roberts Rules of Order” shall govern the conduct of all meetings of the Board and meetings of members of the Cooperative.

SECTION 7. Credentials and Election Committee.
The Board shall, at least ten (10) days before any meeting of the members, appoint a Credentials and Election Committee consisting of not less than five (5) nor more than eleven (11) members who are not close relatives or members of the same household of a Director. In appointing the Committee, the Board shall have regard for equitable representation of the several areas served by the Cooperative. It shall be the responsibility of the Committee to pass upon all questions that may arise with respect to the registration of members, to count all ballots cast in any ballot vote taken, and to rule upon the effect of any ballots irregularly marked. The Committee’s decisions on all such matters shall be final.

SECTION 8. Capital Reserve.
The Cooperative may establish and maintain a capital reserve for the purpose of providing a reserve against which this Cooperative may charge losses and other charges.

SECTION 9. Indemnification.
The Cooperative shall indemnify a director, officer, agent or employee who is a party to a proceeding by reason of being a director, officer, agent or employee to the extent permitted under law.
ARTICLE XII.
AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed by the members at any Annual or Special Meeting by the affirmative vote of a majority of those members voting thereon. A copy of the proposed alteration, amendment, or repeal, or a statement specifying the nature of the proposed alteration, amendment, or repeal shall be mailed to all members in the same manner and time as is provided for Notice of the Annual Meeting. Any amendment which is germane to the proposed alteration or amendment specified in the notice and submitted at such meeting may be acted upon at said meeting with the same force and effect as though it had been contained in the notice of the meeting.

SECTION 2. Initiated Amendments.
Proposed alterations, amendments, or repeals to the Bylaws may be initiated by the members by filing with the Cooperative at least sixty (60) days prior to the date of such Special or Annual Membership Meeting, a petition signed by at least ten (10) percent of the members of the Cooperative, setting forth the proposed alterations, amendments or repeals and requesting that same be submitted to the membership for approval or rejection. Upon receipt of such a petition, the Cooperative shall give notice of said proposed alterations, amendments or repeals as provided herein and submit same to the membership for rejection or approval at the next Annual or Special Meeting thereof.

ARTICLES OF AMENDMENT TO ARTICLES OF CONSOLIDATION, ARTICLES OF CONVERSION AND ARTICLES OF MERGER OF SIOUX VALLEY-SOUTHWESTERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

ARTICLE I.
The name of the Corporation is SIOUX VALLEY-SOUTHWESTERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

ARTICLE II.
The address of the principal office of the Corporation is Box 216, Colman, South Dakota 57017.
ARTICLE III.
The Cooperative was converted to a rural electric cooperative from a consolidated corporation pursuant to the Electric Cooperative Act of South Dakota, Chapter 33 of the Laws of 1947. The Directors of the converted Cooperative were HARVEY J. BLY of Brandon, South Dakota; WARNER BOYD of Madison, South Dakota; LUTHER EGAN of Chester, South Dakota; L.W. ELLEFSON of Sherman, South Dakota; WILLIAM HASVOLD of Flandreau, South Dakota; W.C. KOBALL of Hartford, South Dakota; FLOYD LEE of Colman, South Dakota; LOUIS LORENTSON of Egan, South Dakota; ADOLPH QUAIL of Volga, South Dakota; E.G. SANDERSON of Aurora, South Dakota; and LEROY ULLMAN of Brookings, South Dakota.

ARTICLE IV.
The names and addresses of the existing Directors of SIOUX VALLEY-SOUTHWESTERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC., are HENNING HANSEN of Elkton, South Dakota; EUNICE BARTELS of Jasper, Minnesota; JAN BOBENDRIER of Pipestone, Minnesota; MARK ROGEN of Sherman, South Dakota; GARY DROST of Luverne, Minnesota; DIAN HOVEN of Colton, South Dakota; ERNEST KROEGER of Hartford, South Dakota; DAVID LARSEN of Sinai, South Dakota; BRUCE MARTINSON of Jasper, Minnesota; CURTISS NELSON of Wentworth, South Dakota; and CLIFF NOCK of Valley Springs, South Dakota.

ARTICLE V.
To the fullest extent permitted by South Dakota Codified Laws, as the same may exist or may hereafter be amended, a Director of this Corporation shall not be personally liable to the Corporation or its members for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a Director.

ARTICLE VI.
The Cooperative shall have such powers as are authorized for rural electric cooperatives, pursuant to Chapter 47-21 South Dakota Compiled Laws, as amended from time to time.