

# COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

## Let's Go Fly a Kite

**Brookings Kite Festival  
Creates Excitement**

Pages 8-9

**Cooperative Metering**

Pages 12-13

*Photo Credit: Visit Brookings*

# July Update



**Melissa Maher**  
Manager

Your board selected Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2024, as the date for the 78th annual meeting of your cooperative. This meeting will be held in Timber Lake at our new headquarters facility shop. Members interested in running for a board position will have until July 22 to file a nominating petition for the election which will be held at the annual meeting.

Three director positions (each for a three-year term) are up for election: District #1 – Clint Clark from Morristown; District #3 – Larry Hieb from Timber Lake; and District #4 – Robert Keckler from Eagle Butte. Members from each district will receive a letter mailed from our office on June 20 – announcing the vacancy.

June is the month for Moreau-Grand to pay the generation tax (based on kilowatt hour sales) to our counties where it is then dispersed to the area schools. The total amount to be paid by Moreau-Grand in June is \$203,776.72 which represents kilowatt hour sales in 2023. The following is a breakdown by county:

- Corson County: \$56,253.08
- Dewey County: \$117,862.88
- Ziebach County: \$27,750.09
- Meade County: \$32.04
- Perkins County: \$1,878.63

Beginning June 10, your cooperative will be going live with an outage management system (OMS) provided by our software provider. This system has been in the planning stages for a couple of years now. The objective is to provide real-time data on outages throughout our system for all employees electronically. It allows for more accurate tracking of our outage data throughout the year which is reported to our banker (RUS) in the annual year-end report. This information will also be available for the membership at the SDREA Outage Map website – <https://outages.sdrea.coop/outages/maps>

Tyler Olson was promoted to Journeyman Lineman status on May 1. Ty originally received a degree from power lineman school at Mitchell Technical College prior to coming to work at your co-op. Once employed, Ty was then enrolled in the Northwest Lineman College where he completed tests over a four-year period with a final test taken at the end of each year's course. In addition, he had to document 8,000 hours of service to complete the state requirements. Congratulations, Ty, for achieving your Journeyman Certificate. Ty is an essential member of the team that provides the service we have come to expect.



Until next month – looking forward to the summer months ahead – moving into the new headquarters facility.

COMPARATIVE REPORT	Current (April 2024)	1 year ago (April 2023)	10 Years Ago (April 2014)	% Change in 10 years
Number of Meters	7,149	7,121	6,770	6%
Kilowatt Hours Sold	8,731,303	7,953,993	8,603,394	1%
Cost of Purchased Power	\$466,331	\$528,643	\$460,804	1%
Overall Ave. Rate / kWh Per Member	0.1169	0.1162	0.1059	10%

## AG APPRECIATION EVENT AT THE CENTRAL STATES FAIR

<p><b>WHEN:</b> AUGUST 20TH 5-6:30PM</p>	<p><b>WHERE:</b> MONUMENT HEALTH STAGE <small>*LOCATED INSIDE THE FAIRGROUNDS</small></p>		<p><b>WHAT:</b> -FREE MEAL -FREE FAIR ENTRANCE* -NIGHT AT THE RODEO* <small>*MORE DETAILS TO COME *RODEO TICKETS SOLD SEPARATELY</small></p>
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**COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS**

**MOREAU-GRAND ELECTRIC**

(USPS No. 018-951)

**Manager:** Melissa Maher

**Editor:** JJ Martin, Member Services and IT Director

**Directors**

- Ryan Maher, President
- Kerry McLellan, Vice President
- Geralyn Hahne, Secretary-Treasurer
- Lois Bartlett
- Clint Clark
- Larry Hieb
- Bob Keckler
- Paul Lawrence
- Royce Walker
- Troy Wall

**Attorney:** John Burke

**Management Staff:**

- Kent Larson, Operations Superintendent
- Josh Lemburg, Assistant Operations Superintendent
- Kyrie Lemburg, Finance Officer
- Jamie Jones, Accountant

MOREAU-GRAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is published monthly by Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative, PO Box 8, 405 Ninth St., Timber Lake, SD 57656-0008, for the members of electric cooperatives across South Dakota. Families subscribe to Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative Connections' purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to electric cooperative members on matters pertaining to rural electrification and better rural living.

Subscription information: Electric cooperative members devote 50 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Nonmember subscriptions are available for \$12 annually. Periodicals Postage Paid at Timber Lake, S.D., and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative Connections, PO Box 8, Timber Lake, SD 57656; Phone (605) 865-3511; Fax (605) -865-3340; e-mail mge@mge.coop; Web site www.mge.coop. This institution is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

Design assistance by SDREA

# May 21, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes and March 2024 Financial Information

The May 21, 2024, board of directors' meeting was held at the Timber Lake office with the following directors present: Bartlett, Clark, Hahne, Hieb, Keckler, Lawrence, Maher, McLellan, Walker and Wall, and others present: Manager Maher, Finance Officer Lemburg (Delegated Recorder of Minutes) and Attorney Burke.

The Member Services Report was given by JJ Martin, which included finishing the Neon Leon presentations at local schools, attended the Eagle Butte School Job Fair, substation maintenance, new headquarter facility network update, awarded the Director Scholarship to Elijah Brewer of Dupree School, and upcoming ice cream socials.

The Large Power Users Report was given by Manager Maher, which included topics on large power usage and payments.

The Operations Report was given by Manager Maher, which included substation outages, damaged and broken poles caused by farm equipment, storm related outages, Kent, Brock and Ethan attended a Safety Leadership Summit, and Outage Management System training.

Manager Maher gave the Managers report, which included Tyler Olson obtained his Journeyman Lineman certification, solar installation, checking account was compromised and a new account has been opened. 2023 year-end statistic cards were distributed, received Rushmore Electric capital credits of \$23,455.96, Load Management and Savings Reports for March, EPA litigation update, new Basin Electric Vice President of Government Relations, and thank you notes.

Director McLellan gave the Bylaw Committee meeting report.

Manager Maher contacted USDA with questions and provided an update on the zero-interest revolving loan fund. MGEC currently has one loan fund established. If MGEC wishes to offer additional zero-interest loans, a new application would need to be submitted, a 20% match would be required, and it is a competitive

program.

The board discussed the 2024 annual meeting, which included continuing the Good Neighbor Award and no guest speaker.

The board discussed the CFC Integrity Fund, in which the CFC Board of Directors voted not to seek contributions for the fund this year.

The board discussed and registered for the Basin Electric annual meeting scheduled for August 14-15, 2024, in Bismarck.

The SDREA Board Leadership Summit will be held August 26, 2024, in Pierre. Directors Bartlett and Keckler expressed interest in attending.

Director McLellan gave the Rushmore Electric Board meeting report, which included a Basin Electric easement update, Rushmore Electric financials, WAPA and Basin Electric rate increase projections, Basin Electric financials, Rushmore Electric capital credits, continued discussion of the renewable energy credits, and Rushmore Electric annual meeting in June.

For the roundtable discussion, Director Bartlett presented a sketch drawing by Jay Jones of local area residents and asked if the board wants to display it in the new headquarter facility. Director Hahne stated if the board was not interested, she would display it at the Trail City Community Hall. It was the consensus of the board to allow Director Hahne to display the sketch in Trail City.

Accountant Jamie Jones presented the updated vacancy notices and petitions for signature.

Board approved the following: the agenda, the minutes from the April meeting as amended, new members, refunds, line extensions, financial statistics, disbursements, safety report, no changes to the bylaws, selected October 9 in Timber Lake for the 2024 annual meeting, Director Walker as voting delegate and Director Bartlett as alternate delegate at the Basin Electric annual meeting, and Work Order Inventories #1013-1033 in the amount of \$1,412,233.68.

The next board meeting was scheduled for June 18, 2024, at 8:30 a.m., in the Timber Lake office.

<b>MARCH 2024 FINANCIAL INFORMATION</b>			
	<b>MARCH '24</b>	<b>MARCH '23</b>	<b>YTD 2024</b>
<b>Operating Revenues</b>	<b>\$1,134,094</b>	<b>\$1,275,036</b>	<b>\$3,722,697</b>
<b>Cost Of Power</b>	<b>\$614,701</b>	<b>\$632,249</b>	<b>\$1,989,690</b>
<b>Cost Of Electric Service</b>	<b>\$1,160,435</b>	<b>\$1,219,542</b>	<b>\$3,758,538</b>
<b>Margins</b>	<b>\$(3,155)</b>	<b>\$80,761</b>	<b>\$16,352</b>
<b>Kwh Purchased</b>	<b>10,656,147</b>	<b>11,767,504</b>	<b>33,906,646</b>
<b>Kwh Sold</b>	<b>8,877,528</b>	<b>10,856,083</b>	<b>30,938,768</b>

# Fireworks Safety

Summer is synonymous with barbecues, parades and fireworks. The National Safety Council advises everyone to enjoy fireworks at public displays conducted by professionals, and not to use any fireworks at home. They may be legal but they are not safe.

Every year, thousands of people are injured badly enough to require medical treatment after fireworks-related incidents, with many of the injuries to children and young adults. While the majority of these incidents are due to amateurs attempting to use professional-grade, home-made or other illegal fireworks or explosives, less powerful devices like small firecrackers and sparklers can also cause significant injury.

Additionally, fireworks start an average of 19,000 fires each year.

### Fireworks Safety Tips: If You Choose to Use Legal Fireworks

If consumer fireworks are legal to buy where you live and you choose to use them, be sure to follow the following safety tips:

- Never allow young children to handle fireworks
- Older children should use them only under close adult supervision
- Never use fireworks while impaired by drugs or alcohol
- Anyone using fireworks or standing nearby should wear protective eyewear
- Never hold lighted fireworks in your hands
- Never light them indoors
- Only use them away from people, houses and flammable material
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person
- Only light one device at a time and maintain a safe distance after lighting
- Never ignite devices in a container
- Do not try to re-light or handle malfunctioning fireworks
- Soak both spent and unused fireworks in water for a few hours before discarding
- Keep a bucket of water nearby to fully extinguish fireworks that don't go off or in case of fire
- Never use illegal fireworks

Better yet, grab a blanket and a patch of lawn, kick back and let the experts handle the fireworks show.

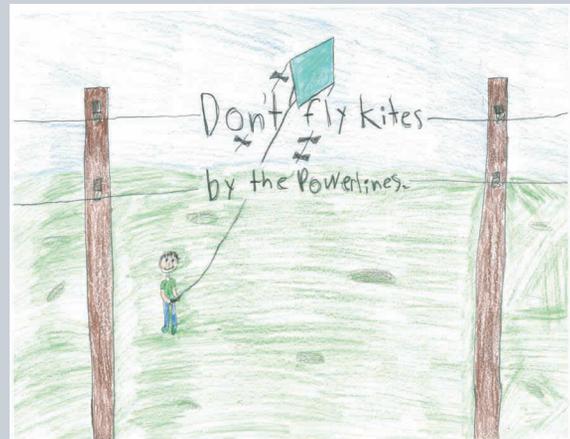
### Sparklers Are Dangerous

Every year, young children can be found along parade routes and at festivals with sparklers in hand, but sparklers are a lot more dangerous than most people think.

Sparklers burn at about 2,000 degrees – hot enough to melt some metals. Sparklers can quickly ignite clothing, and children have received severe burns from dropping sparklers on their feet. According to the National Fire Protection Association, sparklers alone account for more than 25% of emergency room visits for fireworks injuries. For children under five years of age, sparklers accounted for nearly half of the total estimated injuries.

Consider using safer alternatives, such as glow sticks, confetti poppers or colored streamers.

*Source: National Safety Council*



**“Let’s Go Fly a Kite Up to  
the Highest Heights.”**

### Eldon Femrite, Age 12

Eldon Femrite warns readers to not fly kites by power lines this summer. Eldon’s parents are Jody and Rosemary Femrite, members of Codington-Clark Electric.

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you’ll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.

# DELICIOUS Desserts

## NO CHURN ICE CREAM

### Ingredients:

2 cups heavy cream  
14 oz. sweetened condensed milk  
Other mix-ins as desired

### Method

In a mixing bowl, whip heavy cream until stiff peaks form.

Mix in sweetened condensed milk and any flavors/mix-ins you like (strawberries, Oreos, lemon, vanilla extract, etc.).

Pour into loaf pan and freeze until solid (2+ hours).

Kayla Beaner  
Centerville, S.D.

## CINNAMON PECAN PIE

### Ingredients:

1 refrigerated pie crust, (from 14.1-oz. pkg.)  
3 eggs, lightly beaten  
1 cup firmly packed light brown sugar  
1 cup light corn syrup  
2 tbsps. butter, melted  
1 tsp. cinnamon extract  
1 1/2 cups pecan pieces

### Method

Preheat oven to 350°F. Prepare pie crust as directed on package for one-crust pie using 9-inch pie plate.

Mix eggs, sugar, corn syrup, butter and cinnamon flavor in large bowl until well blended. Stir in pecans.

Pour into crust. Bake 50 to 55 minutes or until knife inserted halfway between center and edge comes out clean. Cool completely on wire rack.

McCormick.com

## RHUBARB PIE

### Ingredients:

#### Crust

1-2 cups flour  
1/2 stick butter or margarine  
1/4 cup water

#### Pie

3 tbsps. butter or margarine  
1 cup sugar  
3 eggs, separated  
2 tbsps. flour  
1/2 tsp. salt  
2 1/2 cups cut rhubarb  
Smucker's caramel sundae syrup

### Method

**Crust:** Add ingredients and knead to complete pie crust. Amounts will vary due to humidity. Knead dough into pie pan and poke holes into the bottom as needed. You may make creative edges as you wish, however it is not necessary.

**Pie:** Soften butter or margarine and stir together with the sugar, egg yolks, flour, and salt. Beat egg whites until stiff. Add rhubarb and fold in the egg whites. Add the filling to the 8-inch, unbaked pie crust. You may add a drizzle of Smucker's sundae syrup for additional flavoring before baking. Bake in oven set at 400 until golden brown. You may also add more caramel syrup to pie after baking for ultimate effect.

Lisa Kummer Soukup  
Tea, S.D.

Please send your favorite recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2024. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

# Signs Your HVAC is in Trouble



**Miranda Boutelle**  
Efficiency Services  
Group

**Q:** How do I know if my HVAC system is malfunctioning?

**A:** Your heating, ventilation and air conditioning system is one of the most important and expensive systems in your home. Detecting issues early can help you plan for repairs or equipment replacement.

Equipment functionality issues can affect your electricity use, which may result in higher energy bills. The age of your equipment can be a major factor in function. The lifespan of a heating and cooling system ranges from 15 to 20 years.

Proper maintenance and lower use can increase the life of the equipment. To find out the age of your system, look for the manufactured date printed on the unit's nameplate. If you can't find it, search online using the model number or call the manufacturer.

Being thrifty by nature, I typically subscribe to the notion of "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." That said, I also believe in being prepared for the inevitable. If your system is approaching or past the 20-year mark, start saving for a new system and get replacement estimates.

There are a few warning signs to watch out for if your heating and cooling system needs to be repaired or replaced:

- **Air conditioning is not as cool as usual.** If the air from your air conditioner is warm or not as cool as it usually feels, the equipment has an issue. It could be a problem with the compressor or a refrigerant leak. Contact a professional to get the issue checked. Many refrigerants, especially the ones used in older systems, are harmful to the environment. Fix leaks before adding more refrigerant. Special certifications are required for handling refrigerants, so hire a professional to ensure the work is done properly.
- **Low airflow.** If you aren't getting good airflow, it could be an easy fix, such as filter replacement or opening closed dampers. If you've made these fixes and airflow is not at normal levels, contact

a professional. There could be a bigger problem with a motor, fan or something else.

- **Bad odors.** Heating and cooling systems sometimes smell when you first start them up for the season. Those smells should be minor and dissipate quickly. Any serious smells – such as burning metal, melting plastic or noxious odors – are a sign that your system is in trouble. If you smell those odors, turn your system off immediately and contact a professional.
- **Strange noises.** There is typically noise associated with the fans and motors in heating and cooling systems. Take note of any excessive or new noises. If your system is making any clunking, clanging or whistling noises, turn it off and check the filter. If that doesn't solve it, reach out to a pro.
- **Running frequently.** Your system needs to run more to keep up on extreme weather days, but there might be an issue if it runs too often. Short cycling is when a system cycles on and off before completing the heating or cooling process. Contact a professional to diagnose this issue.

Several factors come into play when deciding to fix existing equipment or invest in new equipment. Consider the severity of the issue, repair costs, the likelihood of additional repairs, equipment lifespan and your budget.

The efficiency of your existing system is also a consideration. Heating and cooling technology improvements have come a long way in the last 20 years. Lower operation costs can offset the cost of a new system over time.

Consider your options before you are in desperate need. I recommend getting estimates from at least three contractors. Ask the contractor, "If this was your home, what type of system would you install and why?" The best solution for your home might be a different type of equipment.

# From East River to Missouri River

## Tom Boyko's 2,400-Mile Canoe Journey

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

What's a former CEO of East River Power Cooperative to do after they retire? For Tom Boyko, retirement after 37 years in the electric industry and serving nine years as East River's chief executive officer meant an opportunity to embark on a well-earned canoe odyssey from the headwaters of the Missouri River in Three Forks, Mont., to St. Louis, Mo., with his son, Jacob Boyko, who accompanied his father for a portion of the journey.

According to Boyko, the 2,400-mile trip had been brewing in his mind for a long time, so when he retired at the end of August 2023, he wasted no time planning and executing his adventure, jumping from his cozy office chair to his canoe in just six months.

"I grew up on the Missouri in Stanton, N.D., so I've been wanting to do this trip forever," said Boyko. "It's just something I've always wanted to do."

Boyko continued, "At first, my family didn't think I would follow through. But through the winter, I built a tank so I could sit and practice paddling, day after day. Then they realized I was going to do it. My wife and daughter actually drove Jacob and I out to Montana. They weren't sure I was going to make it all the way, and they thought we might call it quits, but we didn't."

Having read the journals of Lewis and Clark, Boyko wanted to follow in the pioneering duo's footsteps along the Missouri River. However, instead of relying on the historic travelers' accommodations, Boyko took a more modern approach to his journey with modern provisions, including a canoe packed to the brim with packets of chicken and tuna, boxes of mac and cheese, a valuable cache of instant coffee, a tent, two propane stoves, and many other supplies.

"I got ahold of David Miller's book, *The Complete Paddler*, and he really went through, step-by-step, what he experienced when he went down the Missouri River," said Boyko. "He logged the locations of the campgrounds and included a lot of great information, so it was a great book to have with."

Armed with the knowledge to navigate hordes of flies and mosquitos, unpredictable summer storms, and the channels of the Missouri River, Boyko launched his expedition on May 16 with his son, who had just graduated college with a degree in Journalism from South Dakota State University. Jacob had also just won a Pulitzer fellowship for a writing project about the Matanza Riachuelo River in Buenos Aires, Argentina. As a result, Jacob left the Missouri River expedition in Williston, N.D., to explore his own river-centric journey in Argentina. The rest of the trip, Tom tackled solo.

"When you get to be a dad like me, you just so appreciate the



Tom Boyko stands with his son, Jacob, at Tobacco Gardens Resort & Marina, a campground in McKenzie County, N.D. Photo submitted by Tom Boyko.

opportunity to do something like this with your son," said Boyko. "He enjoyed it, and he plans to finish the trip at some point in his life. And the cool thing is that every guy my age I met on the trip said the same thing, 'I wish I could have done that with my son.' I was very fortunate, and I very much appreciate that he came with me."

Although Boyko tackled most of the trip by himself, he did have help along the way. Boyko received help from family, friends, and co-workers from the co-op industry when portaging his canoe over the many dams along the way.

"My brother portaged me around Garrison Dam," said Boyko. "Jordan Lamb, the general manager of Oahe Electric, helped me portage Oahe Dam. Russell Gall with Charles-Mix Electric and Ervin Fink, a former director of East River, helped me through Fort Randall. Stephanie Horst with Bon Homme Yankton paddled Lewis and Clark Lake with me. Even my family came down and to help me portage Gavin's Point. It was great to see friends and family along the way."

Even bolstered by the help of friends, the trip wasn't always smooth sailing. Over the course of his 98-day journey, Boyko traversed strong winds and high waves on Lake Oahe, which forced him to ground his canoe and camp along the beaches of the reservoir. He drifted through oppressive 114-degree heat in Missouri and navigated past large barge traffic. There was even a rowdy raccoon who helped himself to some mac and cheese – all part of the adventure.

"I started packing the canoe when it became evident that a raccoon had been in my canoe during the night and ate through one of my food dry bags leaving mac and cheese noodles and orange cheese throughout the boat," wrote Boyko in his travel journal. "What a mess."

But it wasn't all bad. Boyko said he met some great people and found some real gems along the way.

"I worked for the Western Area Power Association for many years, so I was very familiar with the river and the dams... but when you are actually canoeing it, you get a different appreciation," said Boyko. "It's a beautiful river."

## KITE FESTIVAL



*Photo Credit: Visit Brookings*

# Let's Go Fly a Kite

**Shannon Marvel**

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The sky becomes more of an art canvas during the Brookings Kite Festival. For the last 25 years, kite fliers from across the country gather to let their art take flight at the festival.

One of those artists is Mike Gee of North Dakota.

“We go down there to Brookings and really like the kite flying field there. It’s just nice to come down and fly kites with friends who also enjoy flying kites,” Gee said.

Gee flies what’s called “show kites”, which are big, inflatable kites that can span 20 feet across the sky.

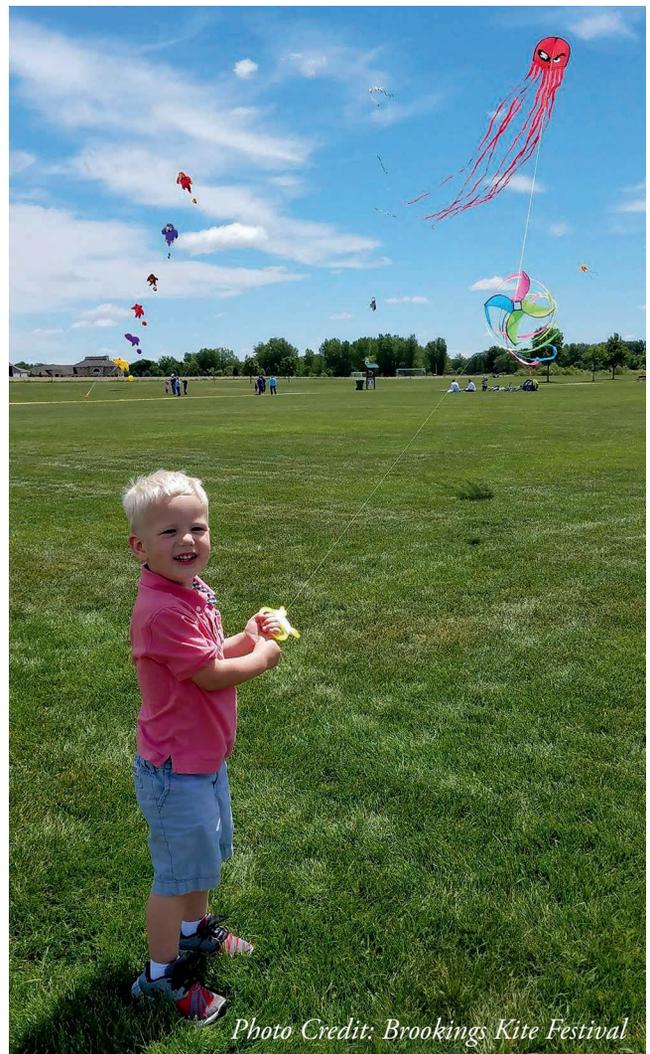
There are other kites flown during the festival, including soft kites, stick kites and sport kites.

A sport kite is one that is attached to two or four lines. Often they’ll be flown in teams and perform maneuvers in the sky.

“If you talk about crazy kites, there’s a wide variety. There are so many different creative people building things in creative ways,” Gee said. “It is definitely an art. It’s what you put on the canvas that makes it special.”

The kites are typically made with nylon, sail making cloth that doesn’t stretch.

“You can’t just go to the fabric store and buy tent fabric. We have a couple different weights of fabrics we use. And you need that tail on there to keep the kite stable,” Gee said.



*Photo Credit: Brookings Kite Festival*



*Photo Credit: Brookings Register*

Sally Damm Norby, of the Brookings Optimists Club, said the festival got its start when Lynn Versher, former director of the South Dakota Art Museum, approached Optimist member Bill Flynn about creating a joint effort to bring big kites to Brookings.

“This volunteer organization aims to make a positive impact on the lives of youth and communities. The Brookings club’s primary focus is on advancing the opportunities and programs for youth events that are encouraging with exceptional supportive outcomes. The Brookings Optimist Kite Festival offers a comprehensive learning experience that incorporates expressions of culture, science, creativity, civic involvement, and is

environmentally friendly,” Norby said.

Youth are encouraged to come down and learn how to make a kite of their own, with professional guidance.

Gee said he encourages visitors to come up to kite fliers to ask questions or strike up a conversation.

“One thing I really like about kite flying is it seems like no matter who you talk to on the field, someone can relate to an experience of flying a kite,” Gee said. “When we start flying kites, it brings back memories of when other folks were kids flying kites. It’s kind of emotional for some people.”

This year’s event will take place on June 22-23 at the Fishback Soccer Park in Brookings.

Gee said this location is a safe spot to fly kites, and well away from any electrical line hazards.

“If you’ve flown kites long enough, you have a story about power lines. When you hit a line, you call the power company, and they advise you of what to do. The best thing to do is avoid those wires. I always think, ‘If my line breaks, which way is my kite going to go and what’s over there,’” Gee said.

Gee encourages visitors to come down to the Brookings Kite Festival with their lawn chairs and blankets and stay for more than just a half hour.

“The thing is when the wind changes direction or speed, the kites change. There’s just so much going on throughout the day. You’ve really got to sit back and pay attention,” Gee said.



*Photo Credit: Visit Brookings*

# New Outage Management System



**JJ Martin**  
Member Services  
and IT Director

Moreau-Grand Electric has recently implemented Outage Management System (OMS). Over the course of the last year, cooperative employees, namely Josh Lemburg, have committed to checking and revising our data. In cooperation with Rushmore Electric's GIS service and National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC), we were able to accurately map out our entire system into a connectivity model, including our substations, phases, feeders, breakers, fuses, transformers, and meters.

OMS is a platform that we can use to input outages and dispatch crews to restore those outages. Members will call in outages like they already do. We will enter those outages into the system, and if those outages match pre-determined criteria, the system will predict causes upstream. If the entered outages share equipment or protective devices (i.e., transformers, fuses, breakers, etc.), an outage will be posted, and crews can be dispatched accordingly.

Of course, deducing outage causes based on incoming calls

already happens. Your operations crew knows the service area better than anyone, so homing in on a root cause is second nature to them.

Every outage is documented on an interactive map, used by both office personnel and linemen. That map data is integrated with a statewide outage map. Members can watch the restoration efforts on a computer or smart phone.

When a call comes in, the outage is created in OMS, and any relevant information is included. Not only does this aid those entering outages for future calls from the same member, but it also helps linemen in the field. Any observations that the member relays to the office can be added in OMS, such as hearing a loud bang when the power went out or lights flickering several times. We can add padlock combos or optimal routes, so crews can get where they need to be quickly and safely. This is all valuable information for the line crew when restoring power.

The linemen will be able to further utilize their tablets in the field. By using the interactive map, the crew can add their own relevant information to an outage. After physically restoring the power, they can enter it as restored in OMS. Almost instantaneously, the outage will be changed to restored in the system, with appropriate timestamps and codes included, significantly expediting our record-keeping process.

The goal here is to further reduce outage times. We have continually upgraded our system and added protective devices and switches to our infrastructure. We will still be able to isolate outages to minimize those affected by an outage, but now we can reduce the overall time of the outage further. OMS is allowing us to return power to you, our member-owners, with the least amount of disruption possible.



# Director Petitions Due

Individuals who are interested in running for the Moreau-Grand Electric board of directors will have from June 20, 2024, through July 22, 2024, to file a nominating petition for the election to be held at the annual meeting. All candidates from a district must have the qualifying petition with 10 or more signatures in a Moreau-Grand office by 4 p.m. July 22, 2024, to be on the ballot for that district.

The three director positions up for election this year are:

- **District 1 – Clint Clark from Morristown;**
- **District 3 – Larry Hieb from Timber Lake;**
- **District 4 – Bob Keckler from Eagle Butte.**

It is important for the members to start thinking about candidates early. Petitions may be picked up at the Moreau-Grand headquarters in Timber Lake. A member can sign only one nominating petition and must reside in the district of the member running for the board position. All signatures will be validated upon receipt of the nominating petition.



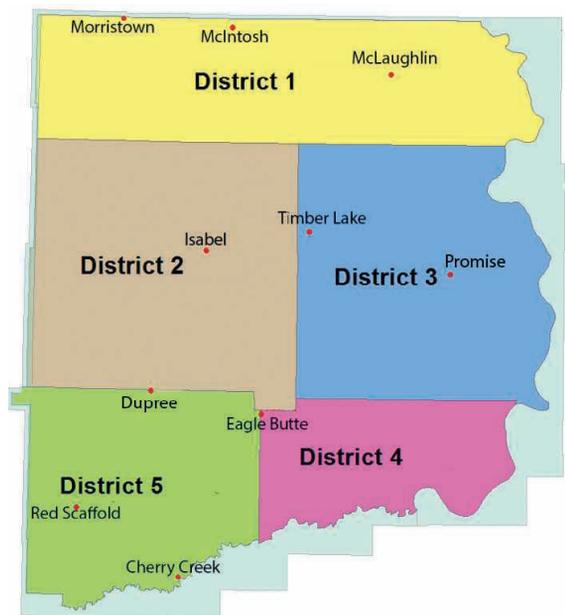
**Clint Clark**  
District 1



**Larry Hieb**  
District 3



**Bob Keckler**  
District 4



## Section 3 Qualifications

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a Director who:

- (a) is not a member and bona fide resident of the district from which he is elected.
- (b) is in any way employed or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures, or supplies to the Cooperative.
- (c) is not receiving electrical service from the Cooperative at their principal place of residence.

- (d) is an employee of the cooperative, or spouse or child, parent, brother or sister, by blood or marriage of such an employee. Should a disqualification occur subsequent to election, the director, notwithstanding any other provisions of these bylaws, shall be permitted to complete the term of office. This provision shall be in effect for elections occurring after 1997.
- (e) Has failed to attend at least 2/3 of all regular board meetings during any twelve (12) month period.
- (i) No absence from a board of directors meeting occasioned by jury duty or active military service shall be considered when applying this provision.
- (f) Has pled guilty or has been convicted of a:
  - (i) felony,
  - (ii) any crime involving dishonesty, or
  - (iii) any crime involving moral turpitude.
- (g) Is a spouse or child, parent, brother or sister, by blood or marriage, of a then current Director.



# COOPERATIVE METERING

**Roger Lawien**

More than 40 cooperative linemen and metering specialists gathered in Pierre for South Dakota Rural Electric’s Meter School. This two-day gathering offers the opportunity to enhance skills, build a community of professionals, and learn the nuances of metering. As our need for more energy continues to grow, so does how we properly meter consumption.

Modern electric meters do much more than keep track of the electricity we consume. Correct electric metering is also essential for grid reliability and stability. Accurate measurements aid your cooperative in identifying and addressing issues such as voltage fluctuations or load imbalances promptly.

This proactive approach enhances the resilience of the electrical grid, reducing the likelihood of outages and ensuring a continuous and reliable power supply. At its core, accurate metering ensures fair and precise billing, preventing financial disputes and establishing trust between cooperatives and members.

From an economic standpoint, correct electric metering plays a pivotal role in resource allocation allowing member owned cooperatives to better understand consumption patterns, enabling them to optimize energy distribution and invest strategically in infrastructure development. This, in turn, leads to more efficient operations, cost savings, and improved overall service quality.

Precise metering supports energy conservation.

Members can sign into their account online, view consumption. Armed with accurate usage data they are empowered to make informed decisions about their energy consumption. This encourages responsible energy usage practices, reducing waste and lowering overall demand.

Metering guru and instructor John Pollard said it best. “These training schools are important. Metering is a craft handed down from generation to generation. With the advances of solid-state metering, these students are the supreme candidates to lead us into the future.”

Your electric cooperative is your partner in getting it done!



2023 SDREA Meter School Instructors Photo by Roger Lawien

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# What is a Smart Meter?

A smart meter is a common term for Automated Metering Infrastructure, or AMI. These are connected devices that transmit information back to the electric utility's meter data management system and the information collected is used primarily for billing and outage response purposes. Smart meters started to be installed about 25 years ago. Individual utilities have different aged systems, but all electric cooperatives in South Dakota have two-way communication with every meter in the system.

## What advantages do Smart Meters bring?

Before smart meters were installed, customers were required to read their own analog meter and report their monthly usage for billing purposes, or a utility employee would physically travel to every home, farm or business in their large service territories to read usage data. Smart Meters take the burden off customers and employees, saving time and money for all consumers. In some cases, the aggregated energy usage information from their home can be visible to the customer via the Internet or a phone application.

- Smart Meters can be used to pinpoint exact locations of power outages more quickly by transmitting an “out of power” notification, meaning a faster response time to outages.
- Smart Meters allow information to be shared with individual consumers about their energy usage – allowing them to find energy efficiency opportunities or potential problems in their home.
- Smart Meters improve electric service reliability and power quality. Information obtained from the automated meters often identifies problems that can be repaired before they cause an outage.
- Information can be used by engineers to more effectively and appropriately size lines and transformers, saving the cooperative and members money.

## What information does a Smart Meter record?

Automated meters record an electronic kilowatt-hour (kWh) reading, the date and time of energy usage, the overall peak demand of the electric account, if the meter has been tampered with, and the number of times the meter has experienced a loss of power.

## Security of information

Electric cooperatives do not sell or share consumer data. Cooperatives abide by all laws regarding the privacy, protection and disclosure of personal information. The meters and associated communications systems are equipped with security features to prevent unauthorized access.

## Are there potential health impacts from a smart meter?

Research conducted by the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), the Utilities Telecom Council (UTC) and other similar groups have shown no health impacts from automated meters. The radio frequencies emitted by digital meters are well below the maximum recommended in federal guidelines. A digital meter equipped to send and receive data has an RF density hundreds of times lower than the RF density of a cell phone, and the meters are installed on the outside of homes or buildings.



# Paddling to the Arctic

## The Legacy of Dick Davidson and the South Dakota Canoe and Kayak Association

**Frank Turner**

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

**GOALS**

To travel from South Dakota to the Arctic by canoe in one season. This is obviously no small challenge. If the season is giving, the added goals of reaching Alaska and even reaching both the Arctic Ocean (Beaufort Sea) and the Pacific Ocean (Bering Sea) would be added as noted later in 'Trip Segments'.

**PARTY**

A party of one in a solo canoe (at this time and likely during the trip).

**GEAR**

All gear will be carried at the start of the trip and only replacement gear (hopefully none) will be purchased in route. The gear must and will serve in all conditions of the trip, including weather ranging from hot, sultry days to possible blizzard conditions, including canoeing circumstances like numerous whitewater ascents and great lakes travel.

**FOOD**

Most food will be purchased in route. Resupply points will range from modern to basic. The incidence of points, after Lake Winnipeg, will range from several days to three or four weeks.

**SUPPORT**

None.

These are the original notes of outdoor activist and local canoe legend Dick Davidson, detailing his ambitious 1988 journey from South Dakota to the Arctic Circle by canoe. Embarking from Big Stone Lake, the 58-year-old from Sioux Falls attempted to paddle and portage his canoe 4,300 miles over several months through Canadian rivers and streams. Unfortunately, fires and drought in Manitoba prevented him from seeing reaching his goal. Even still, the ambitious journey captured Davidson's commitment to living a life dedicated to outdoor expeditions.

Davidson passed away in Sioux Falls in 2009, but his legacy and passion for canoeing live on through what is now known as the South Dakota Canoe and Kayak Association, a nonprofit

outdoor recreation organization he founded in 1981. Unlike his solo adventures through the Canadian wilderness, Davidson established the association alongside several co-founders, canoe enthusiasts, and friends, including founding member Dave Greenlee of Sioux Falls.

Although the group participated in races, canoe building, and conservation activism, Greenlee noted that the group mainly gathered mostly “for the sheer fun of canoeing.”

But they weren't just enthusiasts, this group of committed canoers were fanatics, appealing to all types of canoers from time-tested adventurers like Davidson to the casual outdoor enthusiast. Many of the founding members of the club would look for any opportunity to canoe, even taking to streams in near-freezing temperatures.

“Sometimes in the early spring season when the ice was still out, we would check the rain gauges after a quick rain to see if there was enough flow to enable a quick opening run for our canoes over the ice,” said Greenlee.

Another founding member, Tom Behrend, recalled crafting his own canoes and paddles from scratch, often gifting his creations to friends and enthusiasts for just the cost of the supplies.

“I would hold a class every year on how to build a canoe,” said Behrend. “A group of 10 to 15 of our members would meet every Thursday night in the winter time in somebody's heated garage. We would build these beautiful canoes with caned seats and all the goodies and then raffle them off once they were finished. It was a great way to raise money for the nonprofit.”

For the less devout, the association offered events catered to amateurs, offering downstream floats and river-bound birdwatches. Greenlee recalled organizing an introductory canoeing instructional for blind individuals. The experience, he said, was incredibly rewarding, both the participants and the instructor had something to learn.

“I had been asked a couple of times to lead a canoeing instructional for the Girl Scouts,” said Greenlee. “Then somebody said, ‘We have a group of individuals who are visually impaired who want to learn what canoeing is like.’ I was used to teaching young kids who just want to get out on the water and flail around and paddle, but this group was actually interested in learning about the canoe.”

Greenlee continued, “I remember taking one of the individuals out onto the water and saying ‘I'm going to turn to the left here and now we are facing West.’ He said, ‘I know that.’ So, I asked, ‘How do you know that?’ And he said, ‘I know the direction because I can feel the sun on my face.’ How many times had I been in a canoe, looking at the shore and landmarks, but I never realized that I could close my eyes and tell which direction I was going by feeling the sun on my face... He was teaching me.”

Today, the South Dakota Canoe and Kayak Association is still the state's premier paddling group, promoting safety,



A photo from an old article in the Argus Leader highlighting the preparations of Davidson's attempted 4,300 mile trip to the Arctic Circle by canoe. Photo by Mike Roemer, circa 1988. Courtesy of the Argus Leader.

education, conservation, and paddling outdoors. With roughly 100 members from across the state, the association centers around amateur paddling events, safety and outreach. Recent safety efforts include entry-level canoeing lessons and the association's recent WEAR IT campaign, which successfully installed more than 50 safety signs along recreation areas of the Missouri River encouraging kayakers and canoers to wear lifejackets.

“We host educational pool sessions across the state in Watertown and Sioux Falls where we practice falling out of the kayak and canoe and getting back in,” said Pat Wellner, the association's current president. “It's all about encouraging safe practices while enjoying the outdoors.”

Wellner encouraged outdoor enthusiasts of all levels to join the association by visiting the association's website at [sdcka.org](http://sdcka.org).

“Having the lakes and rivers of South Dakota is a great way to see the state from a different perspective that many don't get to see,” said Wellner. “If anyone is interested in becoming a member, I would encourage them to check out the website, and when you are on the water, please wear a life jacket.”

## REGISTER TO WIN!

Bring this coupon and mailing label to the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives booth at Dakotafest or the South Dakota State Fair to win a prize!

Your Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Your E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_



**Aug. 24**  
**2024 McCrossan Boys Ranch Xtreme Event Rodeo**  
McCrossan Boys Ranch Campus  
Sioux Falls, SD  
605-339-1203

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.

**JULY 1-4**  
**Annual Black Hills Roundup**  
7 p.m.  
Black Hills Roundup Grounds  
Belle Fourche, SD  
605-723-2010  
blackhillsroundup.com

**JULY 5-7, 12-14, 19-21**  
**Laura Ingalls Wilder Pageant**  
Prairie Girl: Laura's Dakota Stories  
Gates open 6 p.m.  
Performance at 8 p.m.  
\$15 adults, \$10 kids 6-12  
Theater on the Prairie  
De Smet, SD

**JULY 5-7**  
**Badlands Astronomy Festival**  
10 a.m.-11:30 p.m.  
Ben Reifel Visitor Center  
Interior, SD  
605-433-5243

**JULY 7-12**  
**Deadwood 3 Wheeler Rally**  
All day  
Deadwood Event Complex  
Deadwood, SD  
800-274-1876 ext 1103

**JULY 13**  
**Sanford Lab Neutrino Day**  
9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Sanford Lab Visitor Center  
Lead, SD  
605-722-8650

**JULY 14-18**  
**Dakota 600**  
8 -11 a.m.  
Black Hills National Forest  
Rapid City, SD  
605-645-1756  
dakota600.com

**July 19**  
**Zucchini Fest**  
5 p.m.  
Main Street  
Bristol, SD  
605-590-0000

**JULY 19-20**  
**Storybook Land Festival**  
4-8:30 p.m. on Friday  
10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday  
Storybook Land in Wylie Park  
Aberdeen, SD  
605-626-7015

**JULY 19-20**  
**Farley Fest**  
All day  
Lake Farley Park  
Milbank, SD  
605-432-6656

**JULY 19-20**  
**Cookin' on Kameska**  
All day  
Admission \$10  
Stokes-Thomas Lake City Park  
on Lake Kameska  
Watertown, SD  
605-886-5814

**JULY 26-28**  
**Bruce Honey Days**  
5k walk/run, parade,  
cookouts, craft show, 3-on-3  
basketball tournament, street  
dance and more.  
Jay Street  
Bruce, SD  
605-627-5671

**July 27**  
**South Dakota Chislic Festival**  
10 a.m.-9 p.m.  
Freeman Prairie Arboretum  
Freeman, SD  
605-496-9946

**AUG. 6-8**  
**IDEAg's Farmfest**  
8 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Redwood County, MN  
651-316-4369

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