

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

Hot Air Balloons

**Festival Gains
Popularity**
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*Photo provided by
Petra Wilson, owner
of Western Horizons
Hot Air Balloons.*

August Update



Melissa Maher
Manager

I wish to dedicate my column this month in memory of Kelly Landis. Kelly passed away on June 25, after complications from a stroke on June 1. Kelly was elected to the Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative board in October of 2017. In October of 2020, Kelly became Secretary/Treasurer of your board. Just this past June, Kelly was selected to become Moreau-Grand Electric's director on the Rushmore Electric Cooperative Board. Due to this tragedy, Kelly never got to fulfill this latest title.

Kelly's knowledge and retention of information surpassed anyone I've ever known. For those who knew Kelly – you will smile while reading this. Kelly maintained a yellow tablet since the first day he started on the board. He brought this tablet to each board meeting in his "Mike's Hard Lemonade" box. When discussions called for it – Kelly would pull out his well-used tablet going directly to the page of notes which explained the topic at hand. This happened numerous times over the years – so it was no one-time fluke – he retained everything he learned and could prove so when questioned.

Kelly's allegiance to firm power in the generation mix was never hidden. He believed in coal fired generation and had all the intellectual reasons to back it up and was always willing to defend this position at any venue. He understood the importance of electricity and maintaining the reliability of such in all kinds of weather conditions.

Kelly had a servant's heart, he loved people and making a difference in their lives. In addition to his love for your cooperative, Kelly also shared his commitment to various other organizations. He was a Director for TC&G (Trail City & Glencross Water Association); the Trail City Fire Department; and the Trail City Community Hall Board. He made a difference in each organization as he put his whole heart into the cause. When a neighbor or someone passing through was in need – Kelly is who they called

anytime of the day, and he promptly came to their rescue.

Kelly was an ardent supporter of our new headquarters building. He saw the big picture and wanted to set your Co-op up for years of success. A year ago, I stumbled across this quote from Abraham Lincoln,

"I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives,

I like to see a man live so that his place will be proud of him".

Wow, does this quote describe Kelly. The large attendance at his funeral service was a testament to how Kelly touched many lives in his short 61 years here on earth. People from all walks of life were proud to call Kelly their friend – he was proud of where he lived and it was evident that the place he lived was proud of him!

I for one am very glad to have known Kelly. May God Bless Kelly's memory in all our hearts. He will be missed.



COMPARATIVE REPORT	Current (May 2023)	1 year ago (May 2022)	10 Years Ago (May 2013)	% Change in 10 years
Number of Meters	7,121	7,113	6,783	5%
Kilowatt Hours Sold	7,019,761	6,875,694	6,168,539	14%
Cost of Purchased Power	\$430,150.68	\$407,378.47	\$322,169.14	34%
Overall Ave. Rate / kWh Per Member	0.1185	0.1193	0.1094	8%

**COOPERATIVE
CONNECTIONS**
**MOREAU-GRAND
ELECTRIC**

(USPS No. 018-951)

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Member Services Update



Roger Lawien

Member Services
and IT Director

This will be my last article as your Director of Member Services and IT. Writing this has truly been a trip down memory lane. We often take the modern conveniences that we enjoy for granted. I remember interviewing a wonderful woman from the Morristown area that attended her first annual meeting in the early 1950s and won an electric clothes iron. It was nearly nine months after the meeting that crews from the newly formed cooperative were able to build a power line to her rural home so she could enjoy the convenience of ironing her clothes with electricity. Or the lady from rural Dupree that as the crews were getting ready to leave her yard after restoring power from an ice storm came running out, apron on, with fresh baked cookies and a big hug. She wanted to get them to us before we left so she baked them on her gas grill.

We have hundreds of stories like these. I believe we have some of the very best members anywhere. You, our member/owners, have dragged us through mud, snow, and adverse conditions helping us get power restored. When there was a need to get the word out to our congressional representatives concerning issues that would adversely affect the cooperative you were there. Then, now, and into the future, you continue to be an integral part of your cooperative.

I was recently lamenting to a good friend and former colleague about all the work that needed to be done and he said, "Roger, there was a tremendous amount of work to be done when you came to the cooperative and there'll be a tremendous amount of work to be done when you leave." He was correct as this is a job that's never completed, but I leave knowing that from the board room to the front office to the linemen in the field you have a team of dedicated professionals that tirelessly work to bring you safe, affordable electricity 24 hours a day/seven days a week/365 days a year.

Working with your board of directors, Melissa, Kent and your team have created a truly modern utility serving homes, farms, and businesses in an area covering 6,945 square miles. Planning, building, and maintaining over 3,580 miles of line to the most important part of our cooperative – you, our member/owners.

The past two months, I have been working with and helping train two extraordinary men that I am confident will take our cooperative to the next level. Josh Lemburg and JJ Martin have not only stepped up to the plate but are knocking it out of the park with their knowledge and expertise. West river country is home to my wife Kris and I, and we have no plans on leaving. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve you. I will forever be grateful for the many members I now call friends.

Thank you, and I wish you Godspeed.

Working Out in the Heat

Exercising outdoors is a great way to enjoy the sunshine and warmer weather of summer. But you'll need to take some extra precautions to stay safe. Here are some do's and don'ts for working out when temperatures climb.

DO: Stay hydrated

Drink plenty of water before, during and after your workout to prevent dehydration and help regulate body temperature. Nicole Thompson of the American Council on Exercise recommends slowly drinking water or sports drinks about four hours before exercising. Aim for 1 ounce for every 11 pounds of body weight – so 10 ounces for a 110-pound person or 20 ounces for a 220-pound person.

Weigh yourself before and after working out to determine how much fluid you need to replace. The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics recommends drinking 2-3 cups of water for every pound lost.

DON'T: Drink products containing alcohol

Alcohol is a diuretic, so it contributes to dehydration.

DO: Wear lightweight and breathable clothing

Choose light-colored and loose-fitting clothes made of moisture-wicking materials. This'll help keep you cool and dry.

DON'T: Wear dark colors or heavy fabrics

Dark-colored clothing can absorb heat and trap it against your body.

DO: Wear sunscreen

The key number to look for on your sunscreen is the sun protection factor. An SPF of 15 filters out about 93% of UVB rays, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, while an SPF of 30 will filter out around 97%. Look for "broad spectrum" on the label to protect against UVA and UVB rays.

Apply sunscreen 15 or 20 minutes before going out (check the instructions on the label). Reapply every two hours – or more frequently if you're sweating a lot. Don't forget about your ears, lips and any bald spots on your scalp – they need protection, too.

DON'T: Work out during the hottest times of the day

The sun is at its strongest between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., so try to schedule workouts for earlier in the morning or later in the afternoon. Remember, you can always work out inside and in an air-conditioned area if needed.

DO: Know the signs of heat-related illness

Symptoms of heat exhaustion include:

- Nausea and dizziness
- Headaches
- Feeling weak

A weak or rapid pulse

Cold, clammy skin

If you experience any sign of heat exhaustion, move to a cool place, loosen your clothing, put cool and wet cloths on your body or take a cool bath, and sip water, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says. Get medical help if your symptoms don't go away after an hour, if your symptoms worsen or if you're throwing up.

Symptoms of heatstroke include:

A body temperature of 103° F or higher

Hot, dry, bright red or damp skin

Labored breathing

A fast, strong pulse

Headache, dizziness, nausea or confusion

Loss of consciousness

Heatstroke is an emergency. If you suspect it, call 911 immediately.

DON'T: Overdo it

Adjust your workout intensity to account for the heat and listen to your body's cues. Shorter workouts are good when temperatures rise. Allow your body to get used to the heat. Then you can gradually increase your time outdoors and exercise intensity.



Don't pull the cord!

Gabrielle Clement, Age 10

Gabrielle Clement advises people it's not safe to pull the cord when disconnecting appliances from an outlet. Gabrielle is the daughter of Dustin and Michelle Clement from Box Elder, S.D., members of West River Electric Association.

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.

Savory Summer SALADS

GRAPE SALAD

Ingredients:

2 lbs. red seedless grapes
2 lbs. green seedless grapes
1-8 oz. cream cheese (softened)
1 cup sour cream
1 cup sugar
1 tsp. vanilla
1 cup brown sugar
1 cup chopped pecans

METHOD

Wash and dry grapes. Mix cream cheese and sour cream. Add sugar and vanilla. Mix well. Fold in grapes. Place in 9x13 pan. Sprinkle with brown sugar and pecans.

Angie Ruiter

Sioux Falls, S.D.

CHICKEN SALAD

Ingredients:

1/2 cup plain lowfat yogurt
2 tbsp. mayonnaise
1 tsp. parsley flakes
1/2 tsp. seasoned salt
1/4 tsp. pure ground black pepper
1/2 rotisserie chicken, cut into bite-size chunks (about 2 cups)
1/2 cup thinly sliced celery
1/4 cup chopped red onion

METHOD

Mix yogurt, mayonnaise, parsley, seasoned salt and pepper in large bowl. Add chicken, celery and onion; toss to coat well. Cover. Refrigerate at least 30 minutes or until ready to serve. Serve in sandwiches or on salad greens.
mccormick.com

CORN CUCUMBER SALAD

Ingredients:

2 cans whole kernel corn (drained)
1 cup diced, unpeeled and seeded cucumbers
1/4 cup chopped red onion
1/3 cup mayonnaise
2 tbsp. chopped fresh cilantro
2 tbsp. grated Parmesan cheese
2 tbsp. lime juice
1 tsp. paprika
1/2 tsp. garlic salt
1/4 tsp. ground cumin

METHOD

Mix corn, cucumber and onion in large bowl. Set aside. Mix remaining ingredients in small bowl until well blended. Add to corn mixture; toss lightly to coat. Cover. Refrigerate 2 hours or until ready to serve.

mccormick.com

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 2023. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

June 20, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes and April 2023 Financial Information

The June 20, 2023, board of directors' meeting was held at the Timber Lake office with the following directors present: Bartlett, Clark, Hieb, Keckler, Lawrence, McLellan, Walker and Wall, directors absent: Landis and Maher and others present: Manager Maher and Finance Officer Lemburg (Delegated Recorder of Minutes).

The Large Power Users monthly report was given by Stephanie Bartlett, which included topics on large power usage and payments.

A Member Services report was given by JJ Martin, which included topics on training with Roger and attending the Rushmore Electric Annual Meeting. Roger gave a Member Services Report, which included topics on upcoming ice cream socials, utilizing the Rushmore Electric solar trailer for demonstrations at a few ice cream socials, meter training with Josh and member services training with JJ, homebuyers education training, solar project updates, and Line Patrol donation statistics.

The Operations report was given by Kent Larson, which included topics on Boldt Power working on the Isabel transmission line, underground line update, Keldron substation outage for MDU switch maintenance, underground faults, new bucket truck arrived to replace Truck 8, and linemen interviews being conducted.

Manager Maher gave the Managers report, which included an update on Director Landis, update on the installation of EV charging stations in MGEC's service territory, FEMA payments received and still pending, new headquarters facility update, MGEC's application for IJA Grant funds through a NRECA consortium to replace 15 miles of transmission line from Eagle Butte to the Green Grass area was denied, no update available on RUS loan application, history of Bylaw amendments, thank you note, Basin Electric financials, and correspondence.

The Board discussed the SDREA Co-op Board Leadership

Summit scheduled for Aug. 21, 2023, in Pierre. No Directors expressed interest in attending.

Manager Maher shared information regarding the CFC manager-director position for District 6.

The Board discussed and registered for the Basin Electric Annual Meeting scheduled for Aug. 16-17, 2023, in Bismarck, N.D.

The Board discussed the Rushmore Electric Board position currently held by Director Landis. This matter will be revisited at the July meeting.

Director Lawrence gave the Rushmore Electric Board meeting report, which included financial reports, Rushmore Communications margins, load control program, CFC Integrity Fund donation, 2024 annual meeting date, updates on other Rushmore Electric cooperatives, IJA Grant updates, Basin Electric update and Director Lawrence received a plaque of appreciation for his time served on the Rushmore Electric Board.

Director Bartlett gave the Rushmore Electric Annual Meeting report, which included interesting speakers.

Manager Maher gave the Rushmore/Basin Electric Managers meeting report, which included a trip to the Basin Electric headquarters, roundtable discussions, and a tour of the Basin Electric generation facilities.

The Board discussed the NRECA Regional Meeting scheduled for Sept. 12-14, 2023, in Des Moines, IA. Directors McLellan and Clark expressed interest in attending.

Board approved the following: the agenda, the minutes from the May meeting, the minutes from the May Bylaw Committee meeting, new members, refunds, line extensions, financial statistics, disbursements, safety report, Cost-of-Service Study, a general capital credit retirement in December, Buddy and Helen Neigel as the recipients of the "Good Neighbor" award, offering a purchase price for Lot 1, Block 18 in the City of Timber Lake, submit vote for

the RESCO Director Election, Director Clark as voting delegate and Director Bartlett as alternate voting delegate at the Basin Electric Annual Meeting, and Vice-President McLellan will assist Secretary-Treasurer Landis until he can return or until his term ends, whichever occurs earlier.

The next board meeting was scheduled for July 18, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. in the Timber Lake office.

April 2023 Financial Information			
	APRIL '23	APRIL '22	YTD 2023
Operating Revenues	\$1,030,098	\$1,036,601	\$4,835,877
Cost Of Power	\$528,643	\$522,098	\$2,150,142
Cost Of Electric Service	\$1,037,745	\$1,044,431	\$4,402,273
Margins	\$7,909	\$(5,143)	\$503,964
kWh Purchased	8,976,218	9,163,834	43,434,290
kWh Sold	7,918,080	8,231,579	40,367,454

EMPOWERING ENTREPRENEURS

Four Bands Community Fund fosters prosperity

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

Empowering Native American communities and fostering economic growth, Four Bands Community Funds is a nonprofit working to create opportunities on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation and beyond. With service footprint spanning all communities on Cheyenne River from Dupree, Eagle Butte, Timber Lake, and Isabel, as well as serving entrepreneurs from Rapid City to Sioux Falls, the fund strives to assist others in achieving their own financial goals. Whether it's for an aspiring small business entrepreneur seeking a successful launch or an individual looking to improve their own financial situations, Four Bands Community Fund has a range of programs in place to provide support.

At the forefront of the nonprofit is Lakota Vogel, who serves as the executive director of Four Bands Community Fund. Born and raised on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation, Vogel joined the fund in 2011 and later assumed the role of executive director in 2015, further defining and advancing the nonprofit's mission within her hometown community.

The roots of the nonprofit reach back to 1999 when a forward-thinking group of representatives from the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe and local community members came together to empower their local artist community. They established a new nonprofit, offering accessible, small-dollar loans to local artists residing on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation. The success of the nonprofit laid the groundwork for new and exciting avenues of support.

"We are an institution that believes in educating people and meeting them where they are at," said Vogel. "A lot of our initial efforts focused on engaging in conversations with the community about money,



Four Bands Community Fund's team of highly qualified staff.

including the youth."

Over time, the scope of the nonprofit's finance campaign expanded to encompass nearly every aspect of personal and business finance, including business lending, financial empowerment, youth entrepreneurship, small business development. Recognizing a need for support beyond the boundaries of the reservation, the Four Bands Community Fund extended the availability of its small business resources beyond the limits of the reservations in 2013, allowing all tribal member entrepreneurs across the entire state of South Dakota to access their small business loans.

Every incremental step toward progress has amounted to a significant impact for members the Cheyenne River Reservation community. To date, the nonprofit has distributed 611 business development loans, amounting to nearly \$21.3 million with default rates under 3%. Among the success stories that have blossomed from the community fund is Kelsie Kay Haskell, a business owner in Eagle Butte.

Entrepreneurial in nature, Haskell approached the community fund with a few business ideas. Noticing the absence of a coffee shop in Eagle Butte, Haskell set out to bring that caffeinated amenity to her community in 2019. That's when the community fund offered her support

through their new business incubator program. The business, Kelsie Kay's Coffee Shop, quickly grew.

"In the incubator, she got a small business loan for some equipment, like an espresso machine," said Vogel. "She did so well. During the pandemic, she bought a building in downtown Eagle Butte. She used some of our financing to renovate the building into a coffeeshop."

Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, Haskell's business quickly became one of the earliest success stories from the fund's new program. Today, her business employs eight individuals, including members of youth in the Eagle Butte community. Vogel said Haskell's success has the potential to "change the face of rural America." According to Vogel, Haskell's success properly exemplifies the small yet thriving impact of successful entrepreneurship in rural communities.

"Entrepreneurship is not something that's talked about enough," said Vogel. "Entrepreneurship doesn't have to be large-scale, like wanting to become someone like Mark Zuckerberg, which I think oftentimes are the people that are held up as role models in the business world. In small communities, that's not what entrepreneurship looks like. Success looks like the Kelsie Kay Haskell of the world."



TAKING TO THE SKY

Balloons light up the night during the night glow event of the festival.

Fall River Hot Air Balloon Festival Gains Popularity

Jocelyn Johnson

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It's a picturesque and dramatic spectacle that's awed most people for several hundred years. Yet, spectators and pilots alike have not tired of the image. Hot air balloons have that quality of enchantment. And what better way to be enchanted than to see dozens of these balloons floating up into the sunrise of a South Dakota sky?

The annual Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce Fall River Hot Air Balloon Festival is attracting nearly 30 balloons and thousands of spectators on Aug. 25-27, 2023. The event is taking place at the airport outside of Hot Springs, S.D., where it will celebrate its 8th year of growing popularity. Festival sightseers can pack all-day-fun into their festivities by visiting the vendors, obstacle courses,

bouncy houses, and performances in Hot Springs by Magician Jared Furnau and the Wild Blue Band.

Petra Wilson, a local commercial pilot, founded the festival in 2016 before opening her own flying business – Western Horizons Hot Air Balloons.

“The way I got introduced to ballooning is a tale of serendipity,” said Wilson. “Almost 20 years ago, my husband and I attended a hot air balloon festival in Peoria, Ill., where we are asked to become crew members for a weekend. On the last flight of the weekend, he asked us if we wanted to go for a ride. The ride was absolutely stunning and from that point on we were hooked.”

Wilson became a private pilot in 2014 and a commercial pilot in 2017. In 2015, Wilson and her husband moved to Hot Springs, where she discovered she was the

only hot air balloon pilot flying in the area.

I introduced many different people to ballooning by inviting them out to watch and even crew,” Wilson said. “Some of those people became my students and eventually became hot air balloon pilots in the Hot Springs area.”

When asked how she started the festival, Wilson replied, “I decided this area was such a beautiful place to fly that I wanted to share it with all my ballooning friends and their friends, as well as locals who might appreciate the beauty of the balloons in the sky, so what better way to do this than having a balloon festival.”

The festival started with the partnership between Wilson and Olivia Mears, Executive Director for the Chamber of Commerce in Hot Springs.

Mears said, “Folks from South Dakota, California, Nebraska, Colorado, and more attend this festival. We attract private pilots who fly for their own enjoyment and commercial pilots who are licensed to carry passengers.”

Tamie Shrum, current balloon-meister for Fall River Hot Air Balloon Festival, is a commercial pilot overseeing the safety and regulation of the participating balloons. She travels the world to fly, including six countries and 37 states. Shrum owns three of her own balloons and earns her living flying passengers and training students how to fly.

"I like to do long jump flying, which is long distance flying," said Shrum. "My longest distance is 137 miles in a three-hour flight with a top speed of 78 mph."

Shrum explained that a considerable amount of studying goes into the preparation for a long jump flight. Everything matters – the time of year, time of day, location, and weather patterns.

"We work off of a microscopic level," Shrum said. "A regular person might say, 'It's not that windy today,' but a balloon pilot might say, 'It's too windy to fly today.'"

Describing how balloons fly, Shrum said, "In layman's terms, hot air rises and cold air sinks. You put heat in the

envelope, making it hotter than ambient temperatures which allows it to lift the massive weight it's carrying."

We use a burner with regular propane," Shrum continued. "The amount of propane needed changes based upon ambient temperature, altitude of flight, and how much passenger weight is being carried."

Balloons are simplistic in design but can be challenging to fly.

"You don't steer a balloon...while airplanes fly against the wind, balloons fly with the wind, which can be unpredictable," Shrum explained. "Sometimes you land in a park and sometimes you land in main street."

"I've flown over Pikes Peak in Colorado



Commercial Pilot Tamie Shrum looks below on other balloons while flying.

and in Japan along with many other places," Shrum said. "I've been fortunate to sightsee all over the world from 1,000 feet in the air while others are sightseeing from the surface...but South Dakota is one of the most gorgeous places to fly in."



Commercial Pilot Petra Wilson inspects her balloon.

Roger Lawien Retirement

Billy Gibson

My grandmother had a small ceramic dish that hung above her kitchen sink with the following inscription: “True friends are like diamonds, precious but rare; false friends are like autumn leaves scattered everywhere.”

Roger Lawien is one of those rare diamonds and someone I consider to be a true friend. Roger, who is retiring from Moreau-Grand Electric after nearly a quarter century of service, was a real jack-of-all-trades for the cooperative and a tremendous asset for the members. He helped the co-op achieve its goals and objectives in a number of ways, performing exceptional work in the areas of system technology, safety and loss control, member services, communications and so much more.

I had the pleasure of meeting Roger and getting to know him when I joined the South Dakota Rural Electric Association in Pierre in the spring of 2020. In my role as editor of the statewide version of Cooperative Connections, I had the opportunity to work with co-op communicators from all across the state. Roger clearly stood out among the rest with his outgoing personality, high level of competency, positive attitude and passion for serving others.

I recall attending my first statewide communicators meeting when Roger introduced himself to me right as I walked through the door. He was kind and thoughtful enough to invite this newcomer to dinner later that evening

and made me feel at home. We engaged in a free-wheeling, in-depth conversation that went on well past closing time. I learned that he was a two-time cancer survivor and that we had many common interests such as writing, guitar, video production, church work, motorcycle riding, photography and drone aviation, just to name a few. Our co-op roles kept us in regular contact, and I was fortunate to forge a deeper friendship beyond just another professional colleague.

There have been countless instances where Roger’s exceptional character emerged, but I’ll share just one. I was putting together a story for Cooperative Connections about the South Dakota Rural Electric Line Patrol Fund. Endowed by the state’s electric co-ops and their employees, the Line Patrol Fund is a non-profit charitable organization that raises money for co-op employees and families in times of distress and has distributed well over a half a million dollars.

Roger was among the small group of people who have participated, supported, and helped guide the organization for more than 20 years, and I interviewed



Roger's first day at Moreau-Grand



Roger promoting safety education at local schools

him to discuss how the charity started and his involvement in its growth. I put the story together and completed the layout, a package that included several paragraphs about Roger's role in starting the charity along with a large photo of Roger and his wife Kris astride their Indian motorcycle participating in the annual Line Patrol Charity Ride.

Feeling rather pleased with my work, I sent the layout to Roger for his review. I was bumfuzzled and bamboozled when he immediately seemed to be none too happy with the draft. His usual jovial tone of voice turned decidedly downbeat.

Me: "What's wrong with it, Roger. You don't like it?"

Roger: "Well, I'm just a little uncomfortable with it."

Me: "But why? Frankly, I think this is one of the best stories I've done in a long time. What could be the problem?"

Roger: "Ooooh, I don't know. It's just..." his voice trailing off.

Me: "Tell me, what is it?"

Roger: "Well, I just think it focuses on me too much. I don't want it to be about me. It's kind of embarrassing."

It took quite a bit of effort – including recruiting several supporters to help present my case – to convince him that the story wasn't really about him; it was about the charity, after all, and that 90 percent of the people reading the story across the state would have no idea who he was. I assured him that

it was okay for him to be recognized for all the hard work he has expended over two decades to make the organization an unmitigated success.

But that's Roger. That's just the kind of selfless person he is, and his value to the cooperative and its membership has been immeasurable. To be sure, his contributions also extend well beyond Moreau-Grand's membership and service territory. Throughout his career, Roger has shared his experience and expertise through dozens of statewide training programs so that the succeeding generation of co-op linemen and employees can perform their jobs well and deliver the high quality of service that members expect and deserve.

I worked in the national electric cooperative network for nearly 30 years before recently taking my own retirement. I've collaborated with hundreds of co-op employees all over the country and can attest that my friend Roger stands tall among those who have distinguished themselves in terms of his ability to answer the bell when disaster strikes, to conduct himself with honor and integrity, to always represent the highest ideals of his cooperative's guiding principles, to go the extra mile for the members and to saddle up each and every day and ride for the co-op brand.

During the course of his cooperative career, there have been countless instances where Roger has been called out to respond to storms and natural disasters, countless hours he has spent promoting the cooperative and supporting community events far and wide and countless problems he has solved for members – always and under all circumstances wearing a smile upon his face.

Within the electric cooperative culture, there's something we call "the cooperative spirit." It's the spirit of courage, commitment, resolve, resiliency and service to others. My friend Roger embodies that spirit.

While he may be retiring from his role at MGE, there's no doubt his friends and neighbors in the Timber Lake area will be seeing him around town helping out at public events, performing odd jobs for folks who need a hand, doing charity work and taking his place in the church pew every Sunday morning.

And from time to time, they'll catch a glimpse of him and Kris heading out of town in their recreational vehicle on their way toward their next traveling adventure.

Best of luck in this new and exciting phase of your life, dear friend. Be assured that you have served your members and your cooperative well and your friendship has meant the world to me.



Roger performing large power meter inspection



RACING FAMILY FUN

Go-kart racers in Aberdeen are placed in divisions by age and skill to keep the races competitive. The track usually hosts races twice a month during the summer months. *Photo by Scott Waltman*

Go-kart Racing at Aberdeen Track is a Family Affair

Scott Waltman

Kevin Horn didn't set out to drive to Aberdeen several times a summer so he could race.

Instead, after seeing races on TV, the Waubay mechanic bought a go-kart for his then-9-year-old daughter. But while she was driving, the kart skidded on some wet grass and she hit the kart trailer. After that, she turned the keys over to Dad.

That was about 11 years ago. Horn took his daughter's number 9 and flipped it to make a 6, and he's been racing ever since.

Like others who race at the Aberdeen Karting Club track at the Brown County Fairgrounds, his story has a tie to family, even if it didn't work out exactly as he thought it would.

Karting, racers and organizers say, is a family affair.

Brody Griffin of Watertown is 10 and started karting three years ago.

He makes the rounds, mostly to the closest tracks in Aberdeen, Brookings and Miller. He races just about every weekend during summer, and the allure is simple. Griffin said he just likes driving.

He was named rookie of the year his first season and finished second in his division his second season in Aberdeen.

But it's not all zipping around the track and trying to pass other drivers. Griffin said he helps work on his kart with his father.

That makes sense to Landon Schott, a 24-year-old racer from Aberdeen who is one of the track's most successful drivers. Now that he's a little older, helps with public relations and social media for the track.

When Schott started racing, he said his father made it clear to him that he would be helping work on the kart and had to keep it clean. Karting can be a big financial investment, and his dad wasn't going to spend heaps of money if his son wasn't going to pitch in and be engaged.

Schott, too, said he appreciates the friendly and family atmosphere of karting.

Sponsorships are critical to both the Aberdeen track and its racers, he said. He wouldn't have been able to travel across the country racing without



Josiah Combellick serves as the event's flagman. *Photo by Scott Waltman*

having sponsors since he started driving in 2006, he said.

The Aberdeen track doesn't have any employees, and the Aberdeen Karting Club is a nonprofit group, so contributions are important, Schott said.

Rick Cartney is the vice president of the Aberdeen Karting Club and has been involved with the track since it was founded in 1996. His first race was in Aberdeen that first year, and now he gets to the track to start prep work around 9 a.m. on race days. Races usually start around 4 p.m. and last into the night.

For Cartney, the payback comes from the smiles on the faces of young racers.

"Mainly, it's for the kids," he said.

They do their best racing when they don't win, but they learn, grow and mature, Cartney said.

The Aberdeen track is between an eighth and a 10th of a mile long and is great for young racers who are just

starting out, he said.

There are races in Aberdeen a couple of times a month during summer, with the schedules of other tracks in the region taken into consideration so drivers can make it to as many races as possible. Generally, there are 30 or 40 drivers in Aberdeen, most of them young people, Cartney said.

Starting at the Aberdeen track has served Schott well. He has advanced to grand national events with both the International Karting Federation and Maxxis Kart Racing, finishing as in the top five, but never quite nabbing a championship. Last December, Schott said, he traveled to Daytona, Fla., and raced with about 70 other drivers, never finishing outside of the top 14.

"I guess maybe I'm just an adrenaline junkie," Schott said.

In 2013, as a junior driver, he won a Maxxis regional championship. The event drew drivers from across the nation and is called the Maxx Daddy, he said.

Schott said that and winning an end-of-season state championship in 2021 on his home track in Aberdeen are, at least to date, two of the highlights of his career.

He also won the state championship in 2015 in Brookings.

The state karting championships used to be in Brookings, but have been in Aberdeen in recent years. They return again this year on Aug. 12.

That event will likely draw about 200 drivers from South Dakota and surrounding states, Cartney said. A heavy bronze trophy in the shape of Mount Rushmore goes to the winner.

It will be yet another chance for the karting community to gather. Both Schott and Horn said they have made friends traveling the karting circuit. It's one of the most enjoyable parts of racing, they said, and Cartney agrees.

"These people are like a second family," he said.



Landon Schott helps prepare a go-kart before the races begin in Aberdeen on Saturday, June 17. Schott is one of the most successful racers from the Aberdeen Karting Klub. *Photo by Scott Waltman*



HARVESTING HISTORY

The manual labor of past generations of farmers and ranchers is on display each year at the James Valley Threshing Show each September in Andover.
Photo courtesy of James Valley Threshers Association

Andover Threshing Show Focuses on History of Agriculture With an Eye to the Future

Scott Waltman

Most of the time, the population of Andover hovers somewhere around 65 people.

But during the first weekend of September, there's a parade that usually has four times as many entrants as there are residents.

And when a one-of-a-kind tractor is unveiled, well, the number of visitors swells to a tally approaching 10,000.

The annual James Valley Threshing Show is easily the biggest event in the small Day County town each year. And it's not even close.

In fact, organizers can't think of a bigger threshing show in eastern South Dakota or even across the borders into parts of North Dakota and Minnesota.

Tim Olson is president of the James Valley Threshers Association. He said the show has grown considerably since it moved from a farm just outside of Aberdeen. Most years, he estimates,

about 4,500 people attend.

Olson has been working with the show since it arrived in Andover in 1979. The first event near Aberdeen was in 1974, so he and others who are involved are already looking forward to the 50th show in 2024.

In 2018, a Case 150-horsepower steam-powered tractor that was built from scratch debuted at the James Valley Threshing Show. That year, Olson said, there were probably around 8,000 people who attended. And while many showed up for the impressive tractor, the only one of its kind in the world, they found so much more, he said.

Kevin Anderson has also been working with the event since it moved to Andover. He thinks perhaps 10,000 people attended the 2018 show to see the Case 150.

His son, Kory, led the effort to build the machine. In 2008, he started making wooden patterns out of mahogany that were used to create all of the castings for

the engine. And that was after a trip to the Case plant in Racine, Wisconsin, two years earlier where he was given a tour of the archives and paged through steam engine prints, making all the copies he wanted to guide his endeavor.

Fast-forward to last fall, after heaps of planning and building, and the Case 150 was certified as the Guinness world record for largest steam-powered tractor in operation.

Much of the work on the 750,000 behemoth was done at Anderson Industries and Dakota Foundry, both of which are based in Webster.

It can sometimes overshadow other events at the threshing show. But Olson and Kevin Anderson want visitors to know there are plenty more activities on the 65 acres owned by the threshing association.

There's the parade with more than 250 entries, a working saw mill, steam and gas plowing, threshing, a quilt show, a kiddie tractor pull, antique tractors of all kinds, a car show, spinning and weaving, blacksmith demonstrations, a toy and doll show, live music and more.

And while some people might traditionally associate tractors and fieldwork with men, that's not the case, Anderson said.



It took nearly 10 years to build a Case 150-horsepower steam-powered tractor from scratch. Photo courtesy of Kory Anderson and James Valley Threshers Association

Not with the Ladies of Steam. The program is run by women and offers other women a chance to learn about and ride an old-fashioned steam tractor.

"They don't mind getting greasy," Anderson said of the Ladies of Steam.

The program is a way to attract new and younger members to the association, he said.

Anderson's love of antique tractors, especially steam tractors, is one of the reasons he's remained active in the group through the decades. But the older generation is slowly handing things off to a younger crop of helpers.

Olson agrees. He said he used to be a young buck yelling at the older folks that they didn't know what they were doing. Now, the tables have turned.

The threshing show is a celebration of harvest and history and a chance for friends to gather as summer comes to an end, he said.

"It's a reflection of the past," Olson said. "It's the way all of our ancestors did stuff. Everything was manual labor back then."

Last year, the Case 150 pulled a

50-bottom plow. It's believed to be a world record, though that has yet to be verified.

The tractor will be at this year's show, but there are no plans to attempt more records, Anderson said.

The 2023 James Valley Threshing Show will be Sept. 8, 9 and 10 at Thresherman's Park in Andover. Admission is \$10 a day or \$25 for the entire weekend.

There's a smaller threshing show in Twin Brooks, but some of the other regional shows have faded away.

That's why the Andover event keeps looking to the future.

The association awards a scholarship each year that covers the tuition for a young person to attend the University of Rollag Steam School in Minnesota in spring. And organizers send out invitations to all schools within 100 miles of Andover that offer students free admission on the show's first day.

It's a way to share the history of agriculture and, with luck, plant a seed.

"The future of the show is the young kids," Anderson said.



A parade with more than 250 entries each year is one of the most popular events during the James Valley Threshing Show in Andover each September. Photo courtesy of James Valley Threshers Association

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August 14-17
Turner County Fair
680 E 2nd St,
Parker, SD
605-297-4428

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 21-23
Winner Elks 54th Annual Rodeo
Winner, SD
605-842-5830

JULY 28-29
Farley Fest
Lake Farley Park
Milbank, SD
www.farleyfest.com

JULY 28-30
Clear Lake Days
Clear Lake, SD
clearlakedays.com

JULY 29
BBQ Pit Row and Car Show
Winner, SD
605-842-1533

JULY 30
Bergen Threshing Bee
9 a.m.
Bristol, SD
605-237-0310

AUG 5-6
Pioneer Power Threshing Show
MN Machinery Museum
Hanley Falls, MN
507-828-9666

AUG 10-13
Custer County Fair
Hermosa, SD

AUG 11
Northern Bull Riding Tour Finals Bull-a-Rama
Geddes, SD
605-680-2763

AUG 13-14
Twin Brooks Threshing Show
Featuring Allis Chalmers
Twin Brooks, SD
605-880-2884

AUG 19
Yankton Extreme Bull Riding
7:30 a.m.
Yankton Rodeo Arena
Yankton, SD
605-760-2153

AUG 21
30th Annual Bishop's Cup Golf Tournament
Minnehaha Country Club and
The Country Club of Sioux Falls
Sioux Falls, SD
605-988-3765

SEPT 2
Hidewood Valley Barn Dance
7 p.m.
47236 183rd St
Clear Lake, SD

SEPT 4
Hidewood Valley Steam Threshing Show
Steam Whistle Blows
1 p.m.
47236 183rd St
Clear Lake, SD

SEPT 8-10
James Valley Threshing & Tractor Show
World's Largest Steam Traction Engine
Andover, SD
605-868-3242

SEPT 16
SD Coin & Stamp Convention
Scherr-Howe Area
Mobridge, SD

SEPT 22-24
Coal Springs Threshing Bee
Meadow, SD
605-788-2229

SEPT 23
Springfield Dakota Senior Meals Fall Festival
9 a.m.
Springfield Community Building
Springfield, SD

SEPT 29-30
Junkin' Market Days
Ramkota Exhibit Hall
Sioux Falls, SD
605-941-4958

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