

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Get Out & Vote!

It's Your Civic Duty

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Election Day is June 2; Go Vote! Democracy Needs You!

Looking back just a handful of decades here in the rural Midwest, if you needed light after the sun went down, your options were a bulky kerosene lamp... or to wait until morning.

Electric cooperatives were only organized because enough people got together to solve a problem in their community. In just a few short years, those first co-op members brought power to the prairie. Without their determination and commitment to build a better future, co-ops never would have been formed. Perhaps some of us today would still rely on kerosene lamps.

At Clay-Union Electric, we believe that in order to build strong communities, people need to get involved. And one of the best ways to do that is by exercising your right to vote.

The pursuit of a better tomorrow – the same spirit that sparked electric cooperatives during their founding – is just as impactful today. Unfortunately, in many cases, people are sitting on the sidelines.

Recent national voting statistics paint a grim picture. You may be surprised to hear that turnout in the 2024 general election was just 64%. For midterm elections, it's

even worse – just 46% of voters nationwide turned out for the 2022 midterm elections.

In this issue of Cooperative Connections, you'll read different perspectives on the importance of voting. From co-op leaders with military service history, to others who serve in local government, they make the case for why it's your duty to go vote.

When you vote, you have a say in the decisions that affect your everyday life. As we celebrate the United States' 250th Anniversary, we also stop and remember all of the fallen heroes who gave their lives for this cause; a land where people elect their own leaders and control their own government.

That's something that sets our country apart. According to Freedom House, only about 43% of countries hold meaningful elections. We've fought for this privilege of self determination, yet half of the people stay home during elections.

Here's our challenge for you: make a plan to vote June 2. Bring a friend, spouse, parent, son or daughter; it's their privilege too! What are you waiting for? Get out and vote!



Did you know?

During the 2024 primary election,
16% of voters made decisions
for **84%** of South Dakota



COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

CLAY-UNION ELECTRIC SPARKS

(USPS 116-800)

Office Hours
Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
31321 SD Hwy. 19, Vermillion, S.D.
605-624-2673

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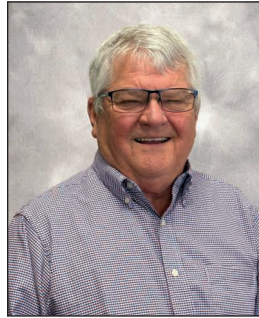
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Clay-Union Electric Announces John Gors as Interim General Manager



Clay Union Electric Cooperative is pleased to announce that John Gors will assume the role of Interim General Manager beginning April 16, 2026. He will serve in this capacity until the application and selection process for a new General Manager is completed.

Gors is well known to Clay Union Electric and the Vermillion community. He previously served as General Manager from 2009 to 2016 and brings decades of knowledge, leadership, and cooperative experience to the role.

Prior to his appointment as General Manager in 2009, Gors served as legal counsel for Clay Union Electric for twelve years. His long standing service to the cooperative has demonstrated his deep commitment to the cooperative business model and its mission of serving members. His extensive participation in board meetings and cooperative discussions has provided him with a strong understanding of cooperative issues, operations, and governance.

Clay Union Electric welcomes John back to the cooperative and looks forward to his leadership during this transition period.

Larson Accepts New Role with Governor's Office of Economic Development



PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Governor's Office of Economic Development announced that Christopher Larson has been hired as State Energy Development Director.

"Reliable, affordable energy is critical to South Dakota's economic growth," said GOED Commissioner Bill Even. "Chris' experience in the energy sector will help support continued development across the state."

Larson brings more than three decades of experience in energy finance, utility operations, and strategic planning. He most recently served as general manager of Clay-Union Electric Cooperative in Vermillion, where he led long-term planning efforts and maintained stable electric rates.

In his new role, Larson will work with utilities, state agencies, and local partners to advance energy infrastructure projects that support business expansion and community growth.

Larson previously held leadership and financial roles with East River Electric Power Cooperative, Northern Electric Cooperative, and Spink Electric Cooperative. He earned a bachelor's degree in management and marketing from Northern State University.

"I'm honored to serve in this role and look forward to working with partners statewide to support responsible energy development," Larson said.

Larson began his duties April 16.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH: TIPS FOR PRIORITIZING SAFETY

At your local cooperative, Electrical Safety Month is recognized every May, but the importance of practicing safety year-round is always emphasized. From co-op crews to the consumer-members served, everyone has a part to play in prioritizing safety.

According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured or electrocuted as a result of electrical fires and accidents in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable. Electricity is a necessity that powers daily life, but it can also be dangerous — something your local cooperative understands firsthand from working with it 365 days a year.

Safety is more than a catchphrase. Cooperative leadership recognizes the responsibility to keep employees safe while also helping protect members and the broader community. That's why your local cooperative hosts safety demonstrations at community events and in schools throughout the year, highlighting the dangers of electricity. These demonstrations often include emergency scenarios, such as what to do in a car accident involving a utility pole and downed power lines, along with discussions about the dangers of pad-mounted transformers and overloading circuits with too many electronic devices.

Electricity is an integral part of modern life. Given the widespread use of electrical devices, tools and appliances, here are a few practical electrical safety tips:

Watch for frayed wires. Power cords can become damaged from age, heavy use or excessive current flow. If cords become frayed or cut, replace them to avoid shock hazards.

Avoid overloading circuits. Circuits can only handle a limited amount of electricity. Running too many devices on one circuit can lead to overheating and potential fire risk.

Label circuit breakers. Understanding your home's electrical system can help prevent overloads. If your home is more than 40 years old and you plan to install large appliances, contact a qualified electrician.

Use extension cords properly. Never plug one extension cord into another. "Daisy chaining" can cause overheating and fire hazards. Do not exceed the cord's wattage, and avoid using extension cords as permanent solutions. If additional outlets are needed, consult a licensed electrician.

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to talk with children

about playing it safe and smart around electricity, including staying aware of overhead power lines near outdoor play areas.

Providing a reliable energy supply 24/7, 365 days a year is a top priority. Equally important is keeping the community safe around electricity.

Contact your local cooperative for additional electrical safety tips or to request a safety demonstration at a school or upcoming community event.



"Do not fly kites by power lines!"

Casen Yuker

Casen cautions readers not to fly kites around power lines. Thank you for sharing your picture, Casen! Casen's parents are Lance and Tarah Yuker from Aberdeen S.D.

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

RHUBARB CAKE DESSERT

Ingredients:

1 pkg. yellow cake mix
1 cup sugar
4 cups rhubarb, diced
2 cups half and half

Method

Prepare cake mix as directed on package and pour into a greased 9x13 pan. Mix sugar and rhubarb together. Spoon evenly over cake batter. Pour half and half over top of rhubarb mixture. Bake at 350° for 40-45 minutes. This is like an upside-down cake with custard on the bottom of the cake.

Marla Gilbert
Southeastern Electric

FUZZY NAVEL CAKE

Ingredients:

1 pkg. yellow cake mix
1 instant vanilla pudding (large, 5.1 oz. size)
3/4 cup peach schnapps
1/2 cup vegetable oil
1/2 cup orange juice
4 eggs

Glaze

1 cup powdered sugar
4 tbsps. orange juice
2 tbsps. peach schnapps

Method

Spray a 12-cup fluted baking pan with cooking spray, dust with flour. Mix all cake ingredients together until well blended, spread evenly in pan. Bake at 350° for 45-50 minutes until golden brown and cake springs back when lightly touched. Cool cake for 20 minutes. Run a long, sharp knife around the edges to loosen, and invert onto platter. Whisk glaze ingredients together until smooth. With wooden skewer, poke holes on top and around sides of cake. Spoon glaze over the warm cake, allowing to seep in holes, and drizzle down the sides and center. Cool completely before slicing.

Sally Florey
Charles Mix Electric

HAWAIIAN PINEAPPLE CAKE

Ingredients:

2 cups flour
2 cups sugar
2 eggs
1 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. vanilla
Pinch salt
1 20 oz. can crushed pineapple, undrained (in natural juice, not heavy syrup)

Frosting

1/2 cup butter, softened
1 8 oz. cream cheese softened
1 tsp. vanilla
1 1/2 cups powdered sugar

Method

Mix all cake ingredients together until well blended. Bake in greased 9x13 pan at 350° for 35-40 minutes or until top is golden brown.

Combine cream cheese, butter and vanilla. Beat until smooth and creamy. Gradually add powdered sugar. Spread frosting on cake while still warm. Garnish with some toasted coconut if desired.

Sally Florey
Charles Mix Electric

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 2026. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

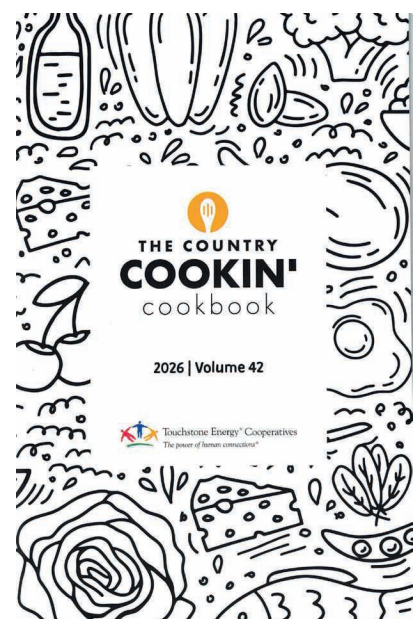
Picture submitted by William Berry via Shutterstock.



Happy Teacher Appreciation Day!
We recognize the educators who inspire curiosity, spark new ideas and help power the future of our community.

Thank you for the dedication and passion you bring to the classroom every day!

The 2026 Cookbooks are here...
New recipes to try, stop in and pick up your copy today!



Are you Power Line Ready?

The best way to stay safe this season when moving large farm equipment is to ALWAYS be aware of your surroundings. **Look up, look out and use extra caution when backing up. If your equipment contacts a power line, be sure to do the following:**

Stay Put & Call 911

Call emergency response and your local power cooperative, remaining in the cab until authorities confirm it is safe to exit.

Don't Climb, Jump!

If you must leave the cab due to fire or other safety concerns, jump as far away from the equipment as possible.

Hop Away To Safety

NEVER touch your equipment and the ground simultaneously; hop with both feet until you are at least 40 feet away.

For more power line safety tips and resources visit YourCoopPower.com

YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIALS

	February 2026	Year To Date
Number of consumers BILLED	3,559	3,558
Electric & Other Revenue	\$944,049	\$2,050,025
Cost of Service	\$941,904	\$2,030,218
Operating Margins	\$2,145	\$19,807
Other Margins	\$109	\$8,764
Net Margins	\$2,254	\$28,571
KWH Purchased	7,715,713	17,377,094
Cost of Power	\$556,819	\$1,229,671
KWH Sales	7,553,814	16,723,124
Average kWhs used (residential)	1,399	1,615
Average Amount of Bill (residential)	\$210	\$232



Remember & Honor
Memorial Day

In observance of the holiday, our office will be closed Monday, May 25th.

If you have an emergency, please call 605-624-2673 to reach our 24/7 service.

Happy Work Anniversary



Thank you for your dedication to the cooperative and its members!

Joey Nickles
 Electrician Foreman
 1 year



Jackie Williams
 Marketing & Communications
 7 years



Clayton Sorensen
 Apprentice Lineman
 2 years



TELL US WHO POWERS YOU!



We know our co-op community is filled with people and organizations making a difference. **Let's celebrate them!** Nominate a hero in your local community who goes above and beyond.

They could win up to \$3,000!
whopowersyoucontest.com



To all of the amazing moms out there ...



Happy Mother's Day!

ONE VOTE MAKES A DIFFERENCE



Chuck Sloan • Piedmont, S.D.

Board Treasurer, West River Electric Association

U.S. Air Force 1983-2003

Chuck Sloan has spent much of his life serving his nation.

Sloan enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1983 and served 21 years on active duty before retiring as a master sergeant in 2004. In that time, he was stationed at bases all around the world, including Oman, South Korea, Turkey, and the Pacific. Since 2004, Sloan has worked as a civilian at Ellsworth Air Force Base, where today he is Chief of Operations Compliance.

Serving in the military, Sloan observed firsthand how seriously service members took absentee voting and civic participation, despite being thousands of miles from American soil. Their passion helped ignite Sloan's own admiration for America's democratic system of government.

"If I found somebody a little laissez-faire about voting, saying, 'my vote probably won't count,' I would give them a spiel," Sloan explained. "Yes, your vote does count, and you'll want to be able to say that you made that vote."

He continued, "If you don't choose to exercise that responsibility, then later on if you're displeased, you really can't

complain about it because you didn't make a choice – If anything, vote and give yourself the opportunity to legitimately complain!"

Sloan said people should never underestimate the importance of showing up and making their voices heard, because in close races, one vote can tip the scale.

"There are many instances when one vote may have been a determining factor," Sloan said. "It may not be a general election, but how about in a state or local election where one vote can be the deciding factor? That happens more often than one would think. Your vote matters, no matter what you do."

Sloan brought that civic-mindedness along with him to West River Electric Association, where he serves on the Board of Directors and helps make decisions in the interest of his neighbors and communities he represents.

Sloan said it all just comes back to civic responsibility and staying involved.

"From the time I turned 18, I've never missed a vote," Sloan said. "It's second nature. It's too important to not do."



VOTING STRENGTHENS COMMUNITIES



Evan Buckmiller • De Smet, S.D.

General Manager, Kingsbury Electric Cooperative

De Smet School District Board

For Kingsbury Electric Cooperative General Manager Evan Buckmiller, his call to public service came after a mid-term resignation on the De Smet School District

Board left a vacancy that needed to be filled.

"The board had to appoint someone to fill the seat," Buckmiller said. "Initially when I was asked, I didn't know if I wanted to do it, but I also knew that my wife and I have two young kids in the school system, so I agreed to fill the spot until the next election."

Buckmiller wasn't expecting to develop a passion for civic-service, but six years and two election cycles later, he's still representing the De Smet community on the school board.

"It's for my kids, to make sure they have the best education opportunities possible to prepare them for their future," Buckmiller added.

He said that while serving on the school board has been a

rewarding endeavor, there are also moments that are discouraging; some people will sit out elections, but are also vocal about board decisions they disagree with.

"I receive phone calls about how we are doing everything wrong, but they don't want to step up to be a part of change," Buckmiller explained.

His advice is simple: show up.

"Public participation at the monthly school board meetings is always encouraged," Buckmiller said. "When a community is engaged, there is more diverse input and you get to see the needs of everyone. The needs for one person might not be the same as another, and when you are sitting on a board you want to hear the needs of everyone so you can make the best decision possible for everyone."

Buckmiller said when more people get involved and exercise their civic duties, the communities like his are better for it.

"Being active in the community makes the community stronger and allows different opinions to be heard," Buckmiller said.

"When you show up to meetings and vote, you are giving the board direction so they can make decisions that are in the best interest of everyone."

STICK UP FOR YOURSELF & VOTE



Don Schurdevin • Elk Point, S.D.
Board President, Union County Electric Cooperative
U.S. Navy 1962-1968

Serving on the Union County Electric Cooperative board for more than 25 years, Don Schurdevin has built a reputation for steady leadership and a strong commitment

to the cooperative and its members. But before serving his neighbors and community on the co-op board, Schurdevin first served in a different way. He served not just his Union County neighbors, but his entire country in the U.S. Navy. Schurdevin enrolled during his junior year of high school in 1962, serving active duty in Vietnam from 1963 to 1965, some of that time aboard the USS Midway. The experience helped shape his views on patriotism, civic duty and personal responsibility.

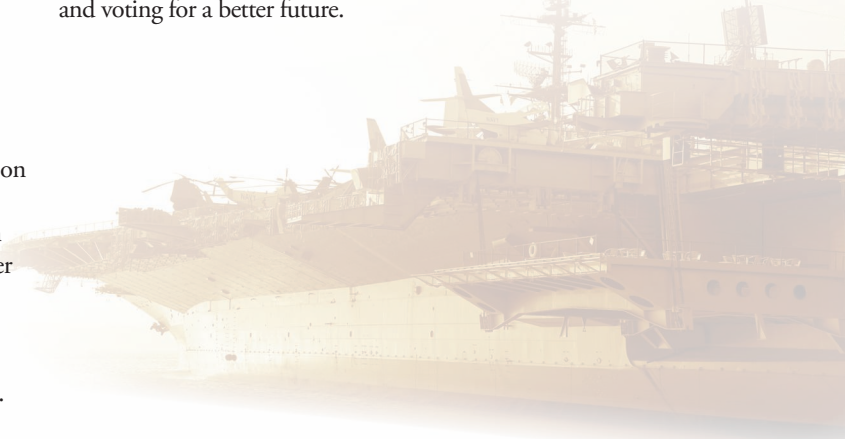
“In the navy, you learn to get along with people, but you learn to also stick up for yourself, because nobody else – is so you better take care of your own business,” he said.

That’s the attitude that Schurdevin brings to his civic participation. He said serving in the military gave him a deeper appreciation for the freedoms Americans enjoy, including voting.

Schurdevin believes participating in elections is one of the most important ways citizens can stay involved in their communities and help shape the future of their community, state and country.

“I think I voted in every election since I could,” Schurdevin recalled. “School board election, county, state – if I was able to vote I was voting.”

That sense of duty carried into his years of cooperative service. As a director, Schurdevin remains focused on serving members and ensuring the co-op continues to meet local needs. Schurdevin encourages others to “stick up for yourself” by staying informed and voting for a better future.



LEADERS DEPEND ON YOU SPEAKING UP



Chris Rahn • Mission, S.D.
Member Services Manager, Cherry-Todd Electric Cooperative
Todd County School District Board, Rosebud Sioux Tribe

Chris Rahn was not always interested in his local government. In fact, up until just several years ago, he sat many elections out.

But through his work at Cherry-Todd Electric Cooperative and the commitment to community that came with it, Rahn gained a new perspective on civic participation, realizing that change only happens when peoples’ voices are heard.

“I believe everybody who has an opinion should come out and vote,” Rahn said. “One vote matters. One vote can change an entire election.”

Rahn’s indifference to voting began to change as he was asked to take on more responsibilities with the co-op. Cherry-Todd Electric General Manager Tim Grablander nominated Rahn to the Rushmore Electric Federal Credit Union Board of Directors, where Rahn now serves as president.

Shortly after, he was encouraged by local community leaders to apply for a board seat with the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. The tribal

council voted to seat Rahn on the judiciary committee, leading to his first real experience with public service. Like flipping a switch, Rahn’s enthusiasm led to his appointment to other tribal boards, including the Tribal Utilities Commission, Tribal Tax Commission, and the Rosebud Energy Services Company.

Rahn said serving in tribal government opened his mind to the impact he can have on his community. That realization inspired Rahn to run for his first publicly-elected position as a school board member for the Todd County School District.

“I wanted to be more involved in my daughter’s education and just listen to the community’s input,” Rahn said, restating the importance of community members actively engaging with elected officials and sharing feedback.

He continued: “I feel like I’ve been able to bridge the gap between the people I represent and the administration and other public leaders.”

As Rahn looks ahead to years of future public service to work for a better community, he encourages others to step up as well — and all it takes is a vote.

“If you speak up, your voice is heard,” he continued. “When everyone’s voice is heard, we can make better decisions for the community as a whole.”

Photos by Shutterstock

People • Power • Purpose



South Dakota Rural Electric – – – – –
YOUTH EXCURSION
– – – – – July 20-22, 2026

Application Form

To apply for 2026 Youth Excursion, complete the form below and return it to Clay-Union Electric.
The deadline to apply is June 1, 2026. If you have any questions, please call 605-624-2673.

2026 Youth Excursion Application

Name: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone#: _____ Email: _____
School: _____ 2025-2026 Class/Year: _____
Gender: _____ T-shirt Size: _____

Return this information by June 1, 2026 to:
Clay-Union Electric
31321 SD Hwy. 19, PO Box 317, Vermillion, SD 57069

ELECTRIC CO-OPS ARE BOLSTERING POWER TRANSMISSION

Cathy Cash

NRECA

The electric grid needs our help. Be it from new industrial complexes, data centers to serve all things AI, more gaming and electrification at home from smart appliances to electric vehicles, today's intense energy demand requires more power 24/7 than ever before.

To keep up, new transmission equipment must be built, and existing transmission lines must be upgraded with the latest technology to move larger amounts of electricity, improve reliability and withstand Mother Nature. Transmission equipment and lines are essential in moving large amounts of electricity from where power is produced to electrical substations, where it is then sent across communities to consumers.

Each year, thousands of power lines and poles are destroyed by more extreme weather, from derechos to icy blizzards, hitting outside of typical "storm season" timeframes and locales. Historic winter storms like Uri and Fern seem to be making themselves at home in the South.

The good news is that electric co-ops are completing transmission builds and breaking ground on new ones.

Generation and transmission co-ops that deliver wholesale power to your local electric co-op are doing their part to reinforce regional transmission backbones with stronger poles and power lines. They are also developing projects to reach even the most remote wind, solar, hydro and other low-cost energy resources to power the grid and send electricity where and when consumers need it.

But building new transmission takes a lot of time. Many years in fact. And that's not because of the construction itself but the painstaking process for gaining approvals from state and federal agencies.

Yet, said Mary Ann Ralls, NRECA's senior director and regulatory counsel, "Electric co-ops are successfully demonstrating that their proposed facilities are necessary to relieve regional congestion and enhance system reliability."

The public and owners of property where power lines will be hoisted to serve consumers also have a big say when it comes to siting transmission and allowing projects to go forward.

That's where electric co-ops' member relations really shine.

It's not unusual for co-ops to go well beyond the prescribed number of public hearings on a proposed transmission project and

to meet concerned members literally where they are. That includes rotatory clubs or even one-on-one visits.

Electric co-ops exist to serve their members with safe, affordable, reliable electricity. Their ability to build strong ties with the communities within their service territory can go a long way when the need arises for critical infrastructure like transmission.

With their members in mind, co-ops seek out the most efficient ways to build transmission. For example, they upgrade lines in existing property rights-of-way and use the most durable technologies and equipment to keep costs in check and sustain reliability well into the future.

Increased power line capacity will reduce costs associated with transmission congestion, which makes moving energy across the grid particularly expensive. This in turn will help keep your monthly bill lower.

When co-ops are able to beef up power lines, economic benefits can be felt in the community, too.

Rural areas with modern, high-voltage transmission are attractive to large job-creating businesses. Local employment and small business also experience upticks.

For co-ops taking on these complex projects comes down to serving their members.

"Electric cooperatives have a long history of serving their members, and that same commitment is driving their work to develop new transmission capacity to meet the nation's rising electricity demand," says Patti Metro, NRECA's senior grid operations and reliability director.



BUILDING FOR WHAT COMES NEXT

Basin Electric's Pioneer Generation Station, located near Williston, N.D.
Photo Submitted by Basin Electric

Basin Electric Expands Generation Capacity to Meet Growing Demand

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

Although the flick of a switch can seem close at hand, the electricity that powers our world is often generated many miles away.

For rural cooperative members, electricity often comes from North Dakota, where Basin Electric Power Cooperative operates a fleet of power plants to serve rural communities across nine states. As demand continues to build across that system, the infrastructure behind it is growing right alongside it.

This steady growth has shaped the work now underway across Basin Electric's service territory. In response, the cooperative has kept up with demand by expanding existing generation facilities, building a new power plant and supporting the system with additional transmission projects in just a few short years.

"We're seeing load growth across our system, and it's coming from a combination of residential, agricultural, commercial and energy development," said Gavin McCollam, Basin Electric's senior vice president and chief operating officer. "When you step back and look at it as a whole, it becomes clear that we need to continue building to keep pace with that growth."



New transmission lines in western North Dakota support Basin Electric's newest generation assets.
Photo Submitted by Basin Electric

Pioneer Generation Station

To maintain reliability and keep the lights on for their members, Basin Electric recently expanded its generation capacity through new development to Pioneer Generation Station near Williston, N.D.

Originally developed in the early 2010s, the facility grew in phases over time. Those additions turned Pioneer Generation Station into one of Basin Electric's most important generation assets, but within a decade, the pace of that growth had begun to change.

"Coming out of COVID, not just us but everybody

was seeing rapid increases in loads,” McCollam said. “At that point, we were asking what we could do the quickest to add capacity.”

To meet the need, Basin Electric moved forward with Pioneer Generation Station Phase IV. The cooperative completed the project in 2025, adding about 580 megawatts of generation and bringing the site’s total capacity to 822 megawatts, enough to power roughly 400,000 homes.

The expansion moved quickly in part because Basin Electric built on what it already had.

“We had the site and the people that worked there, so we could add onto it a lot quicker than we could analyze and research new sites,” McCollam said.

Bison Generation Station

Still, Basin Electric continued building for traditional member load growth, beyond Pioneer Generation Station Phase IV, turning to a new project: Bison Generation Station.

Located near Epping, N.D., the natural gas-fueled generation project is being built from the ground up as a large-scale, natural gas facility designed to meet future demand. Once completed, the combined-cycle power plant will produce approximately 1,490

megawatts of electricity, making it the largest power plant solely owned by Basin Electric – almost double the capacity of Pioneer Generation Station. The plant is expected to come online in two phases, with the first unit operating in 2029 and the second in 2030.

Unlike Pioneer Generation Station, which expanded over time, Bison Generation Station is being built as a single, large project.

“We had a history of building small units, piecemealing them in as quickly as we could. That worked for a long time, but eventually we reached a point where we needed to think about building differently,” McCollam said. “There was a point where we recognized that continuing to add smaller pieces wasn’t going to be the most effective approach. We needed to build something at a scale that would allow us to stay ahead of that growth.”

Serendipitously, the transition from Pioneer Generation Station to Bison Generation Station happened on the same day. Basin Electric finished construction at Pioneer and turned the facility over to operations, then received the permits to begin construction on Bison.

“I’m kind of a nerd,” McCollam

said, laughing. “I’m nerdy enough to think this wasn’t a coincidence, and the power plant gods were smiling on us.”

Once complete, it will become a central part of Basin Electric’s generation portfolio.

“It’s going to be the flagship of our gas fleet,” McCollam said. “It’s being designed with the understanding that the system we’re serving today is going to continue to grow.”

Looking Ahead

According to McCollam, these new generation assets are a response to the organic growth Basin Electric is seeing across its traditional membership, including residential demand, agriculture, commercial activity and energy production.

“We support that growth where it happens, and we make sure the system can deliver power where it’s needed,” he said.

For Basin Electric, the work underway now is part of a longer process to ensure reliability in a time of growing energy demand.

“The entire purpose of Basin Electric is to provide reliable service to our membership,” McCollam said. “As that system grows, we have to continue building to keep up with it.”



This architectural rendering depicts Bison Generation Station, a natural gas-fueled plant project slated to begin operations in 2030.

Photo Submitted by Basin Electric

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

Clay-Union Electric Corporation Board Meeting Summary

FEBRUARY 27, 2026 • VERMILLION, SOUTH DAKOTA

The board meeting was called to order on February 27, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. by board President Tom Larsen. The meeting was held in the conference room at the Clay-Union Electric Headquarters.

In attendance were Tom Larsen, Chris Kinney, Mike Slattery, Sara Schulte and Attorney Dave Stuart. The board seat for District #5 is vacant. Attending staff members included Chris Larson, Beth Bottolfson, Alan Gauer and Jackie Williams.

Agenda (ACTION ITEM) – A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the agenda with the addition of the Work Order and the Special Equipment Summary report.

Visitors to Be Heard – Angi Kappenman, East River HR
Approval of Minutes from the January Board Meeting (ACTION ITEM) – A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the January board minutes held on 1/22/2026.

Approval of Minutes from the January Executive Session (ACTION ITEM) – A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the January executive session held on 1/22/26.

Check List & Electronic Funds Transfer – The board reviewed the EFT/ACH payments, and the monthly check list as presented.

New Members and Refunds (ACTION ITEM) – A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve new members, refunds and credit deposits as presented.

Early Retirement of Capital Credits - None

Contracts (ACTION ITEM) – A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the contracts as presented.

Policy Review (ACTION ITEM) – A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve Policy No. 602 – Addendum A as presented.

Executive Session – The board went into Executive Session at 8:45 a.m. Executive Session was adjourned at 10:15 a.m. There was no action taken.

Work Order and Special Equipment Summary – A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve submitting the Work Order Inventories 520 through 526 as presented to RUS for reimbursement.

REED Loan – None

Management Reports:

A. Manager's Report - Manager Larson provided reports on the monthly activities:

March Board Meeting – The date of March 27, was set as the next regular board meeting to begin at 8:30 a.m.

East River REED/MAC - The REED Board met on February 3rd for the monthly meeting at the East River Headquarters. The MAC met on February 3rd immediately following the REED meeting in Madison.

Annual Meeting Date - The annual meeting will be on April

14th with a backup date of April 21st in Wakonda at the school.
NRECA Annual Meeting - The NRECA Annual meeting is March 9th to the 11th in Nashville, TN.

Energize Forum - The 2026 East River Electric Energize Forum was held at the Sioux Falls Convention Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

ACRE – Manager Larson asked the Board to consider making their 2026 America's Electric Cooperative contributions.

Basin MAC – The Basin Managers group met in Sioux Falls on February 18th and 19th.

Basin Bus Tour Waiver and Resolution (Action) – A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the Board Resolution 2026-01, to adopt the Basin Bus Tour Waiver form.

City Annexation of AMS Munger Property - The City of Vermillion officially took action to annex the AMS Munger Property that is north of Hwy 50 and west of Hwy 19 and also took action to notify Clay-Union of their intent to acquire the electric service territory rights for that development.

Legislative Update – Manager Larson discussed two bills of immediate attention, SB 36 and HRJ 5001.

SDRE Managers - The South Dakota Managers met in Pierre on February 10th and 11th.

Mike McQuiston Funeral - Mike was a director at West Central Electric, Rushmore Electric and Basin Electric Cooperative. His funeral was February 24th @ 11:00 am in Ft. Pierre.

SMR Meeting – Manager Larson reported on a meeting of all the Electric players in South Dakota to discuss the future of Nuclear Power.

Clay-Yankton Irrigators Association - The annual meeting will be held on March 10th at Toby's Lounge in Meckling.

City/County Planning and Zoning - The City and County Planning and Zoning committees met to discuss their progress on updating the JJZA.

Building Security - With the help of East River IT, Midwest Alarm installed an emergency button that will lock the front doors if needed in emergency situations.

B. Administrative Report – Manager of Finance and Administration Bottolfson reviewed the following reports with the board:

- Billing Activities
- January 2026 Financials
- 2025 Annual Audits
- City of Vermillion Municipal Tax for 2025
- Property Taxes
- Annual kWh Tax for 2025

All reports were posted to the website earlier for board review.

C. Operations Report – Operations Manager Gauer reviewed the following reports with the board:

- Monthly department work summary
- January Outage Report
- Outage Update
- Damage to CUE
- Service Upgrades
- Wiring

All reports were posted to the website earlier for board review.

Financial Report – Manager of Finance and Administration Bottolfson reviewed the following reports with the board:

- Balance Sheet
- Interest Income
- kWh Sales Report
- Large Power
- Line Loss
- Operating Statement
- Power Bill
- Summary of Purchased Power
- Wiring Income & Expense

All reports were posted to the website earlier for board review.

Legal Report – None

Strategic Planning – None

Safety Meeting Minutes – The February Safety Meeting Minutes were posted to the website for the board to review and were discussed during the meeting.

Cyber Security – The January Cyber Security report from East River IT were posted to the website for the board to review and were discussed during the meeting.

Video and/or Meeting Reports –

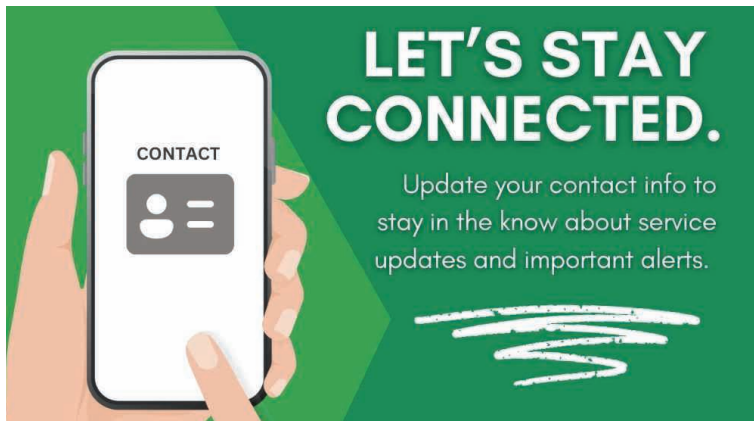
- East River Report
- East River Financials
- Basin Reports
- SDREA Reports

Calendar – The board reviewed the March 2026 calendar.

Adjournment – There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded, and carried, to adjourn the meeting at 12:32 p.m.

Thomas Larsen, President

Sara Schulte, Secretary



Outage Reports

Cause	Date	Time	Township	Members
Wind	1/21	1:30 p.m.	Gayville	1
Member Caused	1/25	4:00 p.m.	Garfield/Mission Hill	34
Equip. Failure	1/31	1:55 a.m.	Volin	2
Equip. Failure	2/17	7:10 p.m.	Emmet	19
Equip. Failure	3/6	8:30 a.m.	Gayville	3
Wind/Ice	3/7	12:30 a.m.	Garfield	17
Lightning	3/7	6:30 a.m.	Norway	4

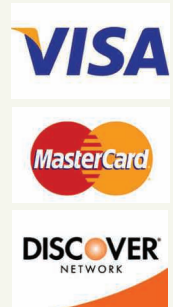
Office Hours and Due Dates

Our office hours are Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please remember your **PAYMENT DUE DATE is the 20th of EACH MONTH**. Your payment must ARRIVE in our office on the 20th to avoid any penalties. Please allow mailing time as we go by the received date, **NOT the postmark**. If the 20th falls on a weekend or holiday, payment is due the following business day. If payment is still not received by the first of the following month, a \$30 collection fee will be applied and a disconnect notice will be mailed. If disconnection for nonpayment occurs, all past and current energy charges, a reconnect fee and sufficient credit deposit will be required before the meter can be reinstalled.

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE, WE ALSO ACCEPT THESE PAYMENT OPTIONS:

Online Billing:

www.clayunionelectric.coop
Set up your user profile to manage your account, pay your bill and receive billing notification emails.



Bank Draft: Have your payment automatically deducted from your checking or savings account on the due date.

Recurring Credit/Debit Card: Have your payment automatically deducted from your card on the due date.

By Phone: Call in your credit/debit card payment.

In Office: We accept cash, check, money order or credit/debit card.


By Mail: Send check or money order with your payment slip.

Drop Box: Located on the right side of our main entrance at 31321 SD Hwy 19.

There are no additional fees to use any of the above payment methods.

Collection Fee	\$30
Trip Charge-Reconnect Fee	
During Business Hours.....	\$75
Dishonored Payment	\$40

Delinquent Accounts (gross rate)
10 percent on the first \$200 plus 2 percent on the balance.



MAY 18
Voter Registration
Deadline for Primary
Election
5 p.m.
(South Dakota)

JUNE 1
Last Day to Request
Absentee Ballot.
5 p.m.
(South Dakota)

JUNE 2
Primary Election
7 a.m.-7 p.m.
(South Dakota)

Photo by Shutterstock

MAY 2-10
Rustic Designs & More Spring
Show, Flea Market
41450 264th St.
Ethan, SD
605-770-2411

MAY 2
Consignment Auction
7 a.m. Gates Open
10 a.m. Auction
Prairie Village
Madison, SD

MAY 2
Cinco de Mayo Fiesta
2-8 p.m.
Milbank, SD
605-432-6656

MAY 3
Prairie Village Opening Day
2 p.m. Train Ride
Prairie Village
Madison, SD

MAY 6-7
Energize! Exploring Innovative
Rural Communities Conference
Hosted by SDSU Extension
Community Vitality
Community Center
Wall, SD
extension.sdstate.edu/energize

MAY 9
1880 Train Opens
Hill City, SD

MAY 15-17
Open House Weekend
Free Entrance
Custer State Park
Custer, SD

MAY 16
2nd Annual Bird Bash
8 a.m.-1 p.m.
Bear Butte State Park
Sturgis, SD
605-390-2901
valleyhummingbird@yahoo.com

MAY 23
Free Christian Men's Event
8 a.m.-2 p.m.
The Barn at Aspen Acres
Spearfish, SD
Register: RiseUpMen.com

MAY 30
Familyfest Fun Cruise
& SDSC Safety Fair
9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Bucket Trucks, Safety & More
Sioux Falls, SD
thehoodmagazine.com/ff-faqs/

MAY 30
Miss Prairie Village/Miss
Prairie Princess Pageant
6:30 p.m.
Lawrence Welk Opera House
Prairie Village
Madison, SD

JUNE 4-6
Black Hills Quilt Show
Thurs. 5-8 p.m.
Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sat. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Rushmore Hall
at the Monument
Rapid City, SD

JUNE 13
Journey Into Historic Pickstown
9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Ft. Randall Town & Museum
Pickstown, SD
605-487-7299

JUNE 13
Luce Pioneer Day
10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Rope & Candle Making, Butter
Churning, Dutch Oven Cooking
Lake Herman State Park
Madison, SD
605-880-5077

JUNE 19
Dalesburg Midsummer
Festival
Celebration of Scandinavian
& Rural Heritage
Dalesburg Lutheran Church
Vermillion, SD
www.dalesburg.org

JUNE 19-20
77th Annual Czech Days
Tabor, SD
www.taborczechdays.com

JUNE 24-27
Crystal Springs Rodeo
Clear Lake, SD
605-874-2996

JUNE 26-27
Buckhorn Rodeo
Britton, SD
605-880-5077

Note: We publish contact information as provided. If no phone number is given, none will be listed. Please call ahead to verify the event is still being held.

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.