

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

Local art teacher's mural
commemorates dedicated
Burke lineman.
Photo by Jacob Boyko

Rural Murals

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Providing Safe, Reliable Electricity



Chris Larson,
General Manager

As discussed in last month's magazine, the Clay-Union Board of Directors convened at the end of September for its monthly meeting. One of the most important topics was the need to adjust rates for 2025 to address rising costs and ensure the financial health of our cooperative.

Over the past few months, Clay-Union's staff has been diligently analyzing historical data, reviewing current projections, and assessing future trends to determine the necessary rates for 2025. Our goal is to ensure that these rates cover the expenses essential to running the cooperative effectively.

Like any business—whether it's a local store or a farm—the revenue we collect must cover our operating costs. For an electric cooperative, these costs include purchasing power, maintaining skilled employees, fuel, trucks, transformers, and other essential infrastructure. Just like labor, seed, and machinery costs in farming, our material costs have risen dramatically—by 50% to 300% in some cases.

Rising material costs, paired with extended lead times for equipment like transformers and underground cables, present major challenges. For example, the underground cable we will use in 2025 had to be ordered before the 2024 construction season even started, and transformers can take up to two years to arrive.

When setting rates, we consider the unique needs of different service classes. For example, a residential home requires less power than a large farm or industrial facility, each of which needs specific equipment and infrastructure. Ideally, we would charge each member exactly what it costs to serve them, but the reality is that members are grouped into similar categories to develop fair rates.

Historically, electric rates have been made up of three main components: demand, energy usage, and a fixed monthly charge. Larger services often include demand charges, while smaller residential services typically do not. However, we are seeing a shift toward applying this three-part rate structure

more broadly.

Clay-Union Electric is not prepared to move to those types of rates currently.

In the past, rates were structured using blocks of energy at different price levels. This method encouraged higher energy usage because there was excess electricity generation available. However, that's no longer the case. We're gradually moving away from block energy rates to ensure the fixed portion of our costs is covered more consistently.

As more members install solar or wind power, they may use less electricity from the cooperative. However, they still rely on us as a backup source of power when their systems aren't generating enough. To ensure fairness, we need to collect enough revenue through fixed charges to cover their share of infrastructure costs, even if their energy consumption is lower.

In summary, all rate categories will see an increase in the monthly fixed charge to ensure we can cover rising fixed costs, especially during low-usage periods. Some members will also see changes to the block energy rates, with gradual adjustments depending on the category of service. Although these changes might seem complex, they are necessary to maintain the financial health of the cooperative.

While this is a lot of information, it's essential to understanding the reasoning behind the 2025 rate changes. We're working on detailed information to show how these changes will affect members individually, and we will continue to communicate updates in next month's newsletter and other channels as we approach the January 2025 implementation date. The last rate increase for Clay-Union members occurred in May 2017, and the impact in January 2025 will be similar.

Thank you again, for allowing us to provide your electric service needs.

Chris Larson
General Manager
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COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

CLAY-UNION ELECTRIC SPARKS

(USPS 116-800)

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Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
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CLAY-UNION ELECTRIC SPARKS is published monthly by Clay-Union Electric Corporation, P.O. Box 317, 31321 SD Hwy. 19, Vermillion, SD 57069. Periodicals Postage Paid at Vermillion, S.D., and additional offices. Clay-Union Electric members devote approximately 50 cents a month from their electric payments for a subscription to this publication. Subscriptions for non-members are available for \$12 annually.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Clay-Union Electric Sparks, PO Box 317, Vermillion, SD 57069;
Telephone (605) 624-2673, 1-800-696-2832
Fax (605) 624-5526.

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YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIALS

	August 2024	Year To Date
Number of consumers BILLED	3,892	3,891
Electric & Other Revenue	\$925,803	\$6,063,743
Cost of Service	\$903,472	\$6,564,692
Operating Margins	\$22,331	\$(500,949)
Other Margins	\$12,236	\$663,803
Net Margins	\$34,567	\$162,854
KWH Purchased	7,625,818	56,142,073
Cost of Power	\$490,953	\$3,509,892
KWH Sales	7,444,547	53,295,315
Average kWhs used (residential)	1,267	1,298
Average Amount of Bill (residential)	\$155	\$155

HOLIDAY FOOD SAFETY TIPS

Rachel Dotson

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture

It's the time of year when many families will be gathering around the dining room table savoring the flavors of their favorite holiday meals. Check out how to keep your holiday meals safe this season with a few tips from Land-grant University Extension Services.

Shopping Safely

Before shopping, check the ingredients you have at home and verify their expiration date. It is helpful to prepare a shopping list before going shopping. Make sure you have sufficient room in your refrigerator for all purchased food items. Cold foods that need refrigeration or freezing should be purchased last.

Oklahoma State University Extension advises while shopping, keep raw meat, poultry and seafood away from other foods in your grocery cart. Placing raw meat, poultry and seafood in plastic bags can be a good method to separate them from other foods. Ask a cashier to place your raw meat, poultry and seafood in a separate bag.

Safe Food Handling Practices

- When it comes to preparing meats, washing poultry and meats at home is no longer necessary and is not recommended by the USDA. University of Connecticut Extension recommends thawing meat in a refrigerator or in a cold-water bath.
- Defrost meats in the refrigerator for approximately 24 hours, depending on size, or submerge meat in its original package in cold water and allow 30 minutes of thawing time for every pound.
- Rinse fruits and vegetables thoroughly under cool running water and use a produce brush to remove surface dirt. Even wash prepackaged greens to minimize bacterial contamination.
- While preparing food, use two cutting boards: one for preparing raw meat, poultry and fish, and the other for cutting fruits and vegetables, cooked food or preparing salads.
- Don't forget to also wash hands with soap and water before and after handling food.

Storing Leftovers

Bacteria grows when the food is left out for more than

two hours at room temperature. Divide leftovers into smaller portions and store in shallow containers in the refrigerator. University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension advises reheating cooked leftovers to 165 degrees. Use a food thermometer to measure temperature accurately. Sauces, soups and gravies should be reheated by bringing them to a boil. When microwaving leftovers, make sure there are no cold spots in food where bacteria can survive.

Multistate Approach for Food Safety

Food-borne illnesses affect 48 million Americans each year. Research and education have led to major advances in food safety; however, challenges remain. Many methods that use heat or chemicals to ensure food safety are not 100% effective and can damage food color, texture, flavor and nutrients.

Researchers at 32 Land-grant Universities are collaborating on innovative solutions for food safety and quality.

Their work is helping meet consumer demand for minimally processed, additive-free food items with longer shelf lives, higher nutrient content and less potential to cause food-borne illnesses.



Farm Safety "Always Be Alert"

Clyde Manas, Age 8

Clyde Manas warns farmers and ranchers to be careful with their equipment around power lines. Thank you for your picture, Clyde! Clyde's parents are Terry and Lacey Manas, members of Bon Homme Yankton 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.



Holiday DELIGHTS

EASY CRANBERRY SALAD

Ingredients:

12 oz. fresh cranberries
20 oz. crushed pineapple,
drained (reserve juice)
1/2 cup pineapple juice
(from reserved juice)
2 cups sugar
3 oz. pkg cranberry jello
(may also use cherry jello)
1/4 cup maraschino cherries,
finely chopped

Method

Boil cranberries with pineapple juice and sugar. When berries pop, remove from heat. Add dry jello, pineapple and cherries. Refrigerate. Keeps for up to two weeks in the refrigerator.

Elaine Rieck
Harrisburg, S.D.

CAKE BATTER DIP

Ingredients:

8 oz. softened cream cheese
8 oz. thawed cool whip
1/3-2/3 cup milk
1 box Funfetti cake mix
(unprepared)
Sprinkles

Method

Add whipped topping and cream cheese to a large mixing bowl and beat with a hand mixer until smooth and creamy.

Add cake mix and 1/3 cup milk and stir with a wooden spoon until combined. Dip will be very thick, so add more milk, a little at a time, until you get to your desired consistency. I used about 2/3 cup for my dip.

Garnish with sprinkles and serve with whatever dippers you prefer (graham crackers, animal crackers, vanilla wafers, pretzels, fresh fruit, etc.)

Kayla Beaner
Centerville, S.D.

OPEN-FACED HOT TURKEY SANDWICHES

Ingredients:

1 container (12 oz.) turkey
gravy
8 slices cooked turkey
1 loaf baguette bread,
(12 in. long)
1 cup fresh spinach leaves
1 cup prepared stuffing,
warmed
1/2 cup cranberry sauce

Method

Cook gravy and turkey slices in large skillet on medium-high heat until heated through.

Cut baguette in half lengthwise, then cut each piece in half. Place bread, cut-side up, onto four serving plates.

Top bread evenly with spinach, turkey, stuffing, any remaining gravy and cranberry sauce.

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 2024. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

1. Publication Title: Clay-Union REA/Clay-Union Electric Sparks

2. Publication Number: 1168000

3. Filing Date: 09/25/2024

4. Issue Frequency: Monthly

5. Number of Issues Published Annually: 12 Twelve

6. Annual Subscription Price: \$6 Member/\$12 Non

7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®): PO Box 317, 31321 SD Hwy. 19, Vermillion, SD 57069

8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer): PO Box 317, 31321 SD Hwy. 19, Vermillion, SD 57069

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank): Jackie Williams, PO Box 317, 31321 SD Hwy. 19, Vermillion, SD 57069

10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.): Clay-Union Electric Corporation, PO Box 317, 31321 SD Hwy. 19, Vermillion, SD 57069

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box: ☒ None

12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one): ☒ Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months

13. Publication Title: Clay-Union Electric Sparks Cooperative Connection

14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: 09/24/2024

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation

Members		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)			
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)			
(1)	Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	2783	2783
(2)	Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)		
(3)	Paid Distribution Outside the Mails including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®		
(4)	Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)		
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))		2783	2783
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)			
(1)	Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541	0	0
(2)	Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541		
(3)	Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail)		
(4)	Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)		
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3), and (4))		0	0
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		2783	2783
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))		35	10
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)		2818	2793
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)		100%	100%

16. Electronic Copy Circulation

Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months		No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Paid Electronic Copies		
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)		0
c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)		0
d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (15b divided by 15c x 100)		

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership

☒ If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the 11/1/2024 issue of this publication.

☐ Publication not required.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: Jackie Williams, Editor, Marketing/Communications

Date: 09/25/2024

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Outage Reports

Date	Time	Township	Members	Cause
8/31	7:30 p.m.	Mission Hill	195	Underground Fault
9/3	12:00 p.m.	Bethal	8	URD Fault
9/7	2:30 a.m.	Marindahl	8	Animal

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Rosebud Electric Cooperative providing power in the early days.
Photo provided by the Rosebud Electric archive.

William Kindle Remembers When Electricity Came to Bull Creek

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

William Kindle, a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, carries vivid memories of growing up in Bull Creek, a small township just east of Winner. It was the mid-1950s: Eisenhower was president, and the Korean War had just ended. Though more than half a century has passed, Kindle remembers clearly the challenges of living without electricity.

“Growing up, we didn’t have any refrigeration,” Kindle said. “My mom used to drop our food into a well using a bucket, clear down to the water level where it was cool, and that’s where she kept her cream and butter.”

At age 10, Kindle’s life changed drastically when Rosebud Electric connected his rural, family home to the grid. The lights came on, and the days of using the water well for food preservation would soon be a memory as his father

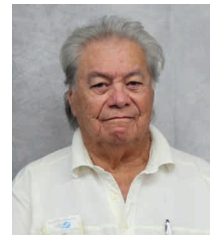
brought home the family’s first refrigerator.

“After that, he went to town again and bought a TV, a great big old wooden thing,” Kindle laughed. “It had only one channel, KPLO.”

But electricity meant more than just connection to a grid. It brought with it a connection to the outside world through shows like “I Love Lucy,” “The Andy Griffith Show,” and Kindle’s personal favorite growing up, “Captain 11”. The show, broadcast from Sioux Falls, featured weatherman Dave Dedrick as a space captain who would introduce cartoons and play games as an after-school children’s program.

“Us kids thought that it was the greatest thing that ever happened, when we got a TV,” Kindle said.

According to Kindle, the introduction of electricity had an overwhelmingly positive impact on his rural community. The dangers of using kerosene lamps



William Kindle
Photo by Frank Turner

vanished, allowing producers to work more effectively through the night.

“I remember the first night that we had a yard light,” Kindle said. “Us kids were playing under that light, and we couldn’t get over the fact that the whole yard was lit up. Prior to that, as soon as the sun went down, we would light the lamps and that’s all we had.”

“Everyone in the community welcomed having power,” Kindle added. “It was quite a thing.”

The safety and productivity it brought were immeasurable, transforming every facet of daily life. Kindle remembers how much the addition of consistent light affected his own family’s cattle operation.

“We ran cattle and raised hogs,” he said. “I remember when my dad got the barn wired up, because he used electricity for calving. Before we had electricity in there, we used kerosene lamps out in the barn, and they started a lot of fires – those damn things.”

Kindle’s early years were spent farming and ranching, but he devoted most of his career to the autobody and fender business, repairing cars for over 30 years. He later joined the tribal council of the Rosebud Sioux in 1989 and has since completed five terms as president, including one in an interim capacity, and three terms as vice president. Recently, he was re-elected to the council as a representative for the Swift Bear community near White River, where he lives now as a member of Cherry-Todd Electric.

As someone who has served his community for more than three decades, Kindle said he is unsure if people could ever return to a time before electricity reached their door.

“If we had to go back to those days, people couldn’t do it,” he said. “I don’t think people would adjust. It would be too difficult to go back.”



Small Communities Showcase History and Culture Through Mural Art

Jacob Boyko

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Lemmon

Visitors from all over the map flock to Lemmon each year to explore the town's plethora of fascinating exhibits, from the Petrified Wood Park to the life-size steampunk-style sculptures by local artist John Lopez.

But of all the town's unique offerings, there's one stand-out exhibit that ties everything together: Boss Cowman Square.

Lopez's lifesize metal sculpture of cowboy legend George Edward Lemmon is the focal point of the square. The Boss Cowman clutches the reins of his steampunk stallion, his eyes fixed on the horizon watching for stray cattle.

"Dad Lemmon," as the town's founder is so fondly known among locals, settled the town in 1906 between the Grand River and North Dakota border. It would soon be a stop along the incoming Chicago Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad, which Dad Lemmon had been recruited to platte westward.

The sculpture is accompanied by a background mural depicting a scene far away from the bustling saloons and general stores of early Lemmon. In the scene, saddled-up cowboys under the careful

watch of the Boss Cowman sculpture guide a meandering herd hundreds of heads long across a river – no problem for Dad Lemmon, whose roundup skills and knowledge of the land were legendary across the West.

In 2015, as Lopez dreamt of what would one day be Boss Cowman Square, he recruited the help of two Nigerian artists, Dotun Popoola and Jonathan Imafidor, to help bring the vision to life.

"We studied a few materials and made sure all the elements were well captured, like the kinds of trees, the way the river looks and the butte in the background," Imafidor recalled about the 2016 project.

One obstacle that posed a challenge for the traveling artists – beside the shock of South Dakota's cold spring weather – was the slight differences between the cattle they knew in Nigeria and the cattle of the American West.

"We are representational artists and we've done a lot of drawings of cows, so we kind of had an idea of what the cattle should look like," Imafidor explained. "But in Lemmon, the kind of cattle that are found in the region are a little different than what we have in Nigeria. I remember when we started painting the cattle ... John Lopez told us, 'I don't think you can find those here.' Then he brought some material for

Cowboys keep a herd of longhorns moving at the bank of the Missouri River. Visitors will notice the sculpture of Dad Lemmon turned around to keep an eye on the progress. *Photo provided by John Lopez.*

us so we were able to see the difference and then we made the corrections."

After about a month of work, the mural was completed and the Boss Cowman Square was unveiled to the public in July 2016.

Burke

In Burke, K-12 art teacher Kate Witt isn't shy about brightening up her community. The mom of four has designed and painted four murals around town, including one depicting the town's beloved utility worker, Rich Bailey.

Rich's wife, Margaret Ann Bailey, commissioned the mural after Rich's passing in 2023. The mural shows the lineman hanging onto a utility pole as he works on the power lines.

"When we came here in 1970, there wasn't a bucket truck or anything," recalled Margaret Ann. "So he climbed everything, whether it was blizzarding or lightning, and he made sure people had electricity."

The mural also features emergency vehicles, as Rich served for decades as a volunteer firefighter and an emergency medical technician. Parked beneath the lines, the rusted white pickup truck Rich drove around town that over the years became synonymous with himself.

"With this mural specifically, I felt I had

a big important job,” Witt said. “This is a man who the town really loves, and I had a big job to make something beautiful that [Margaret Ann] was going to be proud of.”

Witt incorporated her own signature styles into the mural; her white outlines make the lineman’s silhouette stand out against the more geometrically designed Missouri River bluffs and cloudy sunset in the background.

“That’s where I have a little fun, putting in the modern twist and bold colors,” Witt continued. “I put this white line around everything which made some elements almost look like they’re stickers on a wall.”

Since Witt completed the mural last August, it’s become a point of pride for Margaret Ann who says it’s a testament to her husband’s years of dedication to his community.

“There was an older gal here in town, and she called him at 2 o’clock in the morning and said ‘my air conditioner isn’t working and it’s darn hot in my house,’” Margaret Ann recalled.

She said her husband explained that his job was to fix power lines, not air conditioners. Still, he went to flip the breaker on the woman’s fuse box anyway before going back to sleep.

“That’s the kind of guy he was, and I’m proud,” Margaret Ann said.

Tabor

Where in South Dakota can you find roses, ears of corn, a cardinal and Czech kolaches all in one mural?

Only in Tabor, probably.

Commissioned for the town’s 150th anniversary in 2022, the colorful mural on the sidewall of the local library meanders through the community’s history. From the heavy Czech influence of the earliest settlers represented by pastries and roses to the school’s original mascot, the cardinals, Robbie Jelsma worked very intentionally to portray the town in a way only a knowledgeable local artist could.

Growing up in nearby Springfield, Jelsma is no stranger to Tabor and its famous Czech Days, which draws thousands of people from across the country for the three-day celebration.

“I wanted to represent Czech Days and the Czech culture, so I did my own

research,” Jelsma said.

He incorporated roses, which are the national flower of the Czech Republic, as well as the fluffy pastries with fruit in the middle called kolaches.

He also incorporated local history—Tabor’s school mascot was the cardinal before merging with Springfield and Tyndall to form Bon Homme School District.

When he’s not painting murals, Jelsma is a highly sought-after tattoo artist specializing in more realistic styles. For him, the highlights of the Tabor mural is the level of depth and realism he achieved in his roses and clouds.

The hardest part of painting the mural is working with the elements, as there’s a laundry list of work that needs to be done on the surface before any real painting can begin: washing; smoothing; primer.

On top of that, unpredictable Midwestern weather requires a careful eye on the weather radar for any outdoor painting projects, Jelsma said.

“We started about early October so the fall was just getting started, and you never know in South Dakota if the weather is going to hold out or if you’ll get an early snow or strong wind,” he recalled about his three and a half weeks working on the project.

For Jelsma, the finished mural is as big of a point of pride for him, having been selected and commissioned for the work, as it is for the people of Tabor who get to show it off every summer during Czech Days.

“It’s cool I was thought of for the project,” Jelsma said. “It’s an art project that I think just lights everybody up a little bit when you drive down main street and you see something like that in a small town.”



Artist Robbie Jelsma puts the finishing touches on his mural ahead of the 2022 unveiling.
Photo provided by Robbie Jelsma.

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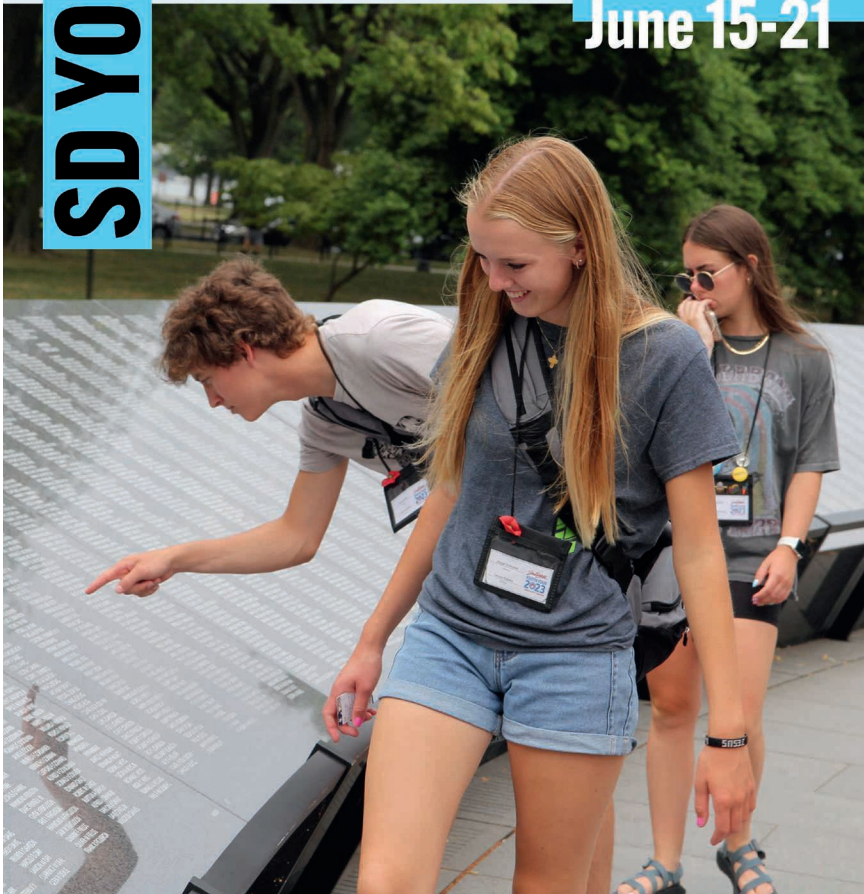
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G&TS ARE THE POWER BEHIND YOUR POWER

Scott Flood

You might be surprised to learn that your local electric cooperative doesn't generate the electricity you use in your home or business. In most cases, your co-op does not own a power plant but instead purchases electricity from an outside source, then routes the power to your community.

For more than 800 electric cooperatives across the country, the source for electricity is a different kind of cooperative. Referred to as "G&Ts," these Generation & Transmission cooperatives exist to help electric co-ops serve their members as reliably and affordably as possible. Their only members are local electric co-ops, so G&Ts are actually cooperatives that serve – you guessed it – cooperatives.

Across the nation, 64 G&T cooperatives provide access to wholesale (at-cost) power at a better price than each of their member co-ops could obtain on their own. Most G&Ts go beyond the delivery of power to provide sophisticated business resources that would normally be out of reach for local co-ops.

Like your local co-op, G&Ts are not-for-profit organizations that exist to serve the needs of their members. G&Ts generally serve all the co-ops in a specific geographic area.

In South Dakota, 28 electric distribution cooperatives receive power from Basin Electric Power Cooperative, headquartered in Bismarck, N.D.

G&Ts employ a leadership team of experts in data, finance, engineering, economic development, environmental management and other important specialties that are essential for electric

co-ops. The G&T operates behind the scenes to support the local co-op's teams, and although G&Ts may be largely unseen, they operate with complete transparency.

G&Ts are best known as the source for at-cost electricity that is generated elsewhere, then delivered to your local co-op over high-voltage transmission lines. Your co-op uses distribution power lines and transformers to then deliver that electricity to your home or business.

Most G&Ts maintain their own power plants, while others purchase power for their members on the wholesale market. Some G&Ts manage a combination of native power generation and purchases. Because a G&T buys enough power to supply all of its member co-ops, it has the bargaining power to secure significantly lower prices than those co-ops could negotiate by themselves. Regardless of how they're structured, G&Ts help keep your electric bill smaller.

Just as important is the work G&Ts

perform in planning. The nation's energy landscape is changing rapidly. G&Ts constantly work with local co-op staff to study and forecast power needs. They consider how growing communities might affect the demand for electricity in the future and work closely with local co-ops when power reliability is challenged, such as times when electricity demand outpaces supply or after a major weather event.

In addition to obtaining the electricity local co-ops need, G&Ts improve and maintain the reliability of the infrastructure co-ops and their communities depend upon. By working with local co-op staff to upgrade transmission lines and deploy substations, they make sure the power will be there for members like you when you need it. G&Ts also work closely with government agencies that monitor and manage the nation's electric grid.

So, while your co-op may not own the power plant that generates the electricity you use every day, it's part of an even bigger not-for-profit cooperative whose mission is to make your service even more reliable and affordable. As the power behind your power, just like your electric co-op, G&T cooperatives exist to serve you.





PREPARING FOR WINTER WEATHER

Jacob Boyko

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As we near the frigid winter months of South Dakota, it's important for you and loved ones to stay ready for an emergency.

Even though power outages are rare, a loss of electricity can affect modern lives in critical ways; In an instant, you may no longer be able to heat your home, prepare food or access critical information.

It's crucial to prepare for power outages and other general emergencies by keeping supplies in both your home and vehicles as well as making sure you and your loved ones have a plan in place.

Brad Reiners, director of communications for the state Department of Public Safety, encourages South Dakotans to stock

up on essentials like food, water and batteries prior to the winter months.

"Make sure you have enough food and water for at least three days, and each person in the household should have one gallon of water per day," Reiners said.

State DPS recommends keeping non-perishable food items like pasta, canned goods and nutritious snacks that don't require refrigeration and don't need to be heated or cooked before consumption.

"Never use gas powered generators, grills or portable stoves indoors, as they can produce dangerous levels of carbon monoxide," Reiner added.

As you prepare, remember to be proactive about your health. Have your medical prescriptions refilled in advance of a severe storm and keep a battery bank charged so you can power your cell phone in case you need to

access telehealth services, emergency services or access critical information.

In your car, keep warm blankets, winter clothes, snacks, a shovel, flashlight and a set of jumper cables in case you get stranded.

"It's also advisable to check your tires for proper inflation and tread, and make sure your windshield wipers are in good condition with freeze-resistant washer fluid," Reiners added.



Bottles of water and shelf-stable dry foods are perfect long-lasting emergency supplies to keep around.
Photo provided by Meals on Wheels of Western South Dakota.

If you plan to rely on a generator or wood burning stove for heat if the power goes out, check beforehand that your equipment is in safe working order, and you have enough fuel to last several days.

Keeping warm clothes, blankets and sleeping bags at the ready can be lifesaving if you're unable to heat your home.

Meals on Wheels here to help with Blizzard Bags

For senior citizens, some of this advice is easier said than done. Meals on Wheels of Western South Dakota understands that better than anyone, and they have come up with a solution.

"Blizzard Bags" have been a part of the organization's lineup for over 20 years now and include some of the essentials seniors need when hunkering down for severe weather.

"We deliver shelf-stable meals for seniors who, especially in rural areas, may not have access to food for a while if their electricity goes out," said Jennifer Paschke, regional manager for Meals on Wheels of Western South Dakota. "We provide five meals in those bags they can use during a loss of power or being stranded in their homes due to weather."

The food supplied is generally items that don't require a heat source, like packages of tuna salad and crackers, protein bars or cans with a pop-top seal so no can opener is required, Paschke said.

The bags also include water and other donated supplies like batteries and flashlights from local businesses, including some rural electric cooperatives.

"The biggest success story I know in

my area is a couple of years ago when they had tornados in Philip," Paschke remembered. "The water we provided [in the blizzard bags] were some of the only sources of water some of those people had. Just having that food and water can be a godsend for some people."

Blizzard Bags are available to seniors age 60 and up who are a part of the Meals on Wheels program. The bags cost roughly \$20 to put together, according to Paschke, and are funded in part by community donors. The organization provides home deliveries for seniors living in both cities and rural areas.

Anyone interested in getting service or helping with the cause can contact Meals on Wheels of Western South Dakota at (605) 394-6002.



Meals On Wheels of Western South Dakota provides blizzard bags to seniors in case weather conditions affect normal delivery. Photo provided by Meals on Wheels of Western South Dakota.

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

Clay-Union Electric Corporation Board Meeting Summary

AUGUST 29, 2024 • VERMILLION, SOUTH DAKOTA

The board meeting was called to order on August 29, 2024, 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, and Mike Slattery. District #1 seat vacant. Attending staff members included Chris Larson, Beth Bottolfson, Mike Kruse and Jackie Williams. Jim Ryken was absent.

Agenda (ACTION ITEM) – A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the agenda.

Visitors to Be Heard – Director Candidate, Sara Schulte

Approval of Minutes from the July Board Meeting (ACTION ITEM) – A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the July board minutes held on 7/23/24.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to authorize Chris Kinney, VP, to sign the board minutes and executive minutes in the absence of Secretary Jim Ryken.

Approval of Minutes from the July Executive Session (ACTION ITEM) – A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the July executive session held on 7/23/24.

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 – A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve an Electric Service contract as presented.

Policy Review – None

Work Order and Special Equipment Summary – None

Management Reports:

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

September Board Meeting – The date of September 27, 2024, was set as the next regular board meeting to begin at 8:30 a.m.

East River REED/MAC – Manager Larson reported on the MAC meeting that was held July 30th in Sioux Falls. There was no REED meeting, but a virtual meeting was held on August 5th.

New Building – Manager Larson reviewed with the Board various warranty and other happenings that are being worked through with Puetz and other contractors.

Distributed Generation Discussion – Manager Larson discussed the agreements he had sent to a member regarding the installation of a wind turbine.

Clay County Fair – Manager Larson and Staff discussed the successful member/community event that was held at the Clay County fair on August 9th.

Basin Managers Meeting & Basin Annual Meeting – The Basin Annual Meeting and the Basin Managers Meeting were both discussed. **NRECA Regional, Minneapolis** – The NRECA Regional meeting will be September 16th to the 18th in Minneapolis, MN. Manager Larson is the registered delegate.

East River Annual Meeting Delegate – The East River Annual Meeting will be held September 4, 2024, at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel in Sioux Falls. Chris Kinney is the delegate and Tom Larsen is the alternate.

Ag Appreciation at the Sioux Empire Fair – Ag Appreciation Day

was Wednesday August 7th in Sioux Falls. The consensus was that we should not participate in this event next year because it is not well attended by our membership.

Cost of Service/Rates – Work continues updating the Cost-of-Service Study and possible rate options for the rate increase needed in 2025.

RUS Loan – The documents for final approval of our RUS loan package were received and forwarded to legal counsel for preparation at the September meeting.

Douglas Electric Annual Meeting – Their annual meeting will be September 9th at their headquarters starting at 6:30 pm.

Central Electric Annual Meeting – Their annual meeting will be September 10th at the Corn Palace in Mitchell at 5:30 pm.

ACRE Donations – Manager Larson delivered ACRE checks to candidates running for office from the state organization.

Federated Insurance Renewal – Our renewal rates for our All-Risk Blanket, Umbrella and Directors, Officers and Managers came in with an increase in rates and for the upgrade in facilities.

Federated Insurance onsite visit – Ray O'Day, Safety and Loss Prevention Consultant with Federated Rural Electric Insurance made his annual visit to inspect our facilities, review claims, and go over our safety programs.

Joint Jurisdictional Zoning Area – The City of Vermillion and Clay County are revising their JJZA agreement.

City Planning and Zoning – Manager Larson participated in and offered updated language to a proposed pre-annexation agreement that the City of Vermillion is considering asking developers to sign that are within the JJZA. The proposed language would protect Clay-Union members from funding developments that the service rights will be taken away when annexed without full compensation.

RESAP – Our onsite inspection that occurs every three years occurred on August 15th and August 16th by trained Cooperative Safety Personnel from across the state.

SE Managers – The SE Managers met in Lake Andes on August 2.

City Annexation – The cutover for the Heikes property annexation took place on July 31st.

SD Line Patrol – Virtual meetings have started in planning the SD Line Patrol poker run scheduled for September 2025. It will be hosted by BY, Union and Clay-Union.

Pictometry Lunch – Manager Larson and Alan Gauer attended a training session hosted by Clay County.

Santel Communications – Manager Larson reported on the additional fiber installations that Santel Communications is bringing to some areas of the Clay-Union membership.

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

- Billing Activity
- Monthly Statements – Mail Delays
- July 2024 Financials Recap
- NRECA Renewal Rates
- Capital Credit General Retirements
- FEMA Flood Funds
- Cost of Service, Financial Forecast & Rate Analysis

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

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

- Monthly department work summary
- Wiring Crew
- New Services
- Service Upgrades
- July Outage Report

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:

- Actual to Budget
- 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 August Safety Meeting Minutes were posted to the website for the board to review and were discussed during the meeting.

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

Video and/or Meeting Reports –

- East River Report
- East River Financials
- Basin Reports

Calendar – The board reviewed the September 2024 calendar.

Executive Session – The board went into Executive Session at 1:32 p.m., Executive Session was adjourned at 1:59 p.m. There was no action taken.

District 1 Director Position (Action) – A motion was made, seconded and carried to appoint Sara Schulte as the new director for District #1.

Adjournment – There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded, and carried, to adjourn the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

Thomas Larsen, President

James Ryken, Secretary

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

If you're heading out of town during the holiday season, remember to set your home to vacation mode. You can save energy while you're away by lowering your thermostat a few degrees or creating an "away" schedule with a smart or programmable thermostat. Newer water heaters include a vacation mode setting to help you save on water heating costs, or you can simply lower the temperature manually.

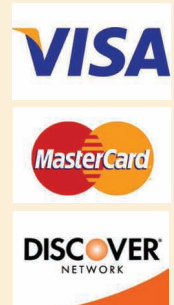
Small actions can also stack up to energy savings. Unplug devices that consume energy when they're not in use, including phone chargers, toothbrush chargers, TVs and gaming consoles.



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 within 10 days by 8 a.m., a \$25 collection fee will be applied and a final 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.



Bank Draft – Have your payment automatically deducted from your checking or savings account. No fees apply for this service.

Recurring Debit/Credit Card

– You may call in your credit/debit card payment and ask for recurring, it will then bill to that card every month on the 20th (or next business day) of each month until you call to cancel. No fees apply for this service.

Pay by Phone – You may call in your credit/debit card payment each month. No fees apply for this service.

By Mail – Send check or money order with your payment slip. Please be sure to mail early so we receive it by the 20th, we do not go by postage date.

In Office – We accept cash, check and money order or we can take your credit/debit card in our office. No fees apply for this service.

On Line Billing – Pay your bill on line at www.clayunionelectric.coop No fees apply for this service.

Collection Fee	\$25
Standard Reconnect Fee	\$50
Reconnect Fee for Non-Payment.....	\$100
After Hours Reconnect Fee.....	\$150
Insufficient Funds Check Fee	\$30

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



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.

OCT. 26
Mortimer's Monstrous Halloween
 3 p.m.-6 p.m.
 Oakwood Lakes State Park
 605-627-5441

NOV. 2
Wall Community Craft Show
 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
 Wall, SD
 605-279-2665

NOV. 2
Fall Fling Craft Show
 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
 Dakota Christian School
 Corsica, SD
 605-366-7940

NOV. 8-9
Sioux Empire Arts & Crafts Show
 Friday, 12 p.m.-8 p.m.
 Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-332-6004

NOV. 9
Deadwood's Big Whiskey Festival
 4 p.m.-8 p.m.
 Main Street
 Deadwood, SD

NOV. 22-JAN.5
Winter Wonderland
 Nightly - 5 p.m.-12 a.m.
 Falls Park
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-275-6060

NOV. 9
Christmas at the Homestead
 12 p.m.-4 p.m.
 North Sioux City, SD
 605-232-0873

NOV. 9-10
Zonta Craft & Vendor Show
 Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
 Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Ramkota Hotel
 Pierre, SD
 605-280-1511

NOV. 16
Festival of Trees
 6 p.m.
 Lead, SD
 605-584-2067

NOV. 23-24
Winterfest: A Winter Arts Festival
 Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
 Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Aberdeen, SD

NOV. 30
A Hometown Christmas Market
 2 p.m.-6 p.m.
 Main Street
 Elk Point, SD

NOV. 29-DEC. 29
Trees & Trains Exhibit at SD State Railroad Museum
 Hill City, SD
 605-665-3636

DEC. 1
A Christmas Carol
 2 p.m.
 Gayville Music Hall
 Gayville, SD
 605-624-2859

DEC. 5
Christmas on the Prairie
 4 p.m.
 Main Street
 Miller, SD

DEC. 5
Holiday Festival of Lights
 4 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
 Yankton, SD
 605-665-3636

DEC. 6-8, 13-15
A Sherlock Carol
 Dec. 6-7, 13-14, 7:30 p.m.
 Dec. 8, 15, 2:30 p.m.
 Corson, SD
 mightycorson.com

DEC. 7
KJAM Parade of Lights
 5:30 p.m.
 Madison, SD
 605-256-4514

DEC. 7
Santa Day
 2 p.m.
 Stockholm Buggy Museum
 Stockholm, SD
 605-467-3940

DEC. 7-31
Garden Glow at McCrory Gardens
 5 p.m.-9 p.m.
 Brookings, SD
 605-688-6707

DEC. 15
A Poker Alice Christmas
 2 p.m.
 Gayville Music Hall
 Gayville, SD

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