

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Rural Electrification

West Central - The Last Co-op to Incorporate
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Generational Farmers
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Rural Electrification served even the most rural communities.

Your Co-op, Your Power – Building the Next Chapter Together



Andy Moon
Chairman

In preparation for your 86th annual meeting, as we do almost every year, let's take a moment to reflect on where we've been, where we are, and where we're going as your cooperative. For 86 years, West River Electric has been owned by you—the members—and guided by one simple mission: to serve your best interest.

This year's theme, *Your Co-op, Your Power*, isn't just a slogan. It's a reminder of what makes us different. You don't just pay a bill; you have a voice. You don't just buy electricity; you own the system that delivers it. Together, we're building a cooperative that honors our history while preparing for the future. Despite all the changes over the decades, one thing has remained constant: West River Electric is *your cooperative*—and *your power*.

Investing in Reliability & Safety

Reliability is the foundation of your cooperative. That's why we've secured millions in federal funding through DOE, FEMA, and other programs to underground lines, replace fuses, and harden our system against wildfire risk. Some funds have been awarded, some clawed back, and others are still in limbo. Whether you agree with federal spending or not, we believe it's our responsibility to pursue those dollars—because if they don't come here, they'll go somewhere else. 295900

Much of this funding supports our wildfire protection program. We've strengthened our Wildfire Mitigation Plan, which addresses Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) preparedness to ensure member safety. While PSPS has become a hot topic nationally, our approach remains local and measured:

- Not new to us. We've always had the authority to de-energize lines during wildfire events, but we've done so only in targeted areas when absolutely necessary.
- A last resort. We weigh the consequences carefully, knowing a shutoff can affect water supplies, medical equipment, and emergency response.
- No one-size-fits-all. We rely on local knowledge, real-time data, and coordination with emergency managers—not blanket policies.
- Prevention first. Our strategy emphasizes undergrounding, vegetation management, and system hardening over broad outages.

Another growing challenge is the rising cost of insurance. For years, your District 2 director, Jamie Lewis, represented West River Electric at the national level, serving as chairman of the Federated board. His leadership gave us a strong voice on insurance and risk management—work that directly impacts your rates. It's no small task in today's litigious environment, and we thank Jamie for that service as his terms comes to a close.

Powering Growth & Opportunity

The energy industry—and your cooperative—is seeing growing interest from large loads like data centers and industrial projects looking to locate in our service area. These opportunities bring both challenges and benefits.

At the local level, your board does an excellent job of ensuring cost causers are cost payers. That principle is non-negotiable. Unfortunately, as we look further up the chain, not all entities share that same philosophy. So when—not if—a large load connects to our system, you can trust we'll make sure they carry their fair share of costs.

Large projects like data centers don't create many direct jobs, but the tax revenue they bring to local communities can be a game changer—funding schools, infrastructure, and public services. And just like federal grants, whether you like them or not, if these projects don't land here, they'll land somewhere else. Handled correctly, they can also help reduce costs for all members.

To make sure those benefits are real and lasting, we must also stay disciplined in how we handle **line extensions and system build-outs**. If the cost of growth isn't properly assigned to the projects driving it, it creates pressure on the rates of every member. That's why we are closely monitoring our construction costs and updating our policies to ensure that new services and large projects pay their fair share from the start. Growth should strengthen your cooperative, not weaken it—and that only happens when costs are aligned with the one creating them.

This year, we also updated our irrigation rate to better reflect today's costs and usage. Fortunately, many benefited from a wetter season, keeping overall irrigation bills lower.

We continue to explore these opportunities with one guiding question: *Does this serve our members' best interest?*

Investing in Our Communities

Strong communities build strong cooperatives. That's why we continue to invest in scholarships, youth engagement, and leadership programs that develop tomorrow's cooperative leaders. These aren't just investments in students—they're investments in the future of rural South Dakota.

One example is our Youth Power Up Program, which connects young people directly to the cooperative world. Through hands-on experiences, leadership training, and exposure to careers in energy and technology, students learn how they can play a role in powering their own communities. By equipping the next generation with knowledge and confidence, we're preparing them for their futures—and strengthening the cooperative for decades to come.

Financial Stability

Even in a time of slower growth and rising costs, your cooperative remains financially strong.

- Growth has slowed. New services dropped from 902 in 2023 to 591 in 2024—a 34% decline. So far in 2025, growth is slightly ahead of last year, but modest compared to past years.
- We invested \$18 million in new plant additions in 2024, bringing total utility plant to \$198 million.
- Equity stands at \$57 million, giving us an equity ratio of about

32%—a healthy position for a growing cooperative our size.

- Long-term debt totals \$112 million, carefully managed to balance growth with stability.
- Operating margins reached \$4.9 million, proving strong day-to-day performance despite slower growth.

These numbers tell a clear story: West River Electric is well positioned to handle the coming challenges, including wholesale power cost increases which we will touch on a little later. But we're lean enough that fully absorbing those costs without member impact simply isn't an option.

Looking Ahead

As we look to the future, your cooperative is positioned for strength—and we will need it with the challenges ahead. Beginning in 2026, we expect a significant increase in our wholesale power costs of about 10%, followed by another increase of roughly 8% in 2027. We've prepared strategies to manage these rising costs, but pressures are coming from other areas as well. Our materials are still increasing although they've leveled off some, insurance premiums continue to climb, and labor costs are rising across the industry. 371402

Even so, there are priorities we will not compromise: safety and reliability. These remain non-negotiable, no matter what challenges we face. Thanks to the work of our Safety Committee, West River Electric has built a strong culture of safety. For the second year in a row, the committee has focused on one of the toughest risks for any utility—complacency. By keeping safety fresh in everyone's mind and reinforcing good habits, we make sure that every employee goes home safe, every day.

Investing in our plant and system will also remain a priority. Ignoring that investment only creates "cliff events," where deferred costs pile up until they hit all at once. That's the situation our generation and transmission cooperative, Basin Electric, now faces. From 2018 to 2024, Basin only built one new power plant. Today, demand has caught up, and new generation must be built—and the capital for that comes from us, the members.

At the same time, we're looking for every opportunity to manage costs on our end. In 2024 alone, we saved just over \$660,000 by shifting load from peak hours to off-peak times, when electricity is cheaper. These are the kinds of solutions we'll continue to explore—because while we have limited ability to control

wholesale power costs, this is one place where we can make a difference. And when we find solutions that work, we'll make sure to pass those benefits on to you.

Challenging? Absolutely. But we're built for challenge. We were founded to do more with less, and this isn't the first time we've faced rising costs or energy uncertainty. During the energy crisis of the 1980s, West River Electric turned to innovation and efficiency to keep costs manageable for members. Today, we're doing the same thing—with better tools, better technology, and the same commitment to safety, reliability, and the strength of our membership.

Your Board of Directors

One of our greatest strengths is the leadership provided by your Board of Directors. These member-owners, elected from across our districts, dedicate countless hours to learning, asking tough questions, and ensuring that every decision reflects your best interests.

This year brought both continuity and change. Longtime director Larry Eisenbraun stepped down after nearly three decades of service, leaving a legacy of steady leadership. His seat will now be filled by Taran Eisenbraun, who has the opportunity to learn from seasoned directors while bringing a fresh perspective to the board. That blend of experience and renewal ensures strong leadership for years to come.

Your Board, has guided the cooperative through federal funding wins, new growth opportunities, challenges, and preparations for rising power supply costs—all while keeping the focus on protecting you, the members. We are fortunate to have a board that represents our communities so well—neighbors serving neighbors, committed to the cooperative difference.

When we say *Your Co-op, Your Power*, we mean it. You own it. You guide it. And together, we will continue building a cooperative that future generations will be proud to inherit—one that is reliable, innovative, and rooted in community.

We hope you can join us at your upcoming Annual Meeting on October 11th starting at 10 am at the Wall Community Center.

Thank You,

Andy Moon | Chairman

Robert Raker | CEO

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

WEST RIVER ELECTRIC

(USPS No. 675-840)

Our Mission:

To serve our members' best interest.

Our Vision:

We will be a high performing co-op.

Our Values:

1. Safety
2. Accountability
3. Integrity
4. Innovation
5. Commitment to Community

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Board President: Andy Moon

Board of Directors

Stan Anders – Vice President
 Jamie Lewis – Secretary
 Chuck Sloan – Treasurer
 Taran Eisenbraun
 Peter Blake
 Marcia Arneson
 Steven Edoff
 Sue Peters

CEO and General Manager:

Robert Raker –
 robert.raker@westriver.coop

Editor

Amanda Haugen –
 amanda.haugen@westriver.coop

WEST RIVER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is the monthly publication for the members of West River Electric Association. Members subscribe to *Cooperative Connections* as part of their electric cooperative membership for \$6 a year. West River Electric Cooperative Connections purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to electric cooperative members on matters pertaining to rural electrification and better living. Nonmember subscriptions are available for \$12 per year. Periodicals Postage paid at Wall, S.D., and at additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to West River Electric Cooperative Connections, PO Box 412, Wall, SD 57790-0412.

Other correspondence to: West River Electric Cooperative Connections, 3250 E Hwy 44, Rapid City, SD 57703; telephone (605)393-1500, Exts. 6564, 6531 or 6522; fax (605)393-0275; e-mail amanda.haugen@westriver.coop.

Go Above and Beyond for a Safe Harvest

Anne Prince
NRECA

Modern farming often relies on data and equipment with GPS and auto-guidance systems. However, even with these modern conveniences, farm workers must remain vigilant. That's because farming is considered one of the most dangerous jobs.

Massive machinery is indispensable to farming, but the same impressive size, height and extensions make them particularly vulnerable to contacting power lines. That's why staying alert, focused and knowledgeable about potential hazards and safety procedures is crucial.

During a busy harvest season, the familiar sights around the farm can easily fade into the background, and farm workers can overlook the power lines overhead. However, failing to notice them can lead to deadly accidents.

360 Awareness

Awareness of your surroundings, around, above and below, and planning safe equipment routes can significantly reduce the risk of accidents. Even with GPS and auto-steering, it's imperative that farm workers keep a close eye on the equipment's location and are ready to take action if necessary.

Exposed underground powerlines, defective wiring in farm buildings and extension cords are also hazards. Grain bins can pose a potential danger as well. The National Electrical Safety Code requires power lines to be at least 18 feet above the highest point on any grain bin with which portable augers or other portable filling equipment are used.

Smart Harvest Safety Tips

To ensure a safer harvest season, SafeElectricity.org recommends the following tips to avoid electrical accidents on the farm:

- Exercise caution near power lines. Be careful when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Use spotters when operating large machinery near power lines. Ensure the spotters do not touch the machinery while it is moving near power lines.

- Lower equipment extensions, portable augers or elevators before moving or transporting equipment. Do not raise equipment, such as ladders, poles or rods into power lines. Remember that non-metallic materials like lumber, tree limbs, ropes and hay can conduct electricity, especially when damp, dusty or dirty.
- Never attempt to raise or move power lines to clear a path. Doing so could result in electric shock or death.
- Avoid using metal poles inside bins. Don't use metal poles to break up bridged grain inside or around bins.
- Hire qualified electricians. Ensure that qualified electricians handle work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems.

While rare, the only reason to exit equipment that has come into contact with overhead lines is if the equipment is on fire. However, if it happens, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the machinery and the ground at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.



"Don't play with outlets!"

Kinzlee Klomp, Age 12

Kinzlee warns readers not to play with power outlets. Great advice, Kinzlee! Kinzlee's parents are Kaitlin and Austin Klomp from Box Elder, 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.

Fresh BREADS

ZUCCHINI BREAD

Ingredients:

3 eggs
2 cups sugar
1 cup oil
2 tsps. vanilla
3 cups flour
1 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. cinnamon
3 cups zucchini (shredded)

Method

Cream together eggs, sugar and oil. Then add the vanilla. Mix together the flour, baking soda, baking powder, salt, cinnamon and add to the egg mixture. Stir in zucchini. Pour into two loaf pans. Bake at 325°F for approximately one hour.

Kimberly Grimm
Southeastern Electric

GLUTEN FREE OATMEAL PANCAKES

Ingredients:

2 1/2 cups oats
1 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. cinnamon
1/2 tsp. salt
2 eggs
1/2 cup milk
3/4 cup applesauce
3 tsps. maple syrup
2 tsps. apple cider vinegar
2 tsps. vanilla

Method

Grind 2 1/2 cups oats in blender until turned into flour. In large bowl, whisk together oats, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon and salt. Form a bowl in center, add eggs and whisk them. Then, add milk, applesauce, maple syrup, apple cider vinegar and vanilla. Stir to combine. Wait five minutes to thicken batter. Cook in oiled pan.

Jean Beauchamp
Southeastern Electric

KUNSI' FRY BREAD

Ingredients:

1 tbsp. yeast (quick rise)
2 tbsps. sugar
1 qt. warm water
1 tbsp. oil/melted butter
1/2 tsp. salt
6 cups all-purpose flour
2 tbsps. powdered dry milk
4 cups oil for frying

Method

Mix yeast, sugar, salt, warm water, oil/melted butter and let proof for 15 minutes. Mix flour and powdered dry milk. Make a well in the flour mixture and add yeast mixture. Gradually add warm water until dough comes together and is no longer sticky. Cover and let rise until doubled in size. Heat oil to fry dough. Separate dough into 10 to 12 baseball-size dough balls (or smaller if you want smaller pieces). Stretch dough balls and shape into oval discs or round discs approximately 1/4 inch thick. Test the oil to see if it's hot enough by dropping a small pea size piece of the dough in the oil. If it floats it's ready. Flatten the disc between your hands and stretch it again. Fry the bread until both sides are golden brown. Transfer to paper towel lined plate to drain. Continue until all the dough is fried. Enjoy with soup or a Spam and egg sandwich or taco toppings.

Sheila Ironheart
Whetstone Valley 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 2025. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Notice of Nominations by Petition

Notice is hereby given that a nominating petition for the following candidate has been filed for Director, pursuant to Section 4, Article V of the Bylaws of West River Electric Association, Inc. This candidate for the position of Director will be voted on at the October 11, 2025, Annual Meeting from the following district:

District No 2: Consisting of the area served by the Cooperative in Meade and Ziebach Counties, South Dakota.

Regular 3 Year Term

Jason Habrock, 13863 Riata Loop, Piedmont, SD 57769

You are further notified that the above nominations by petition are made for the position of Director for a three-year term to fill the expired term of a director and that one individual from each district will be elected at the October 11, 2025, Annual Meeting of the Association.

Dated this 18th day of August 2025.

Jamie Lewis, Secretary,
West River Electric Association, Inc.


By: Jamie Lewis, Secretary

This form is to designate the voting delegate of an organization. This Form should be completed and signed by an officer of the organization and brought to the meeting.

Voting Authorization Necessary for Organizations

Non-individual members such as schools, municipalities, churches, organizations, and corporations are entitled to representation and one vote, but the proper procedure must be followed to exercise this right.

Each member organization should designate a representative who is an officer, shareholder, or member of their organization. This form must be signed by an officer of the governing body.

Authorization to Vote

This is to certify that _____ of _____ in a duly assembled meeting, designated _____ who is a(n) Officer, Shareholder, or Member (CIRCLE ONE) of said organization, to represent the _____ at the regular Annual Meeting of the members of West River Electric Association, Inc., to be held October 11, 2025, and said person is authorized to cast such member's vote on all issues that may come before said meeting.

The undersigned verifies that (s)he is the _____ Of said organization and authorized to execute this instrument on behalf thereof.

Signature

Date

Organization Address

Phone Number:

Witness

Mailing Address

Phone Number:

Print Name of Witness


Signature of Witness

Notice of Annual Meeting of Members of West River Electric Association, Inc., Wall, South Dakota

The Annual Meeting of members of West River Electric Association, Inc. Will be held at 10:00am on Saturday, the 11th of October 2025, at the Wall Community Center, in the town of Wall, County of Pennington, State of South Dakota, for the purpose of:

1. Receiving reports of officers, directors and committees;
2. Electing one director from each of the (3) districts for a term of three (3) years to replace those directors whose terms expire;
3. Approving, ratifying and confirming all the acts of the Directors of the Association and its officers taken prior to this annual meeting;
4. Transacting any and all business which may be necessary, convenient or desirable in connection with any of the foregoing at said meetings or at any properly scheduled adjournments hereto;

Dated at Wall, South Dakota, this 15 day of September, 2025
Jamie Lewis, Secretary, West River Electric Association, Inc.


By: Jamie Lewis, Secretary

Do You Need Special Accommodations to be a Part of the Annual Meeting?

Need for auxiliary aids or services: Facilities are accessible to people with mobility impairments. If you need auxiliary aids or services in order to participate in the meeting (e.g., sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, materials in alternative format), please submit a request to West River Electric at 605-279-2135. To ensure auxiliary aids or services are available, please make the request(s) at least 10 days in advance to the meeting.

Voting Regulations

1. Each voter must be a member of West River Electric Association, Inc.
2. Each member has only one vote.
3. For joint memberships, where the service is in the name of two individuals, one of the individuals may vote, but not both, and neither are eligible to have any other memberships.
4. Spouses may both have individual memberships, and under South Dakota statutes, one spouse may vote on behalf of the other, provided that the other has not indicated otherwise at the time of the meeting.
5. Each member organization should designate a representative who is an officer, shareholder or member of the organization to vote for a partnership, incorporated business, association, church, school township or other political body. The said person must have a completed authorization form, signed by an officer of the organization prior to the WREA Annual Meeting. The form can be found to the left of this page.
6. No campaigning by or for director candidates is allowed in the hall.
7. At registration, the member will be given a slip that will be exchanged for a ballot at the time of voting.

Notice of Incumbent Directors Seeking Re-Election

Notice is hereby given that the official list of incumbent Directors seeking re-election for the position of Director includes the following individuals pursuant to Section 4, Article V of the Bylaws of West River Electric Association, Inc.

District 1: Consisting of the area served by the Cooperative in Pennington County, South Dakota, West of the Cheyenne River.

- o Jamie Lewis: 23415 Bradsky Rd, Rapid City, SD 57703

District No. 2: Consisting of the area served by the Cooperative in Meade and Ziebach Counties, South Dakota.

- o Marcia Arneson: 815 Rosilee Ln, Rapid City, SD 57701

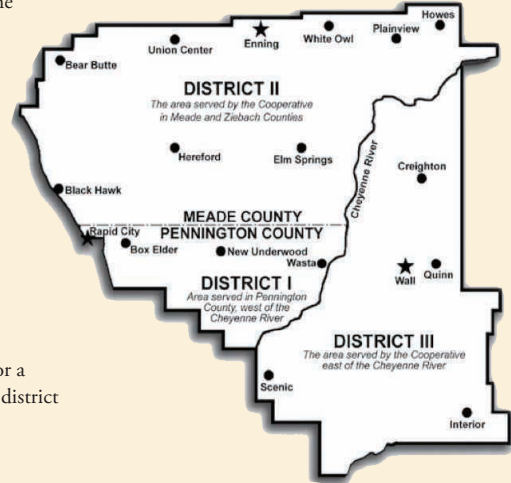
District No. 3: Consisting of the area served by the Cooperative East of the Cheyenne River.

- o Sue Peters: 23188 Creighton Rd, Wall, SD 57790

You are further notified that the above nominations are made for the position of director for a three-year term to fill the term of the expiring Director, and that one individual from each district will be elected at the October 11, 2025, Annual Meeting of the Association.

Dated this 21st day of April 2025.

By Jamie Lewis, Secretary



Jamie Lewis
District 1

Jamie Lewis is the incumbent director from District 1. He lives on a ranch outside of Rapid City called Grandview Angus with his wife Elise and son Abe. Lewis has been a director on the board since 2013. He served on the Federated Rural Insurance Board representing West River Electric for our region as the Board Chairman where he has just finished his term. He also serves as the Rushmore Electric board member which is the generation and transmission cooperative for West River Electric. Lewis is a member of Rapid City Elks Club, BH Angus Association and Southside Irrigation Ditch Company. It will be a great honor to serve another three years on the West River Electric board of directors.

Jamie Lewis - District 1 Incumbent



Marcia Arneson
District 2

Marcia Arneson of Rapid City is the incumbent director for District 2. In the past 31 years, she has been with West River Electric. She has served on various committees within WREA and NRECA, where she served on the resolutions committee and the National Advisory board for directors for over 9 years. Marcia is a life-long resident of Meade County. She has served various positions on different boards within the area. She is a credentialed director and also earned her certified board leadership certificate, along with her gold leadership. Marcia has four grown married children, three daughters and one son, and is a proud grandmother of 14 beautiful grandchildren. Her hobbies include rodeo, football and wrestling.

Marcia Arneson - District 2 Incumbent



Jason Habrock
District 2

Jason Habrock - District 2 - Nomination by Petition

I was raised on a family farm in northeast Nebraska, where agriculture was more than a livelihood—it was a way of life. Our farm included thousands of acres of crops and a sizeable cattle operation, and I even grew my own hog business to 2,000 head by the time I graduated high school. Agriculture has always been at the heart of who I am.

I earned a degree in mechanical engineering from the South Dakota School of Mines, where my wife Tracy and I first fell in love with the Black Hills. Career opportunities took us elsewhere, and I spent over two decades with ADM, a Fortune 50 agricultural processor. My work spanned engineering and operations leadership, eventually serving as Global Director of Continuous Improvement, where I led a team supporting 165 facilities worldwide. Along the way, I also completed my MBA at Millikin University.

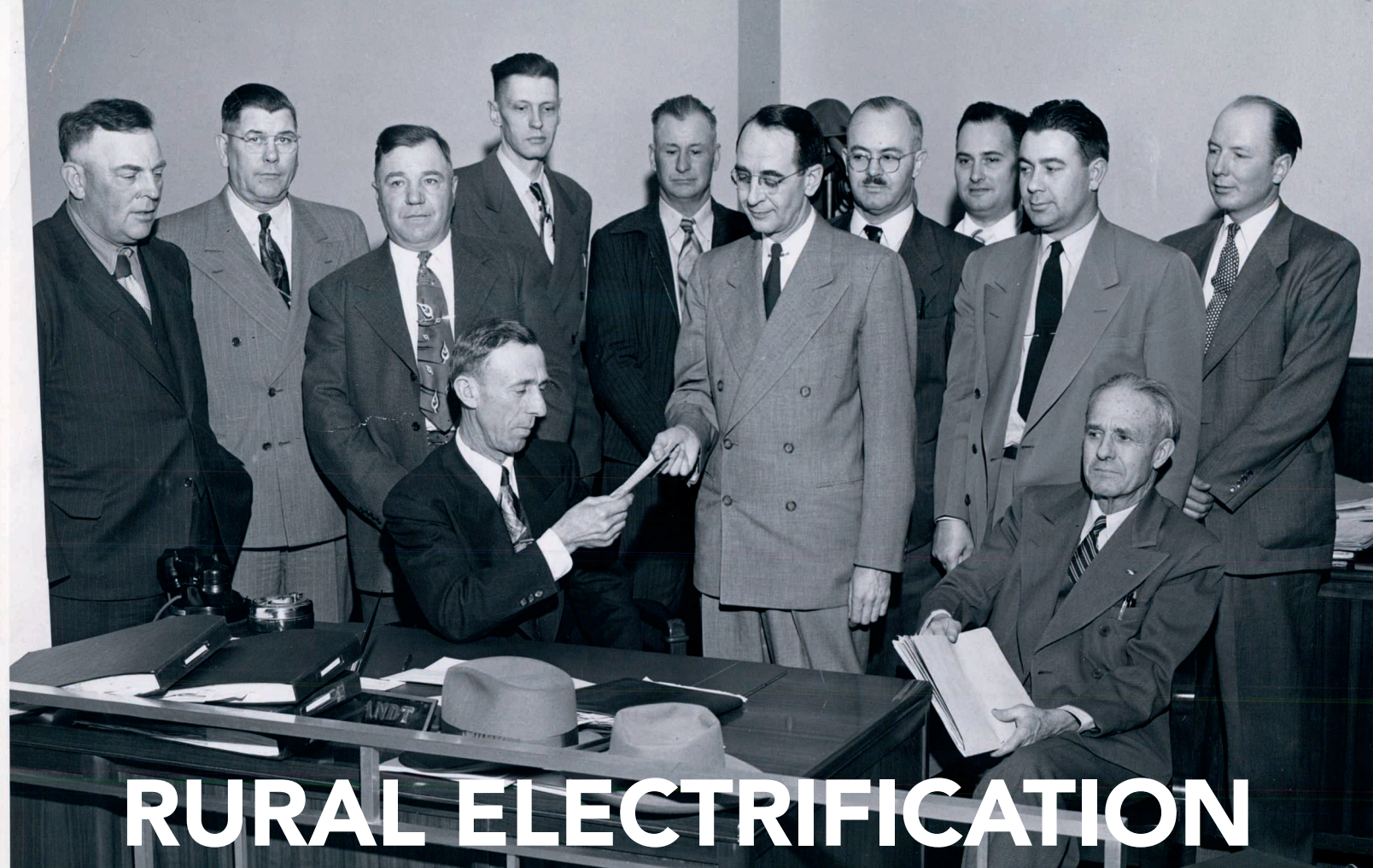
Four years ago, Tracy and I returned to the Black Hills to raise our family in a community rooted in the values we cherish. Since then, I've launched a manufacturing optimization consultancy serving clients across the region. Now, I'm running for the board of directors of West River Electric—not because I see problems, but because I believe my background can bring fresh perspective. I'm committed to helping shape the cooperative's future and supporting the needs of its membership.



Sue Peters
District 3

Sue Peters - District 3 - Incumbent

Sue Peters of Wall is the incumbent director from District 3. Sue lives north of Wall on a small farmstead. Sue has a deep understanding of the cooperative business model as a retiree of Golden West Telecom where she worked for 28 years. In her seven years on the Board, Sue has taken the required courses to complete her NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate and her Board Leadership Certificate. Wall has been home to Sue since 1980. She has three precious grandchildren and two children. Her favorite past time is being a grandma and playing pickleball.



RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

WEST CENTRAL

Last to Incorporate, Lasting in Impact

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

Before rural electrification, South Dakota's farmsteads ended the day in silence. There was no music from the radio playing in the living room or hum of an electric refrigerator in the kitchen. Over decades of work, power lines would stretch across the prairie through President Franklin Roosevelt's vision of rural electrification, carrying not only electricity but also a new way of life.

In 1935, President Roosevelt created the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) as part of his New Deal policies to revive a nation struggling through the Great Depression and bring electricity to

America's rural communities, something that private and investor-owned utilities refused to do.

Clay-Union Electric was the first rural community in South Dakota to adopt the cooperative model in 1937, and West Central was the last in 1949. But as former West Central Electric CEO Steve Reed can attest, being the last to adopt the cooperative way didn't hinder their success. Once the path to forming a cooperative was established, the members of West Central benefitted from electricity's transformation from a luxury into a necessity with the rest of rural South Dakota.

"We couldn't rely on the power

West Central Electric board directors present a check to a representative of Central Electric and Gas in 1951, finalizing the cooperative's purchase of the private utility system. *Photo submitted by West Central Electric.*

companies to come out to serve rural South Dakota," said Reed, a 42-year cooperative veteran who joined West Central Electric as a lineman and worked his way up to CEO. "They were never going to do it at price that was affordable, so rural electric has been great for not only the members of West Central but the entire country."

So why was West Central the last to form a cooperative? According to Reed, the rural communities that organized West Central Electric in 1949 had several hurdles to clear. The first was overcoming the sheer remoteness of the territory, which then had a system that averaged 1.5 members per mile of line constructed, even including towns and

cities. Because members were few and far between, the REA needed the towns in the proposed West Central territory to become members: from Philip to Hayes and Murdo to Kennebec, where West Central Electric was incorporated.

That led to the next problem: the towns and cities in the proposed West Central Electric's service territory were already being served by Central Electric and Gas, a private company based out of Philadelphia. This obstacle didn't stop the people who had a vision of what rural electrification could accomplish. Following lengthy discussion in 1951, West Central Electric purchased systems from Central Electric and Gas for \$850,000 using low-interest REA federal funds.

Former West Central Electric Attorney John Larson outlined the discussions in his 50th Annual Meeting Speech: "There was no choice but to buy out the private supplier, Central Electric and Gas, and that was accomplished... (Former South Dakota Governor M. Q. Sharpe, who served as West Central Electric's attorney), showed up for the meeting that morning unshaven and unkempt, with a threadbare shirt and suit. For the entire morning, he listened with his head down and eyes shut to the Philadelphia lawyer types who represented the power company. After the dinner break, however, he showed up in a new suit, shaved, and took over the meeting by dictating exactly what West Central would do and what we would pay. During an afternoon break, one of the Philadelphia types was heard to mutter, 'You want to watch that old guy. When he's got his head down and eyes shut, he's not sleeping!'"

West Central Electric's 1951 purchase included all the electrical infrastructure within the town boundaries, as well as the diesel generation system extending west from Chamberlain. Shortly after, the evolution of West Central Electric progressed with the construction of distribution systems to farms and reconstructing the systems of various

towns, including the installation of street lights.

Since that iconic moment, West Central has continued to grow with its membership, meeting more demand for electrical energy than had been previously thought possible, a reflection of just how integral electricity has

become in day-to-day living for business owners, ag producers, and rural folk alike.

"That moment modernized us," said Reed. "It just did so much for everything – and without it, where would we be?"



(Top) A West Central Electric Annual Meeting.
(Bottom) A West Central Electric Board Meeting with the REA.
Photos submitted by West Central Electric

FINANCIALS

Our Revenue Came From:

	2023	2024
Farms and Ranches	\$3,831,471	\$4,095,735
Residential	\$22,485,602	\$24,338,674
Large Commercial	\$11,034,265	\$11,887,557
Small Commercial	\$3,366,912	\$3,412,838
Public, Irrigation, Other	\$1,794,824	\$3,221,420
TOTAL INCOME:	\$43,513,074	\$46,956,224

We Paid For:

	2023	2024
Power Purchased	\$20,882,388	\$22,749,554
Maintenance & Operations	\$4,158,057	\$4,433,441
Member Accounts	\$1,626,402	\$1,779,043
General & Administrative	\$4,779,046	\$5,204,657
Depreciation	\$4,734,655	\$5,309,010
Interest	\$3,266,569	\$3,777,411
Taxes & Other Deductions	\$780,659	\$806,487
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE:	\$40,227,776	\$44,059,603
Operating Margins	\$3,285,298	\$2,896,621
Non-Operating Margins	\$372,398	\$355,054
Capital Credits	\$2,068,218	\$1,691,509
TOTAL MARGINS:	\$5,725,914	\$4,943,184

What We Own as of Dec. 31:

	2023	2024
Electric Plant	\$131,460,556	\$142,746,833
Other Property & Investments	\$21,875,673	\$21,641,093
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$1,489,336	\$3,099,583
Accounts Receivable	\$2,847,538	\$3,275,449
Material & Supplies on Hand	\$4,838,449	\$6,149,378
Prepayments & Interest	\$1,833,569	\$2,085,740
Deferred Debits	\$76,168	\$133,252
TOTAL WE OWN:	\$164,421,289	\$179,131,328

What We Owe as of Dec. 31:

	2023	2024
Total Long-Term Debt	\$103,376,713	\$116,378,447
Other Noncurrent Liabilities	\$419,268	\$448,180
Notes Payable - Line of Credit	\$1,500,000	-
Accounts Payable	\$2,208,758	\$2,293,380
Member Deposits	\$466,349	\$464,736
Taxes Accrued	\$1,122,908	\$1,145,716
Other Current Liabilities	\$696,676	\$817,352
Deferred Credits	\$1,371,954	\$323,611
TOTAL WE OWE:	\$111,162,626	\$121,871,422
OUR EQUITIES		
Patronage Capital	\$53,258,663	\$57,259,906
TOTAL WE OWE PLUS EQUITY:	\$164,421,289	\$179,131,328

2023 Co-op Statistics

Members: 15,230
Meters: 20,260
Total # of Employees: 59
Service Area: 4,500 sq mi
Transmission line: 40 miles
Overhead Line: 2,043 mi
Underground Line: 607 mi
Avg Residential Usage: 958 KWH

Avg Residential Bill: \$128
Avg Sm Commercial Usage: 1,358 KWH
Avg Sm Commercial Bill: \$200
Avg Lg Commercial Usage: 15,207 KWH
Avg Lg Commercial Bill: \$1,812
Meters Per Mile of Line: 7.53

2024 Co-op Statistics

Members: 15,644
Meters: 20,674
Total # of Employees: 60
Service Area: 4,500 sq mi
Transmission Line: 40 mi
Overhead Line: 2,034 mi
Underground Line: 638 mi
Avg Residential Usage: 937 KWH

Avg Residential Bill: \$133
Avg Sm Commercial Usage: 1,328 KWH
Avg Sm Commercial Bill: \$202
Avg Lg Commercial Usage: 14,552 KWH
Avg Lg Commercial Bill: \$1,768
Meters Per Mile of Line: 7.63



West River Electric Association, Inc. Wall, South Dakota Annual Meeting - Oct. 12, 2024

The meeting was called to order by President Andy Moon at 10:00 a.m. at the Wall Community Center in Wall, South Dakota.

All Veterans in attendance were asked to stand and be recognized. The membership and all in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance. The National Anthem was sung by Ms. Athena Simons for the membership.

Secretary Jamie Lewis reported for Roger Scott, Chairperson of the Credentials and Election Committee, that 124 members of West River Electric Association, Inc. were registered and that a quorum was present at the meeting. At present, we have a total of 15,644 members.

A motion was made and seconded to dispense with the reading of the Notice of Annual Meeting and the Affidavit of Mailing and filed in the Minute Book for September 17, 2024. Motion carried.

The minutes of the October 7, 2023, Annual Meeting were presented for approval. President Moon asked for a motion to approve the minutes as presented. A motion was duly made and seconded to approve the minutes as mailed. Motion carried.

President Moon introduced the guests in attendance.

Greg Erlandson, Attorney for West River Electric, read the Notice of Incumbent Directors seeking re-election for the position of Director from April 15, 2024, based on Section 4 Article 5 of the Bylaws. The Directors seeking re-election; Stan Anders from District II and Andy Moon from District III. Attorney Erlandson asked for a motion to cast a unanimous ballot for Stan Anders from District II and for Andy Moon for District III. A motion was made, seconded and carried to cast a unanimous ballot for District II and III.

Nominating petitions for the position of Director are due not less than 60 days prior to the annual meeting. Mr. Erlandson read the Notice of Nomination by Petition for District I director candidates Kim Morey and Steven Edoff.

Mr. Erlandson announced the election for the vacant position for District I. Each candidate, Kim Morey and Steven Edoff had 3 minutes to address the membership.

Greg Erlandson announced registration was now closed. Voting for the Director position for District 1 was then held.

President Andy Moon welcomed the membership to our 85th Annual Meeting. Our theme this year is Powering Generations; 85 years of service. Moon highlighted the general capital credit retirement of \$1.0 million for 2024 to everyone who had been a member in 2002 as well as our Rushmore and Basin capital credits we received. We recently conducted an extensive cost of service study. We have not made any rate adjustments since 2016 and have been fortunate enough to power our generations for 8 years without an increase. However, the average cost of service for residential rate has increased about 8% while our average commercial rate about 2%. Both Basin Electric and Western Area Power Administration will be increasing their rates over the next 2 years and we are still exploring all the options on how we manage the large increase. This past year, the Board adopted a 3-year strategic plan with initiatives that revolve around safety, reliability, legislative leadership, member engagement, technology advancements, and employee betterment. With all this transition, our Board cannot thank the employees enough for stepping up to all these changes and

challenges, embracing opportunities, and keeping your lights on every day. Moon introduced the Board of Directors that work hard on your behalf to power our future generations. He thanked Director Howard Knuppe for serving 36 years as a member of the Board representing the member at the end of the line while making sure the co-op is successful, and our employees are taken care of. We have a transition coming soon with our CEO, Dick Johnson retiring in early January and we have chosen Robert Raker, the Manager of Communication and Public Relations, to lead the cooperative in this new exciting utility landscape.

Dick Johnson, CEO/General Manager, began with highlighting our milestone: Powering Generations: 85 Years of Service for which he has been manager for 14 years. He spoke of the cooperative margins, assets, equity, and sales with 903 new services installed in 2023. Growth continues in our service territory with new homes and apartments along with the buildout of current developments and new businesses as well while continuing to upgrade and provide reliability. We continue to see a push funded with ample federal dollars to support solar and wind to our generation mix and by 2039 all coal fired generation will need to have carbon capture or fired with hydrogen that is not yet commercially available. We had another busy year and I am proud of our employee group for working so hard. He thanked the Board of Directors for always having our back and a special thanks to Howard. This is a period of transition within the industry and here at West River. I feel confident Robert will take WREA into powering the generations for the next number of years. They along with all our partner organizations, will persevere and move WREA and our entire cooperative movement to another 85 years of success just like our forefathers did when it all started June 12, 1939.

Howard Knuppe was recognized for 36 years of service as a Board Director.

Employee years of service were presented: 30 years-Dick Johnson, 25 years-Matt Schmahl, 20 years-Tyson Gunn, 15 years-Roberta Rancour and Justin Wermers, 10 years-Gerri Johnston, Lindsay Reagle, Garrett Shearer, Turner Donahue, and Trent Madsen, 5 years-Keenan Caesar, Tucker O'Rourke, and Cameron Price and Director milestone: 30 years-Marcia Arneson.

President Moon called for old business. There was none.

President Moon called for new business. There was none.

Mr. Erlandson announced the winner of District I election as Steven Edoff. Erlandson thanked Kim Morey for his interest in serving on the Board of Directors.

Drawings were held for door prizes.

The drawing was held for 7 - \$500 Scholarships for a high school senior or full-time student currently attending college or technical school. We had 12 students in attendance and the winners were Lucy Moon, Katherine Palmer, Macee Paulsen, Taylee Dartt, Mercedes Burke, Rylan Elshere and Kelly Clauson.

The grand prize winner was John Fortune.

The jackpot winner of \$100.00 was Philip Wilson with Mary Wilson accepting. Next year, the jackpot will be \$1,900.

Thank you to Greg Wheeler from Basin Electric Power Cooperative for all of his assistance.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.


By: Jamie Lewis, Secretary



Photo submitted by JT and Luann Weber.

GENERATIONAL FARMERS

Four Generations of Lyon-Lincoln Electric Members Ranch on Lake Benton-Area Land

Jacob Boyko
jacob.boyko@sdra.coop

Nestled amongst the rolling green pastures of western Minnesota, there's a generations-old farm worked by one family for over three quarters of a century.

From their Lincoln County property, the Weber family watched rural electrification improve the prairie, connect neighbors and bring reliability to farmsteads. Now they watch precision agriculture guide planting, bovine genetics strengthen herds, and social media and the internet connect their business to the wider world.

It all started in 1947, when John and Marie Weber moved into the old three-bedroom farmhouse from nearby

Elkton, S.D. Luckily, the move came six years after Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative energized lines in the area, so the Weber home enjoyed many of the modern amenities brought on by rural electrification, including electric lights, kitchen appliances and a washing machine.

"I know I had the best mom and dad in the world," said JT, one of John and Marie's eight children, who today helps run the ranch with his wife, Luann, their three sons and their families. "Dad was very community-oriented. He was on the school board, the elevator board and the rural water board. In fact, he was instrumental in starting rural water. He went from place to place, talking people

into getting rural water."

JT was born on the farm in 1957 during a blizzard that left his parents unable to reach the hospital in town. As a boy, he remembers collecting rainwater in a cistern and using it for cooking, cleaning and baths. Even as rural electrification began to transform the countryside, life on the farm remained far different – and often harder – than life in town.

"When I grew up, back in the 60s and 70s, if you milked 40 cows that was quite a few," JT said. "We were milking about 100 cows – we were kind of ahead of our time. But we had a big family, and us boys, we got right in there."

He continued, "We were hauling silage, hauling manure, milking cows and doing chores. But Dad never told us to do anything. He always asked us if we wanted to, and there's a difference. You wanted to work for him. He made you want to work for him, and it was never a burden."

That was a quality JT kept in mind with his own seven children on that same

ranch where he grew up. Today, JT and Luann's sons Jake, Garret, and Matt all stay involved in the ranch, now Weber Bros. Cattle.

"Growing up, I kind of always had that bug to get in the tractor, chase cows, put up fence, and do what needs to be done," explained Jake, the oldest son.

Today, they specialize in raising purebred Angus bulls and Simmental-Angus crosses, while also producing corn silage and alfalfa to help sustain the operation. While the operation may be old, it's not at all low-tech.

"Our main thing is our bull program," Jake said. "We sell about 50 registered Angus and Simmental bulls by private treaty every spring, and we also develop 50 replacement and bred heifers, and market a portion of them. We do a lot of artificial insemination and embryo transfer. Some of the more elite donor cows we can get our hands on by buying females and buying embryos. We're just trying to make good cows."

Jake, like his dad, graduated from South Dakota State University with an animal science degree, and was excited to return to the ranch to incorporate some of his new skills into the operation.

"When I got back from school, we really amped up our embryo transfer program with different ideas and stuff I learned about genetics from contacts and producers we've met over the years," Jake continued. "We went from selling 10 bulls per year to selling close to 50 bulls."

Jake's younger brother and fellow SDSU animal science graduate, Garret, keeps involved on the family's ranch as well. Though he works full time as swine genetic company Hypor's US Sales Manager, he helps out with the operation and finds the time to run Weber Bros. Cattle's social media pages, which he says has successfully expanded their presence in the market.

"Whether it's Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat or our company website, we're able to hit such a broad spectrum of people, and it's a great way to tell the story of our operation, what we're doing year-in and year-out and advertise the



genetics of the cattle that we're showing and selling," Garret explained. "We're able to have a much greater touch point of individuals that we can reach out to and market our livestock."

JT, Jake and Garret all credit their spouses and families for supporting them as they work to grow the operation.

"It took a long time and a lot of support for us to get established and get to where we are today," JT said.

Looking toward the future – and the next generation, their goals are to make an already successful operation even better.

"We'll keep working with the cow herd, continue to make improvements and make better genetics every year," Jake said. "I want this opportunity to be available to my kids, so that if they want to be able to do this, they'll have the same chance we did."

Garret added, "It's something that I hope my sons can do someday if we're able to continue to grow the operation. I hope it's something they're going to be able to share and cherish with their own kids, because those are the memories that stick with you forever."

JT and Luann Weber with their adult children, Jake, Garret, Matt and Sara Weber, Liz Mergen, and Maria Opheim, and families.

Back, from left: Garret Weber, Levi Weber, Kailey Weber, Jake Weber, Amanda Weber, Sara Weber, Cade Opheim, Maria Opheim, Tawnee Opheim, JT Weber, Luann Weber, Brent Mergen, Liz Mergen, Davie Fiedler, Matt Weber, Racheal Krog.
Front, from left: Adam Weber, Chisum Weber, Abeline Weber, Vidalia Fiedler.
Not pictured: Talon Weber



Photo submitted by JT and Luanne Weber.



A purebred Angus Heifer.
Photo by Garret Weber

YEARS OF SERVICE



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MARCIA ARNESON	31	DISTRICT 2	SUE PETERS	8	DISTRICT 3
ANDY MOON	19	PRESIDENT, DISTRICT 3	PETER BLAKE	2	DISTRICT 1
STAN ANDERS	19	VICE PRESIDENT DISTRICT 2	STEVEN EDOFF	1	DISTRICT 1
JAMIE LEWIS	12	SECRETARY, DISTRICT 1	TAREN EISENBRAUN	2 MO.	DISTRICT 3
CHUCK SLOAN	9	TREASURER DISTRICT 2			

MANAGEMENT STAFF

MIKE LETCHER	34	OPERATIONS MANAGER	AMY THOMPSON	18	MANAGER OF MEMBER SERVICES
DAWN HILGENKAMP	29	CFO/MANAGER OF FINANCE	ROBERT RAKER	17	CEO/GENERAL MANAGER
MATT SCHMAHL	26	BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER	ADAM DAIGLE	12	MANAGER OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS
BRENDAN NELSON	25	OPERATIONS SUPT-RC	GERRI JOHNSTON	11	MANAGER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
SANDEN SIMONS	25	OPERATIONS SUPT-WALL			
JENNY PATTERSON	18	MGR OF OFFICE SERVICES			

LINEMAN & OFFICE EMPLOYEES

LANE BUTLER	34	ENNING FOREMAN	CLINT STANGLE	9	JOURNEYMAN LINEMAN
TRACEA LADNER	27	OPERATIONS ADMIN ASST	AARIN AINSWORTH	9	STAKING TECHNICIAN
JANNETTE THAYER	23	METERING ADMIN ASST	AIMEE PAULSEN	8	BILLING SPECIALIST
BRANDON ARNOLD	22	STAKING TECHNICIAN	LUCAS SCHREURS	8	JOURNEYMAN LINEMAN
TYSON GUNN	21	MAINT./CONSTRUCTION FOREMAN	CAROLYN SCHULZ	7	SOFTWARE & DATABASE ADMIN
LANCE STEIGER	19	STAKING FOREMAN	TUCKER HOHN	7	JOURNEYMAN LINEMAN
MIKE OYEN	19	WAREHOUSEMAN	KEENAN CAESAR	6	JOURNEYMAN LINEMAN
CHRISTINE RITTER	17	MARKETING REPRESENTATIVE	TUCKER O'ROURKE	6	JOURNEYMAN LINEMAN
ALICIA FORTUNE	17	BILLING SUPERVISOR	CAMERON PRICE	6	JOURNEYMAN LINEMAN
JUSTIN WERMERS	16	METERING FOREMAN	CAMDEN SAWWELL	5	JOURNEYMAN LINEMAN
ROBERTA RANCOUR	16	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	SEAN BESTGEN	5	ELECTRICAL ENGINEER
JOHN GARRIGAN	15	UTILITY MAINTENANCE	AMANDA HAUGEN	4	COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST
BRANDON BISGAARD	14	JOURNEYMAN LINEMAN	TREVOR SCHRYVERS	4	OPERATIONS TECHNICIAN
BONNIE ALMEIDA	14	MEMBER SERVICES REP	LILIYA STONE	3	HR GENERALIST
ZACH HANSEN	14	STAKING TECHNICIAN	TY COOPER	3	JOURNEYMAN LINEMAN
STACEY PARKIS	12	MEMBER SERVICES REP	ANDRIA RUFLEDT	3	MEMBER SERVICE REP
ERIC EMERY	12	MAINT./CONSTRUCTION FOREMAN	CHRISTINA NESSETH	3	BILLING SUPP. SPECIALIST
LINDSY REAGLE	11	ACCOUNTING AND EXECUTIVE SUPPORT SPECIALIST	TYSON SELBY	3	APPRENTICE LINEMAN
GARRETT SHEARER	11	WORK ORDER SPECIALIST	RILEY RULAND	2	WAREHOUSE & FACILITY TECH.
TURNER DONAHUE	11	MAINT./CONSTRUCTION FOREMAN	CALLIE WALKER	1	MEMBER SERVICES REP
TRENT MADSEN	11	JOURNEYMAN LINEMAN	CHRISTINA CASSIDY	1	MEMBER SERVICES REP
MATT KRUSE	10	JOURNEYMAN LINEMAN	NICOLE PARKER	1	MEMBER SERVICES REP
JARED STALLEY	10	MARKETING REPRESENTATIVE	TY GODKIN	1	APPRENTICE LINEMAN
DEREK HAUG	10	JOURNEYMAN LINEMAN	COOPER FEDDERSON	5 MO.	APPRENTICE LINEMAN

Board Update

After nearly three decades of dedicated service, District 3 Director Larry Eisenbraun has made the decision to step down from the board, effective at the August 18, 2025, board meeting. Larry has been a steadfast advocate for our members and employees and a respected leader whose insights helped shape the cooperative we are today. His 29 years of service reflect a deep commitment to our mission, and his contributions will leave a lasting legacy. 839800

The board has appointed Taran Eisenbraun to fill

the resulting vacancy and serve the remaining year left in Larry's 3-year term.

"It's important that this seat is filled," said Board President Andy Moon. "With major decisions ahead—including power supply, infrastructure planning, and member programs—each district must be represented at the board table. The board felt Taran offered a seamless transition while representing District 3." 996900

Please join us in thanking Larry for his exceptional years of service and in welcoming Taran to the board. We wish Larry the very best in this next chapter.



Larry Eisenbraun Taran Eisenbraun

2025 Annual Meeting

West River Electric Annual Meeting
Saturday, Oct. 11, 2025
Wall Community Center

AGENDA

1. Registration - 9 a.m.
2. Call to Order - 10 a.m.
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. National Anthem
5. Report of Credentials
6. Notice of Annual Meeting
7. Affidavit of Mailing
8. Mtg. Minutes Oct. 12, 2024
9. Introduction of Guests
10. Directors' Election Report
11. Registration Closes
12. Voting of Director
13. President's Report
14. Manager's Report
15. Employee/Director Years of Service
16. Old Business
17. New Business
18. Director Election Results
19. Drawing for Prizes
20. Scholarship Drawing
21. Grand Prize Drawing
22. Jackpot Drawing
23. Adjournment



Robert Raker
CEO/General Manager



Andy Moon
Board President — District 3



Stan Anders
Vice President
District 2



Jamie Lewis
Secretary
District 1



Chuck Sloan
Treasurer
District 2



Taran Eisenbraun
District 3



Marcia Arneson
District 2



Peter Blake
District 1



Sue Peters
District 3



Steven Edoff
District 1

LOCATE YOUR ACCOUNT NUMBER

If you locate your account number anywhere in this issue of West River Electric's *Cooperative Connections*, you will be a winner. There will be five account numbers placed randomly throughout the publication. If you spot your account number and notify our office before the 10th of the next month, you will receive a \$10 credit on your next bill.

WEST RIVER ELECTRIC OFFICE HOURS

RAPID CITY OFFICE

3250 E Hwy 44, Rapid City, SD
 Monday-Friday 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 605-393-1500

WALL OFFICE

1200 W 4th Ave, Wall, SD
 Monday-Friday 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 605-279-2135

A night depository is available at both offices for your convenience.

SERVICE AND BILLING QUESTIONS?

Contact 605-279-2135 or 605-393-1500 during office hours. E-mail us at info@westriver.coop for questions on your account.

OUTAGE OR EMERGENCY?

Contact 605-279-2135 or 605-393-1500 in the event of an outage or other emergency. Our calls are answered 24/7.



OCT. 10-12
Black Hills Powwow
 Rapid City, SD
 605-341-0925

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. 3-5
Black Hills Film Festival
 Journey Museum
 Rapid City, SD

OCT. 4-5
Run Crazy Horse Full & Half Marathon
 Crazy Horse Memorial

OCT. 5
Fall Festival & Craft Show
 Carnival Games, Horse Rides & Bake Sale
 Rapid Valley UMC
 5103 Longview Rd
 Rapid City, SD

OCT. 10-11
Holman Acres Pumpkin Fest & Vendor Show
 Fri. 12-6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.,
 Philip, SD
 605-441-1060

OCT. 11
Fall Festival
 4 p.m.
 Fairburn Church
 Fairburn, SD
 605-255-4329

OCT. 13
Native American Day
 Crazy Horse Memorial
 Custer, SD

OCT. 14, 21, 28
Beginning Quilting Class
 The Farmer's Daughter
 Hill City, SD

OCT. 16-18
Spearfish Senior Center Fall Fundraising Rummage Sale
 Thurs. 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
 Fri. 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
 Sat. 8 a.m.-12 p.m.
 1306 N. 10th St.
 Spearfish, SD

OCT. 18
Northern Prairie Arts Barn Quilt Class
 Highland Conference Center
 Register by Oct. 6
 Watertown, SD
 605-882-1780

OCT. 18
Soup & Sweets
 4-7 p.m.
 Hermosa United Church of Christ
 105 2nd St.
 Hermosa, SD

OCT. 19
Helping With Horsepower Year-End Horse Show
 Reclamation Ranch
 Mitchell, SD

OCT. 25
Breast Cancer Survivors' Luncheon
 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
 Blessed Sacrament Parish Hall
 Rapid City, SD
 RSVP: 216-536-3683

OCT. 25
Spearfish Senior Center Fundraising Breakfast
 Pancakes, sausage, biscuits & gravy, chokecherry syrup.
 7:30 a.m.-10 a.m.
 1306 N. 10th St.
 Spearfish, SD

OCT. 25
Hill City Children's Boo Bash & Pumpkin Festival
 Hill City, SD

OCT. 25
Lions Club Bingo
 5 p.m. Food, 6 p.m. Bingo
 Hill City Center
 Hill City, SD

NOV. 1
Reliance Christmas Carousel
 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
 Reliance, SD
 605-730-1462

NOV. 1
Black Hills Meat Fest
 2-4 p.m.
 Nerdy Nuts Expo Hall
 Rapid City, SD

NOV. 1
Spearfish Senior Center Fall Craft Fair & Bake Sale
 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
 Spearfish, SD

NOV. 2
Annual Turkey Dinner & Silent Auction
 Tickets In-Person or Online
 Rapid Valley UMC
 Rapid City, SD

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.