



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

SOUTHEASTERN ELECTRIC

AUGUST 2026 VOL. 27 NO. 4

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Preserving Our Past

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88TH ANNUAL MEETING A SUCCESS



Chad Kinsley
CEO/General
Manager

Southeastern
Electric
Cooperative
and Union
County Electric
Cooperative

We held our 88th Annual Meeting at the Lennox High School on June 4. Over 700 members enjoyed a meal of pork chops catered by Central Catering and many also attended the business meeting. Three directors from districts 1, 4 and 7 were up for election for 3-year terms. Carlos Hofer of District 1, Chris Hofer of District 4 and Donovan Kost of District 7 were re-elected to the board. I'd like to thank each of them for their dedication and continued willingness to serve you, our members.

This year's annual meeting theme was "A Legacy of Service". Although SEC was formed in 2000, our legacy of service reaches back to 1938 through the shared history of Turner-Hutchinson Electric, Lincoln-Union Electric, and McCook Electric Cooperatives. United as one stronger cooperative, SEC is proud to carry forward the work begun by those who came before—powering homes, schools, farms, and businesses, and helping communities grow today and for generations to come.

As part of our ongoing commitment to providing safe, reliable, and cost effective electric service, SEC continues to make investments in the distribution system and supporting technologies each year. Projects are carefully prioritized to improve reliability, to support the connection of new members and to reduce outages. In total, SEC invested approximately \$15 million in the system last year. This enabled SEC to add or upgrade over 55 miles of electric line—ensuring the electric distribution system remains strong, resilient and ready for the future.

In 2025, Southeastern Electric continued its rapid membership growth, welcoming over 900 new members, marking the fifth consecutive year of adding around 1,000 new members annually. In 2025, we sold about 840,000 megawatt hours (MWh) which was another record year and an increase of over 28,000 megawatt hours or 3.5% versus the prior year. This load growth also remains diversified across types of members which

helps manage risks. Overall, 2025 was a good year for Southeastern Electric and as we look ahead, we are honored to carry this legacy forward and remain your electric cooperative for generations to come. Thank you to everyone that was able to participate in our 88th annual membership meeting.

TOUCHSTONE ENERGY DAY AT THE SIOUX EMPIRE FAIR

We invite you to join Southeastern Electric and our neighboring electric cooperatives on Wednesday, August 5, for Touchstone Energy Cooperative day at the Sioux Empire Fair! The 43rd annual Ag Appreciation Lunch, hosted by the Greater Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by Touchstone Energy will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. A complimentary lunch of pork sandwiches, chips, and a drink will be served as you enjoy live music from Mogen's Heroes. Admission to the Sioux Empire Fair is free until 1:00 p.m. courtesy of Touchstone Energy Cooperatives. No ticket is required for the free lunch. We hope you will join us to celebrate agriculture in our communities and express appreciation to our ag community!

SHARED MANAGEMENT UPDATE

The Boards of Southeastern Electric and Union County Electric are beginning a merger study using third-party consultants, Great Co-ops and the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (NRUCFC or CFC). The merger study is the Board's due diligence in assessing the potential benefits and risks if a merger is approved, including financials, rates, board governance, employee impacts, reliability, member service, and how the cooperatives would operationally merge. We expect the merger study to take 6 to 12 months, and we will keep you informed as it moves forward. Both Boards held their first joint Board Meeting on July 8, 2026.

No decision has been made, and we're committed to keeping you informed as the merger study progresses.

**COOPERATIVE
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**SOUTHEASTERN
ELECTRIC**

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JUNE BOARD SUMMARY

The Board of Directors of Southeastern Electric Cooperative met in Sioux Falls on Thursday, June 18, 2026, with all directors present. Also, present were CEO Chad Kinsley, Attorney Mike Nadolski, and staff members Audri Carlson, John Euchner, Erica Fitzhugh, Todd Nelson, and Jon Wunder.

The Annual Directors' Meeting was held prior to the regular board meeting. The following directors were declared elected to the following offices: President- Steve Holmberg, Vice President – Robert Wollmann, Secretary – Johnathan Wildeboer & Treasurer – Daryl Terveen.

Upon adjourning the Annual Directors' Meeting, the regular monthly board meeting took place.

CFO Jon Wunder reviewed his written report, including the preliminary financial report, budget report, cost of service study, capital credit allocations, capital credit retirements, kWh tax payments, hiring & staffing, & employee committee meetings.

VP of Operations & Engineering John Euchner reviewed his written report, close calls, safety meetings, open positions, projects, large loads, substation work, wildfire mitigation plan, & facilities.

VP of Technology Todd Nelson reviewed his written report, load control receiver update, technology roadmap update, distributed resource portal, cybersecurity, & other IT projects.

VP of Member Services Audri Carlson reviewed her written report, outage notifications, SmartHub notifications, irrigation billing, accounts receivable, disconnects, past due accounts, call volumes, & other projects.

Communications Manager Erica Fitzhugh reviewed her written report, member communications, advertising, bus tour, Parkston member appreciation event, member survey, internal communications, social media, youth tour & future summer events.

CEO Kinsley reviewed his report &

commented on the following topics: Basin financials, East River financials, Basin rate review, cybersecurity, SPP's Conditional High Impact Large Load Service (CHILLS) FERC approval, CFC Forum, NCSC director election, merger study consultants, SDREA Manager Meeting summary, & Basin rate cases.

Attorney Nadolski generally discussed co-op related legal matters.

THE BOARD ACTED ON THE FOLLOWING MOTIONS:

- A motion was duly made & seconded to authorize the signature of the annual meeting documents. Motion carried.
 - A motion was made & seconded to approve Lennox High School on June 3, 2027 for the 2027 annual meeting date and location. Motion carried.
 - A motion was made & seconded to authorize CEO Kinsley to engage CFC for the financial portion of the merger study. Motion carried.
 - A motion was made & seconded to set the Joint Meeting with UCEC for Wed., July 8, at 8:30 AM. Motion carried.
 - A motion was made & seconded to approve the following amended policies: 103 Board – CEO Relationship, 201 Employment at Will, & 407 Emergency Procedures. Motion carried.
 - A motion was made & seconded to select Chris Hofer as the delegate & Ostraat as the alternate & authorize all directors to attend the East River Annual Meeting. Motion carried.
 - A motion was made & seconded to set the Sept. board meeting for Thur., Sept. 24 at 8:30 AM. Motion carried.
- The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Mon., July 27, at the Sioux Falls office.



As unmanned aerial systems (UAS) increasingly populate recreational and professional skies, safety remains paramount – especially near critical infrastructure such as overhead power lines. Today we reaffirm that drones should be flown in open spaces away from electrical lines and substations to prevent power outages and dangerous debris that can threaten public safety.

A drone colliding with a power line can cause outages and, if lines are downed, create serious electrical hazards for anyone nearby. Touching downed lines or debris that has fallen on fences, trees or other objects can result in severe injury or death. If you encounter downed power lines, immediately call 911 and notify emergency personnel and the utility company.

To ensure safe and compliant drone operations, follow federal registration and business-approval requirements, and stay informed about local, state and community regulations. FAA safety guidelines remain essential: Inspect your drone for damage before each flight and repair any issues prior to use. Fly at or below 400 feet unless FAA authorization or an allowed exception applies. Maintain visual line of sight; do not fly beyond it. Avoid airports, manned aircraft, stadiums and crowds of people. Do not fly for unapproved commercial purposes without FAA authorization. Refrain from flying in bad weather, including low visibility or high winds. Never fly recklessly or endanger others; violations can result in fines and penalties.

It is encouraged that drone operators plan routes

that maximize safety and minimize proximity to power infrastructure. Responsible pilots, adherence to FAA guidelines and awareness of local rules can prevent outages, injuries and potentially tragic consequences. For more information on legal requirements and best practices, consult FAA resources and your local utility providers.

Together, we can enjoy the benefits of drone technology while safeguarding our communities and critical electrical infrastructure.

As drone use expands, operators should build safety into every mission from the outset. Calibration, pre-flight checklists, and robust maintenance programs help catch issues before takeoff. Operators are encouraged to use situational awareness tools, such as real-time weather updates and wind assessments, to adjust flight plans accordingly. Community education events and outreach can foster a responsible culture among hobbyists and professionals alike, reinforcing the shared responsibility to protect power networks and nearby residents. By prioritizing safety, we preserve access to this transformative technology for all.



"Call 811 before you dig – always."

Laina Nelson, age 10

Laina reminds members to always call 811 before digging. Thank you for sharing your picture, Laina! Laina's parents are Nathan and Kristen Nelson – members of H-D 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.

Family FAVORITES

PARTY IN A PAN

Ingredients:

1 1/2 lbs. hamburger, browned
1 can cream of celery soup
1 can cream of chicken soup
1 box Stove Top Stuffing Mix
1 can corn, drained
3 cups mozzarella cheese,
shredded

Method

Combine the hamburger, celery soup and chicken soup in a bowl and set aside. Prepare the Stove Top Stuffing as directed on the box. Layer half the hamburger mixture, half the corn, half the stuffing and half the cheese; repeat layers again. Bake 30-40 minutes at 350°F or until cheese is melted. Makes 9x13 inch pan.

Kathy Zomer
Douglas Electric

WALLEYE WITH HORSERADISH SAUCE

Ingredients:

2 lbs. walleye fillets
1 cup Lawry's Herb & Garlic
marinade
1 tsp. Lawry's Season Salt
1 tsp. lemon pepper
1/4 cup butter
2 tbsp. horseradish
2 tsp. dill

Method

Marinate fish in herb & garlic marinade for 30 minutes. Drain. Sprinkle with season salt and lemon pepper. Bake fish until it flakes. Melt butter in saucepan. Remove from heat and add horseradish. Spoon onto fillet after cooked. Sprinkle on dill and serve.

Valerie Marso
Oahe Electric

BBQ MEATBALLS

Ingredients:

Meatballs

3# ground beef
1 can (12 oz.) evaporated milk
1 cup oatmeal
1 cup cracker crumbs
2 eggs
1/2 cup finely chopped onion
1/2 tsp. garlic powder
1 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. pepper
2 tsp. chili powder

Sauce

2 cups ketchup
1 cup brown sugar
1/2 tsp. liquid smoke, or to taste
1/2 tsp. garlic powder
1/4 cup finely chopped onion

Method

Mix all meatball ingredients together and shape into meatballs. Place meatballs in a baking dish.

Mix all sauce ingredients together and pour over meatballs. Cover and bake at 350°F for one hour. The meatballs can be made ahead of time and frozen for several weeks. This makes a large batch, so it can be divided into smaller batches and frozen.

Karen Soulek
Charles Mix Electric

Please send your favorite recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2026. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

EFFICIENCY MATTERS FOR COMFORT



Miranda Boutelle
Efficiency Services
Group

Everybody wants a comfortable home. Did you know energy efficiency upgrades not only help you save energy, but can make your home more comfortable, too? If you find yourself continually returning to the thermostat on cold winter days or unable to find relief from heat on summer days, these are signs your home needs an efficiency upgrade.

No matter the home, energy efficiency upgrades often start with the same basic principle: Keep outside air from coming inside and keep conditioned inside air from leaking out. Insulation, air sealing, duct sealing and heating, ventilation and air conditioning upgrades can dramatically improve the comfort of your home.

A fully insulated home, including attic, walls and floor, is more comfortable. It's like a blanket for your home. Air sealing is a lesser-known efficiency upgrade that keeps air from entering and exiting the home through cracks and gaps. Some air sealing can be done from inside the home, such as using expanding foam around plumbing pipes and drains under sinks, adding gaskets to outlets on exterior walls, caulking around windows or weatherstripping around doors.

Attics and crawl spaces offer additional opportunities to reduce air leakage and increase comfort. In the attic, sealing gaps around top plates, open soffit areas, cove ceilings and balloon framing can help keep conditioned air where it belongs. In the basement or crawl space, seal around plumbing pipes and drains, vents and electrical wires. If you need help, contact a local contractor.

As a self-proclaimed energy geek, you probably aren't surprised that my first move when my husband and I bought our first home years ago was to air seal and insulate. We sealed and insulated the attic, walls and rim joists in

the basement. The difference in comfort was instant. Our house felt cozier and much more comfortable. The temperature swings from the furnace cycling on and off were dramatically reduced. The home felt warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer.

Another benefit from insulation was a surprising reduction in noise from outside. We lived about 15 minutes away from the airport and close to a busy road. When the windows and doors were closed, we could no longer hear the airplanes, and the traffic noise was almost unnoticeable.

Duct sealing can also improve the comfort of your home. Your ductwork delivers heated or cooled air in a forced-air HVAC system. If there are disconnections or leaks in the ducts, the air you paid to heat or cool may not end up where you want it. Disconnects and leaks can cause hot or cold spots in the home. An HVAC professional can inspect or test your ducts to make sure they are connected and sealed properly.

Air sealing and duct sealing can also improve the air quality in your home. Air leakage between the conditioned area of the home and the attic or crawl space can introduce dust, pollen, mold or other allergens you don't want to breathe. Reducing air leakage can reduce the chance of these things circulating throughout your home.

Upgrading to a heat pump can also boost comfort and efficiency. Heat pump technology is often about three times as efficient as electric resistance heat because it uses refrigerant to move heat instead of creating it. If you're upgrading from electric or gas heat, a heat pump can efficiently heat and cool your home, making it comfortable year-round.

If you already have a heat pump or any forced-air HVAC system, annual maintenance and regularly changing your filter maximize system operation and comfort.

Consider improving your home's comfort by completing these energy efficiency upgrades. Your family – and energy bills – will thank you.

WHO POWERS YOU?

For Dean Kueter, Community Service and Cooperative Values Run in the Family

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

When something needs to be done in a small town, it often starts with someone willing to take the lead.

In Montrose, Dean Kueter has often been that person. Through years of involvement in local organizations, veterans' projects, school efforts and community work, Kueter has built a reputation as someone willing to step up.

That work did not go unnoticed. Tara Miller, manager of communications at Central Electric Cooperative and a former Montrose Area Foundation board member, saw Kueter's impact and nominated him for the fifth annual regional Who Powers You? contest.

Hosted by the region's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, the contest recognizes local people and organizations making a difference in their communities. Kueter, a Southeastern Electric Cooperative member, was selected as Southeastern Electric's finalist.

"You do those things because you see there's a need and you want to make a difference in your community," Kueter said. "It was meaningful to be recognized for that."

In her nomination, Miller highlighted Kueter's work with the Montrose Area Foundation, his leadership with the local American Legion Post, his 20 years with the Montrose Fire Department and his passion for education and accessibility.

Kueter grew up outside nearby Humboldt and later served as superintendent for the Montrose School District before joining the Cornbelt Educational Cooperative. He is entering his 14th year with the education

cooperative, which serves nine school districts by providing special education and related services, including speech therapy.

"It's really a high-need area," Kueter said. Demand for specialized services continues to grow, while schools struggle to find qualified people for those roles.

Much of Kueter's volunteer work has centered on places and organizations that bring people together. He currently serves as commander of the local American Legion Post, which he said is more than a veterans organization in Montrose. It serves as a gathering place for the community, hosting dances, birthday parties, anniversaries, graduations and other events.

"It truly is a community hub and community center for everyone," Kueter said.

The post is improving the Veterans Memorial on Main Street through fundraising, new statues and landscaping. The Montrose Area Foundation has also supported local causes ranging from the fire department to school projects, youth programs and the swimming pool.

"People are oftentimes more than willing to help," he said. "They just need to be asked, and they want their time to be valued. So, if you call on them to come help with something, you need to make sure you have a job for them to do."

For Kueter, the cooperative connection extends beyond his own contest recognition. His family has also been honored through Southeastern Electric Cooperative's Touchstone Energy programs.

Both of Kueter's children, Kellen and Hallie, have been active in their school, church and community, taking on leadership roles through FFA, student



Dean Kueter, a Southeastern Electric Cooperative member and Montrose-area community leader, was selected as a finalist in the regional Who Powers You? contest.

council and the National Honor Society while also volunteering with local organizations.

Kellen was named a Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week, received a 2024 Southeastern Electric scholarship and was later selected as Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Year. Hallie was also named a Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week.

"Obviously, it's a proud parent moment," Kueter said. "Anytime your kid gets any type of recognition, it makes you feel good as a parent."

Kueter said he knows many people connected to Southeastern Electric, including lineworkers and family members who work in the electric cooperative world. As a member-owner, he said the cooperative connection is part of the broader network of relationships that tie rural communities together.

"I'm surrounded by great people who work hard to improve our community," Kueter said. "It takes a lot of people working together to have successful projects. I am just glad to be a part of the team doing this positive work in our community."



SOUTH DAKOTA
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A PAST FIT FOR THE FUTURE

A new lobby welcomes visitors to the Cultural Heritage Center.

Photo by Jacob Boyko

Cultural Center & State Museum Reopens After Extensive Renovation

Jacob Boyko

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After more than two years spent closed for renovation, South Dakota's state museum and cultural center is back up and running to share the story of South Dakota and its people with visitors from across the state and beyond.

The iconic museum built into the Pierre hillside held its grand reopening July 1 in time for the nation's 250th birthday, showing off new exhibits, a gift shop and an expansion that includes a larger meeting room and more space for its archives.

For Museum Director David Grabitske, the reopening marks a new chapter for the South Dakota State Historical Society, which oversees both the museum and state archives housed there. But it also honors the first laws set forth by the Dakota Territory's first territorial legislature, outlining specific steps and functions for historical preservation for untold future generations of its citizens.

According to Grabitske, many of the

first Dakotan settlers were determined to preserve the history they were making day by day as settlers on the vast American frontier.

"The first three acts [by the territorial legislature] were all about transferring property at the end of life – it's all about inheritance," Grabitske explained. "The fourth act of the territory created the historical society. In my mind, the fourth act goes along with those first three acts; it's about how we give things to the future."

Establishing a historical society demonstrated confidence that there would be a future for the Dakota Territory – complete with a permanent population that would live, grow and prosper there.

"We have a mantra around here," Grabitske said. "We collect today for tomorrow's history."

What that sentiment has amounted to is a sprawling collection of more than 17,000 cubic feet of paper, 50 terabytes of data on its servers, and more than 35,000 individual objects.

"The very first collections that arrived were in 1863, and we still have those in our library," Grabitske said. "They were

library books – 514 of them in 11 boxes."

In the process of collecting and disseminating information, historical societies at the time would collect and make copies of books to trade with other historical societies to expand their collections and diffuse knowledge across a wider area and reduce the risk of losing records to fire.

You'll find those 160 years' worth of books, deeds, contracts and reports



On the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Little Bighorn, Curator of Collections Katy L. Schmidt holds a can found on the battlefield.

Photo by Jacob Boyko

throughout the high-ceilinged, climate-controlled archive wing of the building – but you'll also find objects that aren't necessarily old or inherently valuable.

"The reason we add something into our collection is because it's historic, and what we mean by historic is it has significance and integrity," Grabitske explained. "Something being 'old' just fixes it in time. What makes something historic is that it is significant – it tells the story of people in South Dakota, and it has integrity, which means a certain completeness to tell that story."

To illustrate the point, Grabitske described a recent addition to the museum's collection – a painted tire with the words "no hunting."

"You see these things going down the road [in South Dakota], and we realized we were missing [one for the museum]," he explained. "We found one near Timber Lake which had a story. The lady who gave it to us (family of Dorothy Dopp, courtesy of the Timber Lake & Area Museum) had put it up in 1967 and she had faithfully painted it over the years and knew the dates she had painted it. We don't need 400 of these tires – we need one to represent the whole state."

Visitors to the museum this summer can experience the first three rooms of the updated exhibits. These sections house a welcome area, 'What is History?' exhibit and a gallery. The remaining sections are slated for completion in December 2026 and will feature exhibits on South Dakota's environment, people, politics, conflicts and more.

For more information on the Cultural Heritage Center and the South Dakota State Historical Society, visit history.sd.gov.



An exhibit showcasing the famous people of South Dakota.
Photo by Jacob Boyko



This plaster doll (left) was gifted to South Dakota by Japan in 1927 to commemorate the United States' 150th birthday. Fifty years later, for the nation's 200th birthday, Japan gifted South Dakota another doll (right).
Photo by Jacob Boyko



Museum Director and South Dakota State Historical Society Assistant Director David Grabitske walks through the extensive art archive, revealing a painting of an electrical lineman working through a winter storm.
Photo by Jacob Boyko



Grabitske demonstrates the new movable shelves installed over tracks within the floor. This upgrade will maximize the available archival space.
Photo by Jacob Boyko



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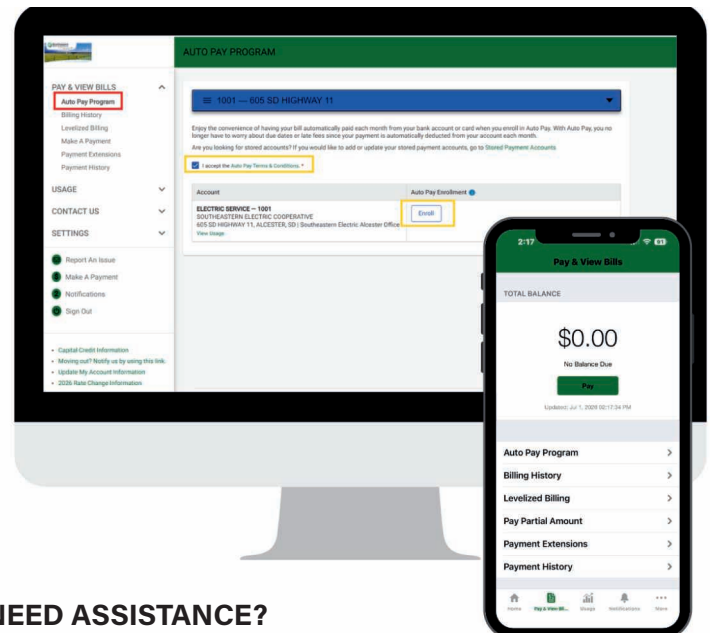
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Visit southeasternelectric.com/my-account/ for more information.

SOUTHEASTERN ELECTRIC HELD 88TH ANNUAL MEETING IN LENNOX



CO-OP SUMMER OUTREACH

Join Us at S.D. State Fair, Dakotafest, Minn. Farmfest

Jacob Boyko

jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop

Attention all co-op members! If you're heading to the South Dakota State Fair, Dakotafest or Farmfest this summer, stop by the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives booths for some great family fun and a chance to win a prize!

Make sure you fill out your coupon on the back of this magazine and bring it with you to the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives booth at the South Dakota State Fair or Dakotafest for your chance to win one of two electric grills sponsored by Karl's TV & Appliance.

South Dakota State Fair – Sept. 3, 2026

South Dakota's electric cooperatives will host the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives booth at the South Dakota State Fair in Huron, Thursday, Sept. 3, 2026.

This one-day event will feature a slew of energy-themed activities, from bucket truck rides lifting you more than 50 feet above the state fairgrounds to an interactive pole climbing demonstration complete with real spiked boots and climbing gear that linemen use every day on the job. We've also partnered up with South Dakota One Call to remind you to always call 811 before you start digging – but your kids are welcome to use our mini excavator in our sandbox to uncover buried treasure!

While you're here, check out our on-site displays for select highly efficient, all-electric heat pumps and mini-splits, water heaters, yard tools and more!

Find our booth near the Horticulture Building.

Dakotafest – Aug. 18-20, 2026

You'll want to stop by the South Dakota Touchstone Energy Cooperatives building at Dakotafest in Mitchell, Aug. 18-20!

Join us for fresh-off-the-grill brats, oven-baked cookies and freezie pops as you learn about the latest in home energy savings and efficiency. We'll have other cool stuff for you to check out, including an automatic lawn mower, a solar panel display and an EGO Power+ Portable Power Station.

Minnesota Farmfest – Aug. 4-6, 2026

Minnesota members, come visit your electric cooperative at Minnesota Farmfest near Redwood Falls, Aug. 4-6, 2026. Members may enter a raffle drawing for one of five battery-operated yard tools. We'll even have the high-voltage trailer on site for a live demonstration to remind visitors to be safe around overhead and buried power lines.



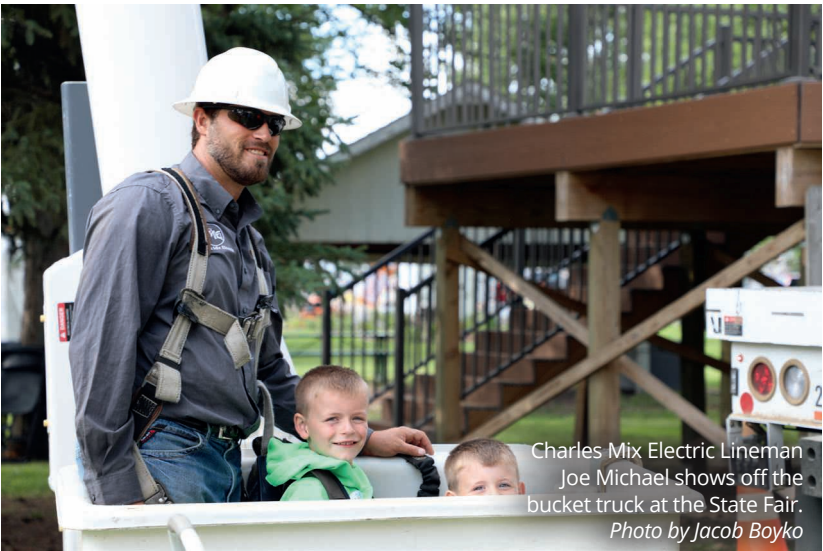
Kids perfected their utility pole climbing skills at the South Dakota State Fair.

Photo by Jacob Boyko



Touchstone Energy Cooperatives host a booth at Dakotafest in 2025.

Submitted Photo



Charles Mix Electric Lineman Joe Michael shows off the bucket truck at the State Fair.
Photo by Jacob Boyko



Fairgoers get a lineman's view of the State Fair! *Photo by Jacob Boyko*



A future lineman readies for his climb.
Photo by Jacob Boyko



Show off your co-op spirit with temporary tattoos! *Photo by Jacob Boyko*



A line forms for bucket truck rides.
Photo by Jacob Boyko



Booth visitors can win prizes by playing Plinko.
Submitted Photo

Proposed Patronage Capital Credit Refund



Jon Wunder
CFO

The Southeastern Board of Directors will be considering management's recommendation to authorize a general refund of patronage capital credits in 2026. If approved, your portion of this patronage refund will appear as a credit on your August electric bill due in September.

By returning patronage capital credits, Southeastern demonstrates one of the benefits of membership and participation in a "not-for-profit" electric cooperative. More information on patronage capital credits and cooperative principles and philosophy can be found

on our website under the About tab and select Member Benefits.

This is one cooperative advantage that sets us apart from investor owned and municipal electric utilities.

On behalf of your Board of Directors and the employees, thank you for your patronage and your support of Southeastern.

As always, if you have any questions please let us know. 1-800-333-2859.

Diede Selected for Youth Excursion



Zander Diede
Harrisburg High School

Zander Diede was selected to represent Southeastern Electric at the 2026 Youth Excursion. Diede just finished his freshman year at Harrisburg High School. The Youth Excursion is an all-expenses-paid trip to Bismarck, N.D. and all high school freshmen, sophomores and juniors that are children of active members of Southeastern Electric are eligible to apply for this opportunity.

The students stay on-campus at Bismarck State College. Once they arrive, they can

look forward to building friendships, taking in the sights of North Dakota's capitol and learning "The Story Behind the Switch." During their stay, students will get to hear from power industry experts and participate in hands-on activities. Students will be given the opportunity to tour the Great Plains Synfuel Plant, Freedom Coal Mine and Antelope Valley Station Power Plant to see where South Dakota's power is generated. Congratulations, Zander!




Touchstone Energy®
Cooperatives

**Join us for
Ag Appreciation Day**

Wednesday, August 5
W.H Lyon Fairgrounds in Sioux Falls
Lunch served 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Enjoy a meal of pork smoked on-site, chips, & a drink. Free admission to the fairgrounds until 1 p.m. courtesy of Touchstone Energy Cooperatives.



Photo Credit: SDREA

2026 YOUTH TOUR

SEC Students Attend Youth Tour in D.C.

Thirty-three teens representing 19 South Dakota electric cooperatives traveled to the Washington, D.C., area June 14-20 for the 2026 South Dakota Youth Tour.

The program traces its roots to a 1957 speech by Lyndon B. Johnson, who urged electric cooperatives to send young people to the nation's capital so they "can actually see what the flag stands for and represents." Since South Dakota sent its first group in 1963, more than 1,350 students have represented the Rushmore State on the trip. This year's delegation joined Youth Tour students from 44 other states.

The 2026 group visited many of Washington, D.C.'s most historic and impactful sites, including Arlington National Cemetery, where rows of white headstones tell the story of generations who served and sacrificed for the country. The group continued exploring themes

of patriotism and national history throughout the week, viewing the Declaration of Independence at the National Archives and touring the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, where much of the nation's paper currency is produced.

Students also met with South Dakota's congressional leaders at the U.S. Capitol, including U.S. Sens. John Thune and Mike Rounds. Together, the group toured many of the nation's most treasured landmarks, including the U.S. Supreme Court and several presidential and war memorials.

At the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, students concluded their trip with NRECA-led events, where they heard from Youth Day keynote speaker Mike Schlappi, a four-time Paralympic medalist in U.S. men's wheelchair basketball, who shared a message about perseverance and leadership.

"My favorite part of the trip to Washington, D.C., was visiting all of the monuments and memorials because it was amazing to see places that I've only read about or seen in pictures," said Jordyn Skinner. "I would definitely recommend this trip to other students because it's an unforgettable experience. You learn so much about our country's history and government while making new friends and creating memories that will last a lifetime."

"I had fun watching the Iwo Jima Sunset Parade," shared Paxtyn Moller. "The Holocaust Museum was by far one of my favorite places we visited, due to all the information and artifacts they had. It was a very emotional but important part of history, and I believe everyone should visit it at least once in their lifetime."



Above: Jordyn at the Capitol Rotunda.
Below: Jordyn (L) and Paxtyn (R) in front of the Washington Monument. Photo Credit: SDREA



REGISTER TO WIN!

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

Your Phone Number: _____ Dakotafest – Find us in the Touchstone Energy Building!
Your Email Address: _____ S.D. State Fair – Find us in the Horticulture Park!



To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to your event. Please call ahead to confirm date, time and location of event.

JULY 31-AUG. 2

Sioux River Folk Festival
Newton Hills State Park
Sioux Falls, SD
SiouxRiverFolkFest.com

AUG. 1-2
Family Camping Weekend
Prairie Village
Madison, SD

AUG. 4-6
Farmfest 2026
8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Morgan, MN
Ideagroup.com/Farmfest

AUG. 5
Ag Appreciation Day
11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Sioux Empire Fair
Sioux Falls, SD

AUG. 7
Raise Em' Rank Bull Riding & Breakaway Roping
Geddes, SD
605-680-2763

AUG. 8

Peever 125th Celebration
9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Parade, Bean Bag Tournament,
Tractor Pull, Street Dance
Peever, SD

AUG. 8-9
South Dakota Senior Games
Events for People Ages 50+
Huron, SD
Register by July 26
SouthDakotaSeniorGames.org
605-295-2039
sdsrgames@gmail.com

AUG. 9
Czech Heritage Festival
8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Bechyn, MN
320-522-1218

AUG. 15
Melon Festival
Car Show, Live Music,
Bean Bag Tournament
Forestburg, SD
605-770-2132

AUG. 15

8th Annual Black Hills Super 6 Mountain Bike Race & Trail Run
8 a.m.
Big Hill Trails
Spearfish, SD
Register: nhcasa.org

AUG. 22

2026 Yankton Bull Riding
7:30 p.m.
Yankton Rodeo Grounds
Yankton, SD
605-760-4217

AUG. 22

McCrossan Boys Ranch Xtreme Event Challenge
3:30 p.m.
McCrossan Boys Ranch
Sioux Falls, SD
605-339-1203

AUG. 27-30

Steam Threshing Jamboree
Prairie Village
Madison, SD

SEPT. 1-6

20th Annual Sturgis Mustang Rally
Sturgis, SD
SturgisMustangRally.com

SEPT. 3

Touchstone Energy Cooperatives at the South Dakota State Fair
9 a.m.-5 p.m.
State Fairgrounds –
Horticulture Park
Huron, SD
605-224-8823

SEPT. 18-19

34th Annual Granite Threshermen's Swap Meet & Antique Classic Car Show
Granite, IA
Contact: Darrel Hansen
605-261-9720

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.