

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

Mammoth Discovery

**Coal Miner Finds
Mammoth Tusk**

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A Golden Harvest

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BOARD REPORT



The FEM Board of Directors meet with staff at the June meeting.

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of FEM Electric was held in Ipswich, South Dakota at 8:30 a.m. on June 21, 2024, pursuant to due call and notice. It being determined that a quorum was present, President Gary Bachman called the meeting to order. Assistant Secretary Kelly Melius kept the minutes of the meeting. The following directors were declared present by roll call: Gary Bachman, Paula Petersen, Kelly Melius, Tom Thorpe. Operations Manager Sean Christiansen, Director of Finance and Benefits Rhonda Tuscherer, Manager/CEO Scott Moore, Electrical Manager Ryan Holien.

Guest Employee: Dan Feldhaus

Sean Christiansen introduced new apprentice lineman Layne Henrich

Changes to the agenda: Remove (review Policy 414)

Changes/Additions to Minutes from May 21, 2024, meeting: none

Next Meeting Date: After a review of calendars, directors agreed that the next regular meeting of the board would be on Tuesday, July 16, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. to be held at FEM Electric Board Room in Ipswich, South Dakota.

Motion by Kelly Melius, seconded by

Paula Petersen and carried to approve administrative business.

Motion by Tom Thorpe, seconded by Paula Petersen and carried to acknowledge manager and staff reports.

Board acknowledged the May 2024 Cyber Security Report.

Resolutions and Contracts:

Motion by Tom Thorpe seconded by Paula Petersen and carried to nominate Kelly Melius as East River Voting Delegate and Scott Moore as Alternate Voting Delegate.

Motion by Kelly Melius seconded by Tom Thorpe and carried to nominate Gary Bachman as East River board member.

Membership Business:

Board acknowledged membership business.

New Memberships, Member Cancellations and Contracts:

Disconnects: Allan & Laura Steward, Chelsea, SD, Active Farm; Robert Rusch, Aberdeen, SD, Active Farm; Jim Speck, Faulkton, SD, Lake House; Joan Weiszhaar, Leola, SD, Active Farm & Grain Bin; Danny Schumack, Mellette, SD, Active Farm; AJB Partnership, Roscoe, SD, Grain Bin; Northern Kross Lodge, Eureka, SD, Active Farm; Perry & Laura Ptacek,

Ipswich, SD, Residence

Reconnects: Alyssa & Levi Dinger, Chelsea, SD, Active Farm; Tyler Gutenkauf & Jasime Schaller, Active Farm; Ashley Schmidt, Aberdeen, SD, Lake House; Wade & Judy Weiszhaar, Leola, SD, Active Farm & Grain Bin; Lyle Schumack, Mellette, SD, Active Farm; EB LLC, Roscoe, SD, Grain Bin; Carson Kunz, Eureka, SD, Active Farm; Chris & Laura Gillick, Ipswich, SD, Residence

Contracts: Steven & Emily Kallas, Wetonka, SD, Grain Bin

Retired Locations: None

Motion by Paula Petersen seconded by Kelly Melius to approve one construction contract for new service.

Capital Credits:

Estates - June 2024 - one = \$1,566.53
73 & Older - June 2024 - None

Board acknowledged receipt of following financial business.

Financial Business: The board acknowledged reviewing the following financial information: The check register for the month of May 2024 contained information on checks #34355 through #34433 and all automatic payments/withdrawals for May 2024 totaling \$334,434.11.

Board acknowledged receipt of May 2024 financials.

Board reviewed FEM Electric 2023 Form 990.

Motion by Kelly Melius seconded by Tom Thorpe to approve Form 990.

Motion by Paula Petersen seconded by Kelly Melius and carried to approve board expense reports and attorney fees.

Continued on pg 6

**COOPERATIVE
CONNECTIONS**

**FEM ELECTRIC
ASSOCIATION**

(USPS 189-720)

Board of Directors

Gary Bachman, President
Tom Thorpe, Vice President
Eric Odenbach, Secretary
Paula Petersen, Treasurer
Kelly Melius, Asst. Secretary/
Treasurer
Vaughn Beck, Attorney

CEO/General Manager

Scott Moore
info@femelectric.coop

Management Staff

Sean Christiansen
Operations Manager
Ryan Holien
Electrical Department Manager
Rhonda Tuscherer
*Director of Finance and
Benefits*

Editor's e-mail:

oban@femelectric.coop

FEM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is the monthly publication for the members of FEM Electric Association, Inc., 800 5th Ave., Ipswich, SD 57451. FEM Electric Cooperative Connections' purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to members on electric cooperative matters and better living.

Subscription information: As part of their membership, FEM members devote \$1.00 from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Nonmember subscriptions are available for \$15 annually. (USPS 189-720) Periodical Postage Paid at Ipswich, SD 57451 and at additional offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to FEM Electric Cooperative Connections, Box 468, Ipswich, SD 57451-0468.

How to contact us:

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Website:
www.femelectric.coop
Design assistance by SDREA

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opportunity provider and
employer.**



Scott Moore
General Manager/CEO

I would like to thank everyone who attended FEM Electric's annual meeting on June 25th. We had a great night at the event, and it was very well attended. We hope you departed satisfied with your meal and informed about your locally owned electric cooperative.

As we move through the summer months, we are closing in on a new school year and fall sports will be starting in the next couple of weeks. Please remember to be safe while driving on township, county and state highways as students begin to travel to and from school activities.

As I have stated before the electric business isn't much different from other businesses except our focus is on providing electrical services to the end member. I believe that being focused on multiple services involving one topic, "electricity" helps the employees and board stay focused and informed to make good decisions now and into the future. Every business is complicated

and has many hurdles and policies to maneuver through so we can be successful.

South Dakota has twenty-eight distribution electric cooperatives powering rural east and west river and providing power to many smaller communities. Providing reliable and affordable power to existing and future members is a must to help keep our rural economy strong.

I look forward to the future and believe there will be many opportunities for our youth to stay or return to rural South Dakota to seek a career and raise their families. By maintaining a strong infrastructure in all areas like roads, water, electricity, railroad, telecom, and more we will keep a growing economy. We must all work together so we can continue to grow and be successful.

If you are planning on adding any electrical load in the future, please call Ryan Holien or Sean Christiansen 605-426-6891 early in the planning process.

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**FOLLOW US ON
SOCIAL MEDIA**

@FEMEelectric on

@fem_electric on

@FEMelectric on

We'll post outage updates, safety tips, news and more to keep our members informed on all the latest from FEM Electric.

Statement Mailing Dates

August 28, 2024 for August's energy
September 26, 2024 for September's energy

Regardless of the statement mail out date, payments are due in the office by the 9th of the following month.

Extreme Heat Preparation

Learn How to Stay Hydrated

You need to drink enough water to prevent heat illness. An average person needs to drink about 3/4 of a gallon of water daily. Everyone's needs may vary.

- You can check that you are getting enough water by noting your urine color. Dark yellow may indicate you are not drinking enough.
- Avoid sugary, caffeinated and alcoholic drinks.
- If you are sweating a lot, combine water with snacks or a sports drink to replace the salt and minerals you lose in sweat.
- Talk to your doctor about how to prepare if you have a medical condition or are taking medicines.

Make a Plan to Stay Cool

Do not rely only on electric fans during extreme heat. When temperatures are in the high 90s, fans may not prevent heat-related illness. Taking a cool shower or bath or moving to an air-conditioned place is a much better way to cool off.

- Spending a few hours each day in air conditioning can help prevent heat illness.
 - If you have air conditioning, be sure that it is in working order.
 - If you do not have air conditioning or if there is a power outage, find locations where you can stay cool. For example, a public library, shopping mall or a public cooling center. Plan how you will get there.
 - Additional resources may be available from local government or community groups.
- Make sure you have plenty of lightweight, loose clothing to wear.
- Create a support team of people you may assist and who can assist you. Check in with them often to make sure that everyone is safe.

Learn Emergency Skills

- Learn how to recognize and respond to heat illness.
- Learn First Aid and CPR.
- Be ready to live without power. Utilities may be offline. Be ready to live without power, gas and water. Plan for your electrical needs, including cell phones and medical equipment. Talk to your doctor. Plan for backup power

Gather Emergency Supplies

- Gather food, water and medicine. Stores might be closed. Organize supplies into a Go-Kit and a Stay-at-Home

Kit. In the event of a power outage, you may lose access to clean drinking water. Set aside at least one gallon of drinking water per person per day. Consider adding drinks with electrolytes. Include sunscreen and wide-brimmed hats.

- Go-Kit: at least three days of supplies that you can carry with you. Include backup batteries and chargers for your devices (cell phone, CPAP, wheelchair, etc.)
- Stay-at-Home Kit: at least two weeks of supplies.
- Have a one-month supply of medication in a child-proof container and medical supplies or equipment.
- Keep personal, financial and medical records safe and easy to access (hard copies or securely backed up)
- Consider keeping a list of your medications and dosages on a small card to carry with you.

Source: American Red Cross



Power Line Safety "Call 911 and Don't Get Out"

Hobie Klein, Age 12

Hobie Klein warns farmers to call 911 and don't get out of the tractor if contact is made with a power line. Hobie's parents are Dean and Karey Klein, members of Sioux Valley Energy.

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.

Summer SALADS

MOM'S VEGETABLE SALAD

Ingredients:

Salad

2 cans diced carrots
1 can green beans
1 can yellow beans
1 small can peas
1 can cut baby corn

Drain all the vegetables

Add

1/2 cup diced green pepper
1 cup diced celery
1 diced medium onion

Dressing

Combine in a saucepan
1/2 cup oil
1 1/3 cup sugar
1/3 cup white vinegar
1/3 cup cider vinegar
2 Tbsp water

*Combine in a saucepan
and boil until clear*

Method

Pour dressing over vegetables and refrigerate for several hours before serving. Keeps for a week.

Debra Clow
Harrisburg, S.D.

FRESH SUMMER SALAD

Ingredients:

3 tbsps. olive oil, divided
1 tbsp. lime juice
1/4 tsp. salt
1 1/5 cups fresh corn or thawed frozen corn
1 1/2 cups cherry tomatoes, halved
1/2 cup cucumber, finely chopped
2 tbsp. fresh basil, minced
1/3 cup crumbled Feta cheese or Parmesan cheese
1 tbsp. balsamic vinegar or Italian salad dressing

Method

Mix 2 tablespoons of oil, lime juice and salt in a small bowl. Cook corn in a skillet with remaining 1 tbsp. oil. Pour corn into bowl, cool slightly. Add tomatoes, cucumber and basil. Refrigerate. Before serving, drizzle with dressing, cheese and balsamic vinegar or Italian dressing.

Barb Selland
Mitchell, S.D.

CHICKEN SALAD

Ingredients:

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

Method

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

McCormick.com

Please send your favorite recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2024. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

Continued from pg 2

Legal Update: none

Meeting Report:
East River monthly video was watched.

Safety meeting minutes from May 30 and Safety Committee minutes from May 20, 2024, were acknowledged.

Adjourn: President Gary Bachman declared the meeting adjourned.

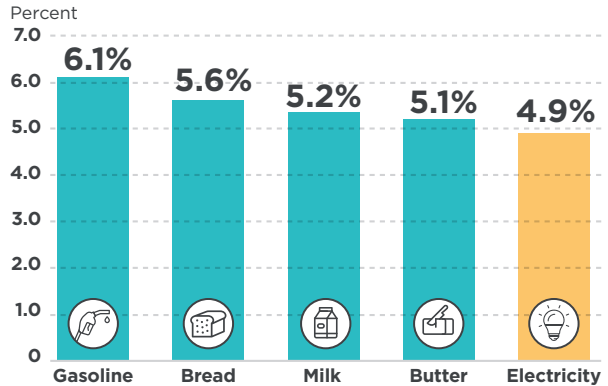
Continued from pg 3

We are still having some supply chain issues even though the guys have done a great job managing inventory the past several years.

ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

Although inflation has led to increasing costs in many areas of our lives, the cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common goods. Looking at price increases over the last five years, electricity remains a good value.

Average Annual Price Increase 2018-2023



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Consumer Price Index

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Placing heat sources, such as lamps, computers or TVs, near your thermostat can result in false temperature readings, increased energy use and inconsistent cooling/heating. Make sure your thermostat is installed in an area clear of obstructions, electronic devices, direct sunlight and drafts.

Ensuring your thermostat is free from these types of interferences optimizes energy efficiency, improves indoor comfort and reduces wear and tear on your cooling/heating system.

Source: energy.gov



FEM~
Thank you for presenting at the Edmunds/McPherson Counties' safety camp. There were 97 youth in attendance to learn about the various safety topics. Thank you again!
Jorkee Rau
McPherson 4-H Educator
Bonnie Nolllich
Edmunds 4-H Educator

SAFETY'S THE LESSON AT 4-H SAFETY DAY

FEM participated in Edmunds County 4-H's safety day on May 29th, 2024 along with a number of other farm and local businesses to demonstrate various safety lessons.

There were two groups of children from Edmunds County for a total of 97 participants. Ryan Holien, FEM's Electrical Department Manager, hosted the demonstration.



Ryan holds up a piece of overhead wire. It's difficult to see in the grass, so he warns the safety day attendees that if they see a pole on the ground, to stay away. The wire may still be live.

Ryan identified various types of wire, overhead and underground, and stressed the importance of staying away from downed lines as overhead lines may be

difficult to see in grass or fields.

Green boxes, or transformers, were also set up for the kids to see. Ryan reinforced that they should stay away from green boxes because of a risk of electrocution.

After going over the type of equipment the kids may see, Ryan talked about what to do if they're ever in an accident with a power pole with a vehicle or a tractor.

We hope each child walked away learning something valuable about electricity, and how to stay safe around electrical equipment.



Ryan demonstrates how underground wire comes into an underground cabinet. He warns kids to not play on them as there are thousands of volts of electricity running through these cabinets.



Photo Credit: North Dakota Geological Survey

Mammoth Discovery

Shannon Marvel

shannon.marvel@sdrea.coop

Over Memorial Day of 2023, a coal miner made a historic discovery at the Freedom Mine in North Dakota.

“The shovel operator just happened to take a scoop that had a complete mammoth tusk,” said Jeff Person, a paleontologist with the North Dakota Geological Survey.

“The tusk was about seven-foot-long. That shovel must’ve picked it up just perfectly to not damage or break it. The driver reported the find to his superiors at the Freedom Mine, who then contacted us,” Person said.

The tusk was found in an old streambed. Other fossils



Photo Credit: North Dakota Geological Survey

were found in the streambed, including “more than twenty bones from the skeleton, including ribs, a shoulder blade a tooth and parts of the hips,” according to a news release.

“Most of the mammoth fossils known from North Dakota are isolated bones and teeth,” stated Clint Boyd, Senior Paleontologist for the North Dakota Geological Survey, in the news release. “This specimen is one of the most complete mammoth skeletons discovered in North Dakota, making it an exciting and scientifically important discovery.”

The bones were sent off to the Paleontology Lab at the North Dakota Heritage Center and State Museum in Bismarck to undergo extensive cleaning before being prepped to be dried out, which requires that the bones be

wrapped in plastic.

It could take up to another year for the bones to be dried out enough to be taken out of the plastic wrap, Person said.

At that point, the bones will be the focus of scientific research, he said.

According to the news release, “mammoths lived in North Dakota during the Pleistocene Epoch, commonly called the Ice Age, and went extinct in this area around 10,000 years ago. Several species of mammoth lived in North America, including the Woolly Mammoth and the Columbian Mammoth. They lived alongside other iconic animals like saber-toothed tigers and giant sloths. Once the bones are fully cleaned, paleontologists will be able to identify which species was collected from the mine.”



Photo Credit: North Dakota Geological Survey

REPORTING OUTAGES

Outages can happen any time of year, at any time of day for a number of reasons. Because of this, we ask our members to report outages by calling our office at 605-426-6891 or at 1-800-587-5880.

Our phones are monitored, even outside of office hours, 24 hours a day. When we're not in the office, a dispatch service handles the calls for us, and reaches out to the linemen on call after hours.

Please do not report outages through our social media pages, through SmartHub or by contacting our linemen directly. Those services are not monitored outside of office hours, and that lineman may not be on call to be able to assist in an outage.

COMMON CAUSES OF POWER OUTAGES

There is never a good time for the power to go out, but if it happens on a sunny day, you might be left wondering why. Here are the most common causes of a power outage.

WEATHER

High winds, snow and ice can cause tree limbs to fall on power lines. Other weather effects, like wildfires and lightning strikes, can cause major damage to equipment.

CRITTERS

Squirrels, birds, snakes and other animals can inadvertently contact power lines, causing short circuits and disruptions to electrical supply.

ACCIDENTS

Vehicles can crash into utility poles, bringing down power lines. Construction and excavation work can also result in disruptions to underground lines.

Scheduled MAINTENANCE

Occasionally, we plan outages to perform upgrades or repairs to parts of the local grid.

There are a number of things to remember when an outage occurs. First, be prepared. This may mean having supplies, a generator, or a back up plan for those who need 24 hour access to electricity. Second, don't hesitate to call and report your outage. Our equipment may not always report back to us, so we encourage you to call to make sure we're aware of your outage. Third, restoring power takes time. Crews will assess each outage, and depending on the number of outages, split the crews up to address them. It's a team effort.

While we always strive to get our members on quickly and safely, sometimes outages are prioritized by getting the largest number of members on in the shortest amount of time. Remember, sometimes line workers may be facing dangerous conditions which means it may take longer to restore power. Other times we may be waiting on other providers to fix outages before we can restore ours. It may just be a waiting game before power is restored.



FARM SAFETY PARTY RETURNING TO THE FAIR

ELECTRIC CO-OPS TEAM UP WITH AGTEGRA FOR CO-OP DAY AT THE BROWN COUNTY FAIR

FEM is teaming up with Lake Region Electric, Northern Electric and Agtegra to host another Farm Safety Party at the Brown County Fair.

This year's event will be held on Thursday, August 15th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm under the Kid's Zone tent. To find the Kid's Zone, head southeast of the Odde Ice Arena.

There will be safety demonstrations set up throughout the Kid's Zone for kids of all ages to learn about. Demonstrations will include fire extinguisher training, grain bin safety, electrical safety, and more. FEM, Lake Region and Northern Electric will focus on electrical safety and personal protective equipment.

There will be giveaways and prizes for everyone who visits each station. We hope to see you there!





A GOLDEN HARVEST

The Buzz Behind Adee Honey Farms

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

Three generations ago, the Adee family learned that a tumultuous time can lead to significant opportunity. During the 1930s, the Great Depression wreaked havoc on small rural communities and the agricultural industry. The value of crops and livestock plummeted, and the land became arid.

These hard times impacted many in the Midwest, including Vernon Adee, a rural teacher and rancher in Nebraska. Vernon needed a new way to provide for his family, and a letter from his brother held the answer: “I can’t sell chickens or hogs, but I’m doing well with honey. Be advised: Get a beehive.”

Following his brother’s advice, Vernon attended a foreclosure auction and purchased his first beehive. The decision to begin

beekeeping would inspire several more generations of the Adee family to continue in the trade.

Wanting to start their own operation, Vernon’s sons, Richard and Stanley, purchased a retiring beekeeper’s business through a trade magazine advertisement in 1957. Located in Bruce, South Dakota, the business included 1,500 hives and a breeding yard in Woodville, Mississippi. The acquisition marked the beginning of Adee Honey Farms, and what began as a small family farm quickly grew into the largest beekeeping operation in the country. Today, Adee Honey Farms supports more than 80,000 colonies and nearly 70 full-time employees.

“It started with survival and eventually became a family business,” said Bret Adee, Vernon’s grandson and the owner-operator of Adee Honey Farms. “I can remember being four or five years old and being in the field with my dad, holding the smoker and helping where I could. By the time I was in elementary school, I was loading trucks and moving boxes in the warehouse. Like anyone who grew up on a farm, I was involved in the family business by the time I could walk.”

From a young age, Bret has held a deep love and appreciation for the honey bee. The insect’s ability to cooperate and produce golden treasure while benefiting plants, crops, and the ecosystem at large makes them a unique livestock, unlike any other.

“To watch a hive grow and forage, and by the end of the summer make up to 150 pounds of honey – it’s just so exciting,”

said Bret. “It’s the dynamics of the biology that keeps it interesting.”

Right now, Adee Honey Farms is engaged in honey production in the Midwest, with their bees spread across South Dakota and the west edge of Minnesota and the south edge of North Dakota. Around the first week of August, Bret’s business will start the honey harvest, an event that can last until the first frost or even longer. For now, Bret said this year is shaping up to be a good season for honey production.

“It’s early, but I’m optimistic. The years when there is a lot of clover are the years that beekeepers do well,” said Bret. “We had a wet enough fall that enough clover germinated. We can always lose that to a hot dry wind... but we are optimistic right now.”

But bees aren’t just used to make honey; they also have hand in pollinating crops across the country. More than a neat fact, it’s also the second half of the beekeeping industry. The mere presence of honey bees can increase yields for crops such as alfalfa and sunflowers by up to 20 to 30 percent, depending on the variety of crop. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, pollination is responsible for more than \$18 billion in added revenue to crop production in the country.

Once the honey harvest is over, the bees will be loaded onto a truck to tour the country, traveling from the Dakotas to California and later to Texas in search of favorable weather and crops to pollinate. In fact, crop yields from California almond trees and apple trees are almost totally dependent on pollination from bees, enticing farmers from across the country to welcome

bees onto their land. Everyone benefits – even bees.

“It’s a win for the consumer who gets to eat the honey. It’s a win for the landowner who has the bees on his land, and if everything goes right, it’s good for the beekeeper’s family too,” said Bret.



Bret Adee, owner-operator of Adee Honey Farms, is a third-generation beekeeper in the Adee family. Photos courtesy of Adee Honey Farms.





FEM Electric held the 76th Annual Meeting of the membership on June 25th, 2024 at the Ipswich School. 142 members attended with guests, and enjoyed meals from Mary & Martha's Table of Ipswich, Pickled Pig of Mellette, and from the Ipswich Tiger Basketball Group of Ipswich. Dessert was furnished by Anderson's Baking Company of Roscoe.

President Gary Bachman brought the meeting to order. Kelly Melius presented the invocation, and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

President Gary Bachman gave the president's report where he discussed the cooperative puzzle, and how members, employees and board members are pieces that make the puzzle a work of art.

Kelly Melius and Tom Thorpre presented certificates to member students who won scholarships over the past year. Addison Melius, Parker Bode, and Olivia Hadrick were in attendance to accept their certificates. Addison Melius, daughter of Ryan and Nikkie Melius of Faulkton, was selected from nine juniors and seniors present as the lucky winner of the "Young Adults Light the Way" \$500 scholarship. The lucky cash door prize winners were: \$250 - Will B. Goeshel of Long Lake, SD \$100 - Larry Stern of Roscoe, SD, \$100 - Jackie Mehlhaff of Eureka, SD and \$50 - David Harrell of Cresbard, SD.

After the meeting concluded, members turned in their ticket for a \$40 bill credit on their July statement, and were served ice cream and dessert for the trip home.

FEM Electric would like to thank everyone who attended the meeting, Mary & Martha's table, Pickled Pig, the Ipswich Tiger Basketball group, Anderson's Baking Company, the Ipswich Snow Queens, Nate Collins - music teacher at Ipswich School, as well as the Ipswich School for all the services each provided to make the annual meeting a success. We hope to see you all again next year!

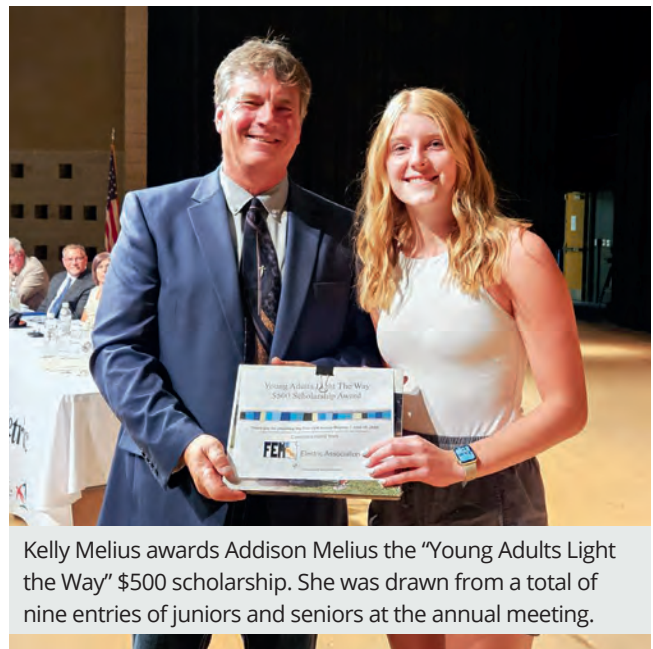
Snow Queens
Miss Ipswich Karlie Gohl and Junior Miss Ipswich Anna Nierman assisted in handing out meal tickets for members and guests, and helped with the children's program during the meeting.



The board of directors gave their reports, and children who attended the meeting with their parents were given crafts and coloring activities to keep them occupied.

General Manager/CEO Scott Moore thanked everyone for attending, and made comparisons about the 2010, 2016 and 2023 ice storms, and covered several other topics.

Chase Melius and Hannah Beyers shared their experiences from the Youth Tour to Washington, DC, which they had just returned from a few days prior.



Kelly Melius awards Addison Melius the "Young Adults Light the Way" \$500 scholarship. She was drawn from a total of nine entries of juniors and seniors at the annual meeting.

FEM Employee Obtains Professional Certificate

RHONDA TUSCHERER ACHIEVES MILESTONE IN NATIONAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Across the U.S., supervisors and management staff at electric cooperatives, public power districts and public utility districts are participating in the Supervisor and Manager Development Program from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

FEM Electric is recognizing Rhonda Tuscherer, Director of Finance and Benefits, for her commitment to professional development and leadership best practices by achieving the SMDP-20 level in the Supervisor and Manager Development Program (SMDP).



NRECA created the SMDP specifically for employees responsible for leading others. The SMDP is a tiered educational program in which participants earn recognition for every five credits of SMDP course work they successfully complete. Achieving the SMDP-20 level in the program requires active participation in 20 credits worth of SMDP course work. This course work focuses on strengthening the leadership skills, knowledge and abilities needed to hire, develop and lead others, manage performance, build teams, communicate effectively and make decisions.

The leadership skills, knowledge and abilities covered in the SMDP are based on the input from electric cooperative leaders across the nation. Only rural electric cooperative, public power and public utility district employees participate in the program, ensuring the program's focus and content is on leadership challenges unique to these organizations.

NRECA represents more than 900 consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives, public power districts and public utility districts in the United States. These utilities provide electricity to approximately 42 million consumers in 47 states and sell approximately twelve percent of all electric energy sold in the United States. FEM Electric proudly serves 2146 people in Faulk, Edmunds and McPherson Counties in South Dakota.

TIPS FOR INTEGRATING SMART HOME TECH

If you're new to smart home technologies, keep the following tips in mind as you explore home automation options.

- 1. Define goals.** Determine the areas in your home you want to make smart, like lighting, security and entertainment systems.
- 2. Choose compatible devices.** A smart hub can make integration easier with a central device to control multiple smart technologies.
- 3. Check Wi-Fi strength.** Smart home technologies require a stable internet connection to function properly, so consider factors like router placement and signal strength.
- 4. Prioritize security.** Set strong, unique passwords for your Wi-Fi network, set devices to update automatically and limit personal data collection.

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: _____

Your E-mail Address: _____



AUG. 2-11
Sturgis Motorcycle Rally
Sturgis, SD
www.sturgismotorcyclerrally.com

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.

AUG. 2-4
Arlington Days
Arlington, SD
605-690-5717
Follow Arlington Days, South Dakota on Facebook & Instagram

AUG. 3
Prairie Fest
Armour, SD

AUG. 3
Bloomin' Quilt Party
12-5 p.m.
Bennett Barn
Aurora, SD
605-690-3246

AUG. 6-8
IDEAg's Farmfest
8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Redwood County, MN
651-316-4369

AUG. 7
Ag Appreciation Day
W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds
Sioux Falls, SD

AUG. 10
Perseid Meteor Shower
Palisades State Park
Garretson, SD

AUG. 10
Camaro Fun Days
10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Pioneer Park
Brookings, SD

AUG. 10-11
Fur Trader Days
Geddes, SD
605-680-2160

AUG. 12-18
Brown County Fair
Brown County Fairgrounds
Aberdeen, SD
605-626-7116

AUG. 17
6th Annual Black Hills Super 6 Mountain Bike Race
3 hour race, 10 a.m.
6 hour race, 8 a.m.
Northern Hills Area CASA
Spearfish, SD

AUG. 18
Arlington Car Show
Arlington, SD
605-203-0728

AUG. 20-22
Dakotafest
Mitchell, SD

AUG. 22
61st Annual Steam Threshing Jamboree
Prairie Village
Madison, SD

AUG. 28 - SEPT. 2
South Dakota State Fair
7 a.m. - 8 p.m.
State Fairgrounds
Huron, SD
www.SDStateFair.com

SEPT. 8
Homesteader Day
1-4 p.m.
Beaver Creek Nature Area
Valley Springs, SD

SEPT. 14-15
2024 Kuchen & Harvest Festival
Delmont, SD

SEPT. 17
EV Expo
W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds
Sioux Falls, SD

OCT. 17
Co-op Month Celebration
Cherry Rock Farms
Brandon, SD

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