

# COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



## Dokken's Dogs

Training Dogs to  
Hunt  
Pages 8-9

Touchstone Energy  
Anniversary  
Pages 12-13

# 72nd Annual Meeting Speech Recap



**Jordan Lamb**  
Chief Executive Officer

Reliable and affordable power to our membership remains our number one priority at Oahe Electric Cooperative. Maintaining both criteria can at times be a balancing act, and we are pleased to report a positive outlook for the upcoming year.

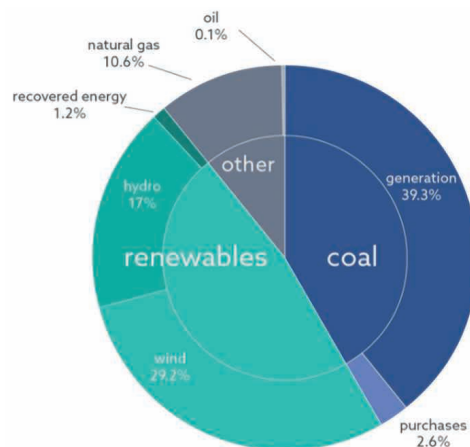
Our Power Supply Blend for 2022 remained stable. As the energy markets move forward, we continue to see total nameplate available for renewables far outweighing combustion and hydroelectric generation. This does not remove the need for reliable baseload generation, as you can see by our 2022 generation supply mix by total megawatt hours produced per generation class. Coal and natural gas made up slightly more than 50% of our total generation with renewables filling in the other half of the requirements. Hydro power makes up roughly 17% of our portfolio provided through legacy hydropower programs built during the Kennedy Administration, one nearest and dearest to us being the Oahe Dam.

The Oahe Dam was built from 1948 to 1962 and has been in service ever since. At 61 years old, this dam will require upgrades to its existing turbines within the next decade. While this brings a cost to our members as well as other utilities in the area, this also expands our hydro portion of our generation portfolio and supplies additional generation resources that are abnormal to others in one major difference – the fuel, or water in this case, is free and drives down the price of the electricity.



miles per circuit on our system. We are planning two new substations within the next 4 years along with rebuilds of existing substations.

Both line upgrades and substation construction aide in our reliability efforts while also providing a better service to our membership and serve growing load across the Oahe Electric service territory. This has been great timing for your cooperative as we continue to see large loads moving into our area and also new housing coming online along the Missouri River. We anticipate seeing more growth while our rates remain stable for the foreseeable future.



The main focus for the operations side of your cooperative has been hardening our system backbone. Our operations division took this task on with overwhelming response in two ways:

1. Converting overhead three-phase line to underground to increase capacity of the line as well as improve reliability and public safety. Many of these lines are 1950s and 1960s vintage that are being replaced after a 60–70-year life!
2. New substations to lower the total line

## COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

### OAHE ELECTRIC

(USPS No. 019-042)

#### Board of Directors:

James Feller – Vice President  
605.962.6207  
Brandon Haag – Assistant Secretary  
605.215.6758  
Ryan Noyes – Treasurer  
605.280.3500  
Ross Sperry – Secretary  
605.280.7770  
Kirk Yackley – President  
605.258.2412

#### Employees:

Tyler Arbach – Journeyman Lineman  
Austin Bergeson – Journeyman Lineman  
Mark Bruning – Line Foreman  
Matt Eldridge – Chief Operations Officer  
Trudie Feldman – Custodian  
Brady Gaer – Journeyman Lineman  
Sidney Geigle – Journeyman Lineman  
Sam Irvine – Administrative Services Specialist  
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Les Job – Journeyman Lineman  
Jordan Lamb – Chief Executive Officer  
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Tory Smith – Journeyman Lineman

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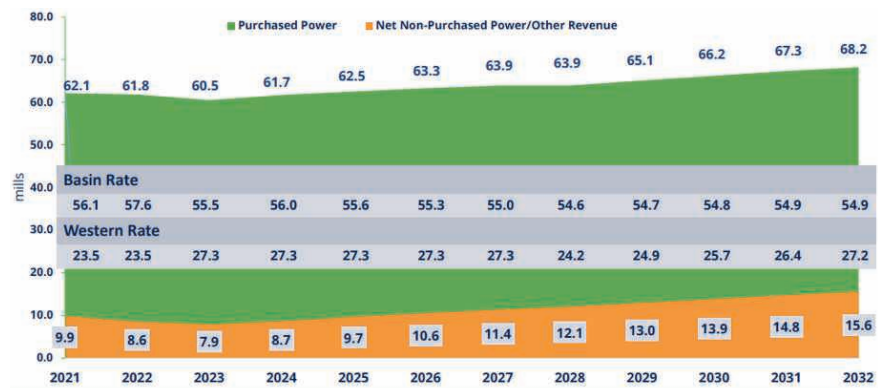
#### Our Mission

Oahe Electric delivers high quality, low-cost electric service to our local member-owners. As a Touchstone Energy® Cooperative, we are committed to meeting the highest standards of customer satisfaction. We do business with accountability, integrity, innovation and commitment to community. As an electric co-op, we are part of America's most trusted network of high quality energy providers.

## Annual Meeting Recap, Continued

Our accounting team works hard to track expenses and weigh cost of service vs reliability of service. Purchased power and materials remain two of the highest expenses your cooperative sees. While we may not be able to forecast material prices ten years from now, we can conservatively project power pricing for the upcoming decade.

Our two main power supplies come from Basin Electric Cooperative (Coal, Natural Gas, wind, solar) and Western Area Power Administration (Hydro). Pricing for 2022 came in at 61.8 mills, or 6.18 cents, per kilowatt hour. Taking a conservative approach with new generation fleet deployment costs alongside fuel costs and hedges in place, we see this number increasing slightly to 68.2 mills, or 6.82 cents per kilo-watt hour, by 2032, roughly 1% per year.



Our staff has worked extremely hard to keep our members at our focus while we continue to provide safe, reliable, and affordable electricity to you, our members. We have found innovative ways to keep your costs low during a time of high inflation, whether it be through investing cash into high interest earning accounts, pursuing transmission line grants, timing out material orders when prices fall or lead times extend, and weighing cost vs performance during each decision our cooperative makes. We look forward to continuing providing affordable, reliable, and safe electricity to you for not only the upcoming year, but many years to come.

## Statement of Non-Discrimination

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident. Person with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: 1.) mail - U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; 2.) fax: (202) 690-7442; or 3.) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov). USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

# October is Fire Safety Month

Is your workplace or home fireproof? Each year, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) celebrates National Fire Safety Month in October. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2016, there were 88 occupational fatalities as a result of workplace fires or explosions. This is down from 2015, in which there were 121. While the statistics show that the number of fatalities due to fires or explosions in the workplace is on a downward slope, any number other than 0 is unacceptable and demands the attention from management, safety professionals and employees in every company. Not only do fires present a severe life safety hazard, they also can be detrimental to business success due to the possible destruction of business equipment and facilities. This campaign serves as a reminder to us all of the importance of fire safety awareness in both the workplace and our home lives.

The safety reminders communicated in the workplace can be easily translated to fire safety in the home. Establish a family emergency action plan, discuss escape routes with family members, and locate fire extinguishers in your home. Additionally, conduct a mock fire drill with your family members to ensure you and your loved ones know how to get out safely. During this drill, outline meeting places that are at a safe distance from the home. Designate a neighbor to contact for help in the event of an emergency. Simple exercises such as the aforementioned could mean the difference maker in your family making it out alive in the event of a fire in your home.

Below are key components to ensuring your workplace and home are fireproof:

- **Eliminate Clutter** – Exercise good housekeeping. Clutter can easily become a fuel source in the event of a fire, allowing a fire to spread quickly. Furthermore, clutter can restrict access to emergency equipment and exit routes.
- **Fire Extinguishers** – Maintain the appropriate type and number of fire extinguishers. Conduct monthly and annual extinguisher inspections to ensure they are in good, working condition. Provide training for employees on the correct use of fire extinguishers.
- **Chemical Safety** – Use and store chemicals safely. Read hazard warning labels and safety data sheets

to determine flammability and other fire hazards. Ensure your chemical storage areas provide adequate ventilation for the storage of chemical or other hazardous substances.

- **Waste Control and Storage** – Limit the accumulation of flammable or combustible materials and residues as to prevent the risk for such materials contributing to a fire emergency.
- **Exits** – Ensure emergency exit route diagrams are posted and accessible in all areas of the facility for all employees to easily view. Additionally, ensure means of egress are well-lit with regulated exit signs and free from debris or clutter.

Remember it is always better to be proactive rather than reactive and it is best to alleviate hazards or hiccups in times of peace than in times of chaos. Utilize the above tips to reduce the risk for catastrophe or at least minimize the damage.

Source: Safety Resources, Inc.



## Keep cords away from water!

### Maddy Pannell, Age 12

Maddy Pannell advises people it's not safe to plug in appliances around water. Maddy is the daughter of Scott and Kim Pannell from Sioux Falls, S.D., members of Southeastern Electric Cooperative.

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.

# PASTA PERFECT

## ITALIAN SPAGHETTI

### Ingredients:

1-8 oz. can tomato sauce  
 1-6 oz. can tomato paste  
 1 1/2 paste cans water  
 1 small onion, chopped  
 2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce  
 1 tsp. garlic salt  
 1/2 tsp. chili powder  
 3 shakes cayenne pepper  
 1/8 tsp. black pepper  
 1 tsp. basil  
 1 tsp. oregano  
 1/2 to 1 lb. ground beef

### METHOD

Combine all ingredients except ground beef. Cover and simmer 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Brown beef and add to sauce. Serve over cooked noodles. May add green peppers or mushrooms.

**Gail Keating**  
**Flandreau, S.D.**

## GARDEN HARVEST PASTA SHELLS

### Ingredients:

2 tbsps. vegetable oil  
 2 medium zucchini, shredded  
 1/2 cup finely shredded carrots  
 2 cups chopped fresh broccoli  
 1 small onion, chopped  
 Salt and pepper  
 1 lb part-skim ricotta cheese  
 2 cups shredded mozzarella  
 1 egg, lightly beaten  
 1/4 cup grated parmesan  
 1 tbsp. dried basil  
 27.5 oz. jar pasta sauce  
 12 oz. pkg jumbo pasta shells, cooked and drained

### METHOD

Heat oven to 350. In a large skillet heat oil, then saute broccoli, zucchini, carrots, and onions until tender. Season with salt and pepper. Set aside. In a large bowl, thoroughly combine ricotta, mozzarella, egg, parmesan, and basil. Add vegetables and stir to combine. Spread 1 cup of the pasta sauce evenly in a 9" x 13" baking dish. Fill pasta shells with the vegetable and cheese mixture and arrange in the baking dish. Spoon the remaining sauce over the shells. Cover and bake for 45 minutes. Uncover and bake another 10 minutes or until bubbly.

**Faye Chambliss**  
**Murdo, S.D.**

## CREAMY CHICKEN AND BACON PASTA

### Ingredients:

8 oz. spaghetti  
 1 1/2 lbs. boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into 3/4-inch chunks  
 2 tbsps. flour  
 4 slices bacon  
 1 cup milk  
 4 oz. (1/2 package) cream cheese, at room temperature  
 1 1/2 tsps. basil leaves  
 1 1/2 tsps. garlic powder  
 1/2 tsp. salt  
 1/4 tsp. coarse ground black pepper

### METHOD

Cook spaghetti as directed on package. Drain well. Meanwhile, toss chicken with flour. Set aside. Cook bacon in large skillet on medium heat until crisp. Drain on paper towels. Set aside. Remove all but 1 tbsp drippings from skillet. Add chicken; cook and stir 4 minutes or until golden brown. Stir in milk, cream cheese and seasonings until well blended. Reduce heat to low; simmer 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Cut bacon into bite-size pieces. Add to skillet. Place spaghetti in serving bowl. Add chicken mixture; toss well. Serve immediately.

[mccormick.com](http://mccormick.com)

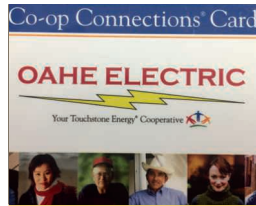
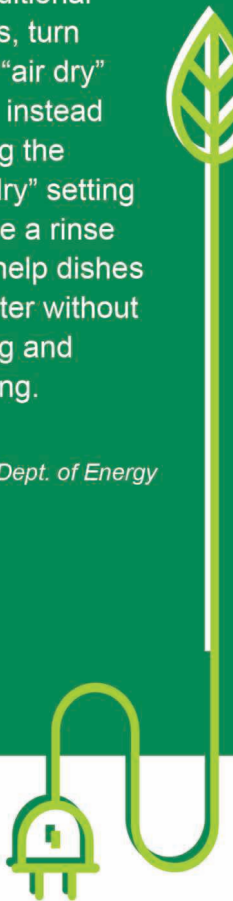
Please send your favorite recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2023. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know using your dishwasher is more energy efficient than washing a load of dishes by hand? To maximize efficiency, wash full loads in the dishwasher and don't block the arms or other parts that move while the appliance is in use.

For additional savings, turn on the "air dry" setting instead of using the "heat dry" setting and use a rinse aid to help dishes dry faster without spotting and streaking.

Source: Dept. of Energy



## Cooperative Connections Card Program Vendors

### Automotive

<b>Graham Tire Company</b>	605-224-8643	Pierre	Receive a 10% discount on regularly priced service work. Cannot be combined with any other offer.
<b>Lamb Motor Company</b>	800-952-2222	Onida	Receive a free alignment check with the purchase of 4 new tires.
<b>Napa Auto and Truck Parts/Farnam's Genuine Parts, Inc.</b>	605-224-8624	Pierre	Receive 10-50% off retail price.

### Food/Convenience Store

<b>Branding Iron Bistro</b>	605-494-3333	Pierre	Enjoy \$1 off your order. Limit one per visit.
<b>Gator's Pizza Pasta and Subs</b>	605-224-6262	Pierre	Purchase any large pizza at regular price and receive a FREE order of breadsticks.
<b>Grey Goose Store</b>	605-945-0794	Pierre	Receive a free 20 oz. fountain soda or coffee with the minimum of a \$30 gas or diesel purchase.
<b>The Corner</b>	605-258-2400	Onida	Buy one breakfast sandwich at regular price, get second half off.

### Health/Fitness and Beauty

<b>Anytime Fitness</b>	605-224-4011	Pierre	Receive a free two-week mini-membership.
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### Home/Garden

<b>Slumberland Furniture</b>	605-945-1997	Pierre	20% off any regular priced Lazy Boy items. Excluding special orders.
<b>Lee Real Estate</b>	605-222-6003	Perre	Receive a FREE Comparable Market Analysis for real estate properties, which gives members current market values for home, land and commercial properties.

### Services

<b>Inman's Water Technologies</b>	605-224-5111	Pierre	Receive a 10% discount on the rental price of a water softener and/or reverse osmosis drinking water system by paying a year in advance. Receive 10% off of the purchase price of a new water softener or reverse osmosis drinking water system when you mention this ad. Payments made by credit cards do not qualify for discounts/specials.
<b>Olson Plumbing Inc.</b>	605-224-6436	Pierre	\$50 discount on any electric boiler, Marathon water heater, or fireplace
<b>Small Engine House</b>	605-224-5815	Pierre	10% off parts and labor

### Sports/Recreation

<b>Teton River Traders Gun Shop LLC</b>	605-224-1371	Ft. Pierre	2% discount. Payments made by credit cards do not qualify for discount.
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### Retail

<b>Fastenal</b>	605-224-4060	Pierre	10% off of fasteners and 5% off on all other products
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# Oahe Electric to Host Tour

Members of Oahe Electric Cooperative have the opportunity to tour our transmission cooperative, East River Electric Cooperative, as well as Dakota State University's (DSU) Connected Home Research Project.

East River Electric is a wholesale power supply cooperative headquartered in Madison, SD which serves 24 distribution cooperatives and one municipal electric system across eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota.

The Connected Home project is a partnership between East River Electric Cooperative, DSU and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and is exploring technologies that will be included in the next generation of rural homes. It is also working to find solutions that will allow

electric cooperatives to play an integral role in helping consumers optimize their energy use. The project's research space resembles a smart home kitchen with

additional appliances including a washer, dryer and water heater.

Twenty-five lucky Oahe Electric members will travel to and from Madison, SD on a bus service on October 12. Lunch will be provided on the tour. High school students – accompanied by a parent or legal guardian – are encouraged to attend. At least one registrant must be an active member of Oahe Electric to be eligible. The cost is \$25 per person. Registrations will be accepted on a "first-come, first-served" basis. Portions of the tour require walking, so wear comfortable shoes.

If you would like to attend, please send your name, address, phone number, and \$25 to Oahe Electric Cooperative, Inc., PO Box 216, Blunt, SD 57522. For more information, please call **1-800-640-6243**.



# FOR THE LOVE OF HUNTING DOGS

Source: Travel South Dakota

## A Successful Hunt May Depend on Your Dog

**Shannon Marvel**

shannon.marvel@sdrea.coop

With numerous television appearances and A-list clients under his belt, Day County resident and Lake Region Electric Cooperative member Tom Dokken has become one of the premiere hunting dog trainers of our time.

But you won't hear the modest pro brag about himself. Instead, Dokken gives credit to the hard work and the innate capabilities of the dogs themselves.

The 70-year-old Minnesota native has been professionally working with dogs over the last 50 years at his training facility, Dokken Oak Ridge Kennels, Inc. in Northfield, Minnesota.

It's one of the largest gun dog training kennels in the region.

His love for hunting alongside a canine

companion harkens back to his teenage years when he'd tag along to go hunting throughout the country with his friend and his friend's Labrador Retriever, Charlie.

"We were probably 16 years old when we started hunting together. He had a lab and I didn't have one. We hunted with that dog just about every weekend."

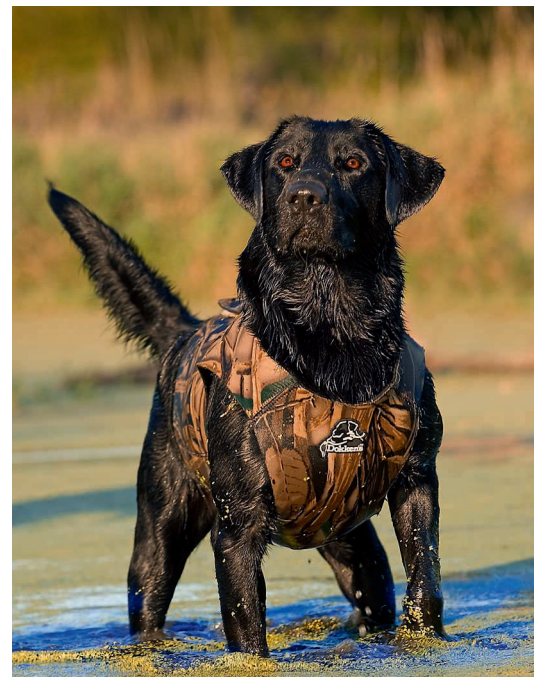
After a few years, Dokken decided it was time to get his own dog.

And to that dog goes all the credit, in Dokken's eyes.

"I started training her then I started running field trials. I did really well, not because of me, but I had a good dog who did

really well on a national level," he recalled.

After that, Dokken was hooked and knew training dogs was what he wanted to do for a living. He's since established



An adult black lab out hunting



himself as one of the top hunting dog trainers in the world, even bolstering a line of dog training products – Dokken Dog Supply – which is carried in sporting good stores across the country.

“That’s just as a result developing products we wanted for training themselves,” Dokken said of his supply company.

Some of the dogs Dokken has trained have hunted under some big names, including President George W. Bush and country music legend Hank Williams, Jr., along with many major professional athletes.

But it takes some prying to get that kind of info out of the humble Dokken, and he’s quick to emphasize that everyone that he does business with is treated the same, no matter what.

“Every customer is important. One person doesn’t get treated different than the other,” Dokken said.

His facility employs four full-time trainers, as well as office staff.

When Dokken isn’t training one of the 350 hunting dogs that come to his Minnesota training facility each year, he’s at home with his wife, Tina, in Day County.

“My wife and I live north of Webster. That’s our connection with the area. I’ve hunted down in the Lily area for years. We’ve had our place here 18 years or better,” Dokken explained.

“My mom’s family homestead is down in the Selby area, so as kids we’d be back on the farm for a good portion of the summer,” he added.

Dokken said his business trains pretty much any of the sporting, pointing and flushing breeds. But in the Upper Midwest, the more popular breed tends to be the Labrador Retriever.

Dokken has a special place in his heart for labs, which he described as a hardy breed able to withstand the punishing winter conditions known to challenge hunters in South Dakota during pheasant season.

And in South Dakota, pheasants are

king, according to Dokken.

“As far as population of pheasant – up in our area the weather sometimes knocks them back a little bit. Last year we had rain in December, which is a little bit of a factor when it comes to pheasant numbers,” Dokken said.

“The further south and west you get, the population changes too. Regardless, South Dakota numbers will always be top in the U.S.”

Hunters who have a dog in their arsenal have a much greater advantage over those who do not. For one, they can flush birds out of thick cover and, unlike the average human, have an absolute blast doing so.

“Without a dog – if you’re a pheasant hunter – you’re not going to have the ability to get the birds up and get them out of higher and denser cover. Finding birds that you’ve shot is going to be a real challenge as well. A dog is a great conservation tool as well,” Dokken said.

From a training standpoint, Dokken advises dog owners to start teaching their hunting partners good habits when they’re really young.

The earlier the training begins, the more success you’re setting the dog up for down the line.



Dokken with two adult labs

“Try to buy the best bloodlines that you can because if you do, in most cases your success rate just gets higher.”

Dokken says it boils down to three things: teaching, repetition and reinforcement. For the human, practicing patience is crucial.

“A majority the time the dog is not in the wrong, it’s that the dog can’t understand what you want,” he said.

The entire job is a dream for Dokken and his team, and one he hopes to continue for decades more to come.

“It’s what we do,” he said. “It’s a labor of love.”



Source: Travel South Dakota

# 2022: Anything But Normal



**Valerie Marso**  
Office Manager

In case you weren't able to make it to your 72nd Annual Meeting, here is a recap of what you missed from me!

Gone are the days when we could call our suppliers and have pretty much anything we needed in relatively short order. Currently we have six times our "normal" amount of money wrapped up in electric supply inventory such as poles, transformers, meters, and wire. What normally would take at most 12 weeks to arrive, now can take more than 52 weeks. That's a pretty big deal when you don't know how many new services are going to be needed, what size service is needed or when it will be needed. To add insult to injury, all those items have gone up substantially in price as well. Many doubling or tripling.

If you are planning any work that requires Oahe Electric's assistance, please let us know as soon as possible so we can plan accordingly.

Now to that money!

The most important thing is that once again your Electric Cooperative closed its 2022 year-end in satisfactory financial condition. The Statement of Operations shows that total revenue was down slightly. Operating Expenses increased a little over \$258k and fixed expenses or what we call "uncontrollable" expenses decreased approximately \$167K. We also received capital credit allocations from East River and Basin Electric of just over \$1M.

The balance sheet reflects the following: Net utility plant for 2022 was \$20.7M. Add this to the other investments and cash, and your cooperative has assets totaling nearly \$36M. The Cooperative's debt and other liabilities total \$21.5M, which leaves patronage capital due to you the members of \$14.4M.

Every year, your electric cooperative's financial statements are audited by an outside firm, Eide Bailly. In their independent auditing report, they found Oahe Electric and the results of its operations and its cash flows to be free of any material misstatement and to be in compliance with the Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States as well as with the generally accepted accounting principles.

As you can see, Oahe Electric exhibited a solid financial performance in 2022 and will strive to continue to do so. To keep up to date with what's happening at your cooperative, be sure to continue reading our *Cooperative Connections* newsletter, visit our website, review your bill inserts and like us on Facebook!

If you have any questions or would like more information on the financials, please don't hesitate to contact me.

## Statement of Operations for 2021 and 2022

	2021	2022
<b>Revenue:</b>		
Farm & Residential	\$ 4,407,064	\$ 4,899,581
Irrigation	1,935,160	1,633,483
Commercial	5,898,575	6,235,581
Onida	663,998	668,622
Public Highway & Lighting	4,701	4,704
Other Income	130,983	(405,043)
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 13,040,481</b>	<b>\$ 13,036,928</b>
<b>Operating Expenses:</b>		
Operations & Maintenance	\$ 1,085,134	\$ 1,342,028
Consumer Accounts	188,259	178,083
Consumer Services & Informational	150,245	105,349
Administration & General	877,135	934,120
Other	9,119	8,689
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 2,309,892</b>	<b>\$ 2,568,269</b>
<b>Fixed Expenses:</b>		
Purchased Power	\$ 8,695,523	\$ 8,510,233
Depreciation	955,945	992,456
Taxes	227,257	236,168
Interest (Long Term Debt)	616,193	588,801
<b>Total Fixed Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 10,494,918</b>	<b>\$ 10,327,658</b>
<b>Total Cost of Service</b>	<b>\$ 12,804,810</b>	<b>\$ 12,895,927</b>
<b>Patronage Capital Credits &amp; Margins</b>		
Operating Margins	\$ 235,670	\$ 141,000
Non-operating Margins (Interest)	44,281	75,757
G&T Patronage-East River & Basin	470,810	1,065,135
Other Patronage	52,516	36,808
<b>Total Capital Credits &amp; Margins</b>	<b>\$ 803,277</b>	<b>\$ 1,318,700</b>

## Balance Sheet as of December 31

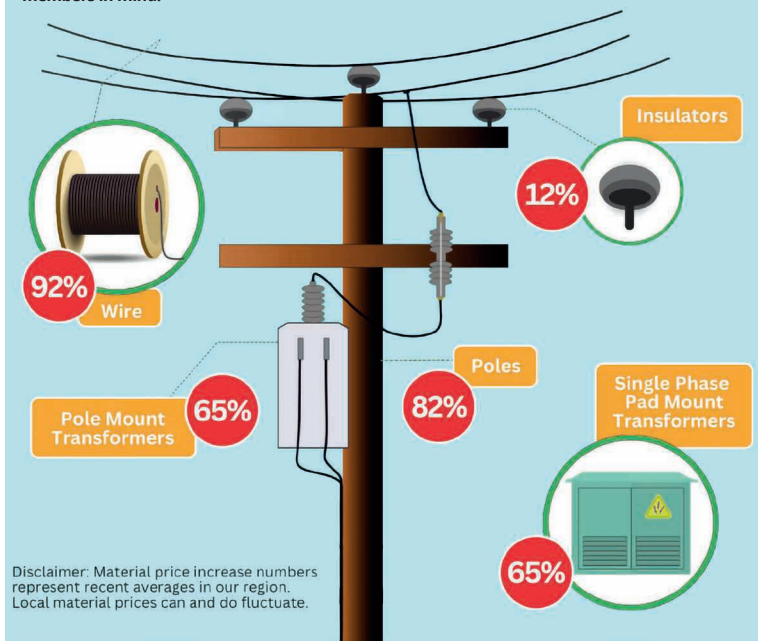
	2021	2022
<b>Assets (what we own)</b>		
<b>Utility Plant</b>		
Total Utility Plant	\$ 30,834,350	\$ 32,216,851
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(10,638,105)	(11,420,205)
<b>Utility Plant - Net</b>	<b>\$ 20,196,245</b>	<b>\$ 20,796,646</b>
<b>Other Property &amp; Investments</b>		
Investments in Associated Companies	\$ 7,041,834	\$ 8,078,356
Other Invests./Non-Utility Property	1,181,183	987,083
Special Funds	450,000	1,000,000
<b>Total Other Property &amp; Investments</b>	<b>\$ 8,673,017</b>	<b>\$ 10,065,439</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 4,041,572	\$ 3,231,322
AR, net of allowance	1,136,335	1,057,173
Materials and Supplies	457,770	715,200
Prepayments	42,065	68,073
Interest Receivable	3,469	3,422
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$ 5,681,211</b>	<b>\$ 5,075,190</b>
Deferred Credits	99,494	56,874
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 34,649,967</b>	<b>\$ 35,994,149</b>
<b>Liabilities (what we owe)</b>		
Long Term Debt	\$ 18,497,129	\$ 17,536,503
Accounts Payable	821,537	1,195,550
Customer's Deposits	60,450	308,375
Other Liabilities	1,280,947	1,429,168
Deferred Credits	534,690	1,064,846
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 21,194,753</b>	<b>\$ 21,534,442</b>
<b>Net Worth (member equity)</b>		
Patronage Capital & Other Equities	13,455,214	14,459,707
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Worth</b>	<b>\$ 34,649,967</b>	<b>\$ 35,994,149</b>

## 2022: Anything But Normal, Continued

### THE RISING COST OF ELECTRIC UTILITY MATERIALS

As inflation has increased the cost of many goods and services in our daily lives, Oahe Electric remains focused on keeping your rates as stable as possible. That job is becoming more challenging as electric utility material prices have increased in an unprecedented manner over the last two years.

Many of the cost increases being experienced cannot be avoided or easily cut out. We must continue to invest in utility poles, transformers, wire, and insulators to ensure you receive reliable service. The graphic below shows some of the core components that your electric cooperative needs to operate and the corresponding price increases since 2020. As always, we will continue to manage member resources wisely while keeping the best interests of our members in mind.



## Got a Sub Meter? Please leave Power Turned On

Most of you remember when Oahe Electric was at your home to install the sub meter. This meter allows your heating and cooling usage to be billed at the reduced rate.

A problem that Oahe Electric encounters from year to year is that some of these meters are being shut off. This is done by shutting off a breaker in your service panel and when this happens, the meter cannot record any usage at the reduced rate. Therefore, the electric usage consumed by your heating system is being billed to you at the regular residential rate.

This causes two problems.

First, the consumers call with a high bill complaint.

Second, Oahe employees have to diagnose the situation.

Oahe will try to contact the homeowner via phone. If the problem cannot be fixed via phone, then we have to visit each site and check breakers, wiring and so on.

Please make certain that all of your electric breakers are turned on.

All electronic equipment has a switch or thermostat that should be used for and during maintenance. **DO NOT SHUT OFF YOUR BREAKERS** unless it's an emergency.

## Energy Assistance Available to Those that Qualify

The Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) helps eligible South Dakotans pay for home heating costs. Energy assistance may not pay for all your home heating costs but it will help ease the strain of the heating season. Energy assistance is applied to energy usage from Oct. 1 through May 15.

Eligibility for the program is based on:

- The number of people in the household.
- The gross income of everyone in the household.
- The type of heating for the home.
- Geographic area you live in.

Applications can be obtained by calling 1-800-233-8503, online at [www.dss.sd.gov/energyassistance](http://www.dss.sd.gov/energyassistance), or at the local Department of Social Services office.



## Touchstone Energy Celebrates 25 Years with Commercial Debut

**Frank Turner**

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Touchstone Energy Cooperatives is encouraging member electric cooperatives and their member-owners to pop some popcorn, settle in, and join them in celebrating the organization's 25th anniversary on Nov. 29, when they'll debut their

newest line of 2024 commercials.

The historic milestone will commemorate a quarter-century of Touchstone Energy's drive to establish a universal brand – seen on t-shirts, logos, and even soaring hot air balloons – for co-ops nationwide. Select commercials from the lineup, which will feature on the Touchstone Energy website, will highlight the local South

Dakota prairie landscape and local co-op employees with Sioux Valley Energy.

Touchstone Energy Board of Directors President and Sioux Valley CEO Tim McCarthy said he is glad to see South Dakota being represented on a national scope. "We are excited to be celebrating this historic milestone," said McCarthy. "Touchstone Energy continues to be an invaluable resource for co-ops in South Dakota and throughout our nationwide network."

Touchstone Energy's journey began 25 years ago when a group of movers and shakers recognized the need for an outward-facing organization that would connect the image of

co-ops across the nation. Although individually small, cooperatives from all around the nation believed a unified brand would broaden and strengthen their presence. Together, these co-ops owned and operated more distribution lines than any other sector in the electric utility industry and served more than half of the American landmass. On Nov. 26, 1998, 17 founding co-ops established Touchstone Energy, powering through a time of regulatory uncertainty.

“In the late ‘90s, there were some revolutionary things happening in the energy industry,” said Jana Adams, executive director of Touchstone Energy. “The cooperatives really wisely said: as individual entities we are small, but if we come together and create a recognizable brand, we will have a better opportunity to compete in this evolving energy landscape.”

From the start, Touchstone Energy was set on making an impression. By purchasing six iconic Touchstone Energy branded hot air balloons and sponsoring notable events such as the famous NASCAR Talladega 300 race, Touchstone Energy quickly transformed into a nationally recognizable brand.

To date, Touchstone Energy’s membership has grown to nearly 700 co-ops, which now reaches more than 30 million member-owners across 46 states. Along with this remarkable growth, Touchstone Energy has enhanced its services, including advertising, social media management, and web development, among others. Over time, Touchstone Energy’s wide range of services, said Adams, have become a crucial communication resource for their membership.

“Our first national ad was in the early 2000s, and to this day, we run advertisements in every single zip code served by a Touchstone Energy cooperative,” said Adams. “We are

constantly innovating and giving our cooperative members the opportunity to highlight the great work they do and the achievements they have.”

Looking back on the last quarter century, Adams said Touchstone Energy is thrilled to connect to its original roots and celebrate its longstanding service to co-ops across the country.



Touchstone Energy celebrates 25 years while producing new commercials in South Dakota.



“We encourage everybody to join us on Nov. 29 for our 2024 national ad premier and to celebrate the 25 years behind us, but more importantly the many years ahead of us where we continue to work together,” she said.



Mike Adolph, left, checks in with an employee during a break from construction on Aug. 22 in Watertown. Photo by Shannon Marvel

## REED Fund Helps Finance Summit-Based Manufacturer

**Shannon Marvel**

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On the northwestern edge of Watertown, just east of Jefferson Elementary School, a sea of hard hats, brightly colored safety materials, utility trucks, commercial vans, and lumber piles spans across several blocks.

It's hard to differentiate between the houses under construction as most contractors rarely deviate from the methods they've relied on for years. Especially when framing a house.

But one construction crew's telehandler towers above the rest. The steel trusses and wall panels hoisted into the air are also not typically seen in residential construction, but using steel in lieu of timber is just as effective.

And thanks to financial assistance through the Rural Electric Economic Development (REED) Fund, Skyview Construction is able to provide steel

trusses and wall panels to the local home building industry.

Contractors usually use the platform framing method, which allows the use of dimensional lumber pieces instead of the larger, natural wood pieces which are harder to come by in the supply chain.

Lumber used in construction has become more difficult to secure and more expensive.

That's why the owners of Skyview Construction, LLC in Summit decided to manufacture trusses and beams out of steel themselves then use those

products to build homes.

But that required purchasing two very expensive pieces of equipment.

After visiting with American Bank and Trust about ways to finance the new venture, Skyview Construction owners Mike, Jackie, and Gerry Adolph reached out to Dave Eide, the general manager of Codington Clark Electric Cooperative to see if their business qualified for REED funding.

Eide was happy to help.



Gerry Adolph, Mike Adolph, and Jackie Adolph stand in the doorway of a townhome built with steel members that the family manufactured themselves.

Photo by Shannon Marvel

The REED Fund worked with American Bank and Trust to help secure financing that offered Skyview Construction a loan with more amicable terms.

Codington-Clark Electric provides financing through REED to help business start-ups and expansions, create and retain jobs and assist communities with facilities, services and infrastructure needs.

The Adolphs were able to secure the funds through the REED Fund to purchase the machine that will form the steel members for the rafters, floor trusses, and walls, and the rotating telehandler that will be used to place the components on-site.

That was in January. Within the last month, the Adolphs and their crew of around nine men completed construction of four twin home units using the wall panels and trusses they manufactured right on their own property in Grant County.

Jackie and Mike reflected on their journey into the steel manufacturing and construction industries.

The couple wanted to start a construction business after going through the extensive process of building a group of townhomes and their own home a few years ago.

Mike's mother, Gerry Adolph, is also an owner of Skyview Construction.

The family has been in the seeding and erosion control and real estate investing business together for the last 18 years, and agreed to expand into the housing industry.

They had planned to build with wood, but the soonest the equipment and necessary supplies could be delivered was at least three years down the road. It also would've cost at least \$3 million.

"So how it went down, we were going down the wood side pretty hard. Like we were going to put

in a big fancy factory with robots and everything," Mike said. "And then the equipment cost so much and it would've put us three years out. I didn't want to wait three years. Then someone asked if we had looked into steel. So we looked into the steel and it made sense."

The program the Adolphs use to manufacture the steel wall panels and trusses maps out the design and provides a detailed view of the project.

"It labels each piece and even tells you how many nails or screws to put in each connection and where to put them for that design," Jackie explained.

Their existing employees would also work as laborers for the construction outside of the seeding and soil erosion season.

The software allows the workers to assemble components without any guess work.

"While we have an experienced building supervisor, the guys that are installing it, they really don't have much construction experience. They've never done this. But it's laid out so well by the software," Mike said.

"The biggest thing with steel is they can do this with minimal experience."

The steel parts are manufactured at the Adolphs' shop in Grant County.

Once the structure's design has been completed within the software, steel is ran through a machine and manufactured into the proper stud or truss material.

"Our goal right now is to do a whole house in a week or two— print it, assemble the components in the shop, and then send it out to the jobsite and have it up in a couple of days," Jackie said.

"We're hoping when we get to the single-family homes, it's going to be a little bit quicker," Mike added.

Eide noted how the insulation used with steel framework is at a higher rating and uses a Zip system, creating a more energy efficient temperature control system.

"This is just a really cool project and the owners provide the market with a product that no one else had before," Eide said.

To learn more about the REED Fund, go to [www.reedfund.coop](http://www.reedfund.coop).



Jackie Adolph points to a label on one of the steel components, which was generated by the design software to ensure the pieces are properly assembled. Photo by Shannon Marvel



**Oct. 7-8**  
**Fort Pierre Horse Races**  
 Stanley County Fairground  
 605-223-2178

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.

**SEPT 22-23**  
**Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair**  
 9 a.m.  
 Davison County Fairgrounds  
 Activity Center  
 Mitchell SD  
 605-359-2049

**SEPT 22-24**  
**Coal Springs Threshing Bee**  
 Meadow, SD  
 605-788-2229

**SEPT 23**  
**German Fest**  
 Webster, SD  
 605-380-0588

**SEPT 23**  
**Springfield Dakota Senior Meals Fall Festival**  
 9 a.m.  
 Springfield Community Building  
 Springfield, SD

**SEPT 24**  
**Annual Bazaar & Fall Fest**  
 4-7 p.m.  
 St. John the Baptist Catholic Church  
 Wagner, SD

**SEPT 30**  
**Day of Wellness**  
 10 a.m.  
 Sturgis Armory  
 Sturgis, SD

**SEPT 30**  
**Mission Quilt and Bake Sale**  
 Zoar Lutheran Church  
 Revillo, SD

**SEPT 29-30**  
**Junkin' Market Days**  
 Ramkota Exhibit Hall  
 Sioux Falls, SD  
 605-941-4958

**OCT 6-7**  
**Holman Acres Pumpkin Fest & Vendor Show**  
 Philip, SD  
 605-441-1060

**OCT 7**  
**Spirit of Dakota Award**  
 Huron Event Center  
 Huron, SD  
 605-352-6073

**OCT 12-19**  
**"In Flanders Fields" Art Exhibition & Silent Auction**  
 Vermillion Public Library  
 Vermillion, SD

**OCT 14**  
**Oktoberfest**  
**Leo Lonney Polka Band**  
 6 p.m.  
 Menno, SD  
 605-660-1839

**OCT 19-21**  
**Fall Fundraising Rummage Sale**  
 Spearfish Senior Center  
 Spearfish, SD  
 605-642-2827

**OCT 21**  
**Fall Festival**  
 11 a.m.  
 18473 U.S. HWY 83  
 Onida, SD  
 605-788-2229

**OCT. 28-29**  
**Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Association**  
 Ramkota Hotel Exhibit Hall  
 Sioux Falls, SD  
 605-731-9155

**NOV 11**  
**Sisseton Area Merchants & Crafters Holiday Extravaganza**  
 Sisseton, SD  
 605-698-7425

**NOV 12**  
**Lutefisk, Lefse & Meatball**  
 4-7 p.m.  
 Trinity Lutheran Church  
 Chamberlain, SD  
 605-730-0553

**NOV 24**  
**Parade of Lights**  
 7 p.m.  
 Dakota Avenue  
 Huron, SD  
 605-788-2229

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