


# West River Electric

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

## Cooperative Connections

OCTOBER 2010 VOL 46 NO. 10

### POWER LINE SAFETY

Co-ops Urge Members to Use Caution PG 8



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# WEST RIVER ELECTRIC

– General Manager & President’s Message –

## 2010 WREA Annual Report

**As we look back** on the last year and look forward to future years, we are reminded of a saying from Winston Churchill that says “A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty”. The past has had many difficulties we have turned into opportunities and we are optimistic that our future difficulties will turn into more opportunities for you our members.

Thanks in a large part to our Board, management, and employees; we had a successful 2009. Economic woes cover much of the country. Even though we were not totally exempt from all of the troubles, we still saw a year with increased kilowatt hour sales, revenue, and new services. For 2009, our revenues increased by 11.7% with kWh sales increasing 2.4% from 2008. Even though new services were slower than we have seen in recent years, we still constructed 182 new services in 2009. Our total margins were strong for 2009. As hard as it is to do, we did take a rate increase effective January 1, 2009 of approximately 8%. This was mostly due to increased power costs from our power suppliers. Costs for electricity will continue to rise in future years.

Probably our biggest hurdle has been the construction of the new branch office. The Board officially awarded a contract to Sampson Construction in July 2009. They officially started construction in mid-September. This was a very difficult decision for your Board. However, something had to be done as the current building was no longer conducive to our business operations. Due to the slow economy, we were fortunate that the successful bid was approximately 25% below the original estimates. We have also been fortunate that we have been able to borrow funds at record low interest rates. This will all help to make the pessimist more optimistic.

Our Board recently authorized a general retirement to our members of capital credits in the amount of \$300,000. Half of the retirement will go to a portion of the credits earned in 1984 and the remaining amount will be spread over all the remaining years yet to be retired. In addition, the Board also authorized retiring up to \$100,000 for retirement of capital credits for estates. For this year, we will continue to put the retirement as a credit on your October 1 electric bill, and see one of the benefits of being a member owner of your cooperative.

One of our biggest reasons for pessimism still lies on the legislative front. There is currently no clear direction given on a new energy bill. However, EPA has made a decision

that they feel that they have the right to regulate carbon dioxide emissions under the Clean Air Act. This will certainly drive up energy costs for our coal fired plants that provide the majority of our electricity. As it stands now, by 2016, some sort of a system will be in place by EPA to tax large emitters of CO<sub>2</sub>. We need to be diligent in our efforts to pass legislation and sensible regulations that do not damage certain segments of the economy. The way future legislation is being drafted, future development in our communities will be greatly hampered due to increased costs. This may provide an opportunity for you to help us by becoming involved in any grass roots effort to persuade Congress to do something sensible for all of America.

This past year we had transition within our management staff. Our long term manager of close to 20 years, Jim Pahl, announced his retirement in 2009. The Board named Dick Johnson, WREA’s Manager of Finance as your new manager effective February 1, 2010. We also lost several long term employees to retirements.

So as you can see, we could easily be pessimists with all of the challenges we face but we are optimistic that Winston was correct, there are opportunities in every difficulty. On behalf of the Board, management, and employees of West River Electric, we thank you for your patronage that contributed to another strong year for WREA. We also extend an invitation for you to attend our annual meeting to be held on October 9, 2010 at the Wall Community Center starting at 1:00. Come and help us show you how we still feel these difficulties can be turned into many more opportunities.



**Jerry Hammerquist**  
West River Electric Association  
President, Board of Directors



**Dick Johnson**  
West River Electric Association  
CEO/General Manager

# 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

## West River Electric Cooperative Connections

(USPS No. 675-840)

### Our Mission

To inform you about your cooperative and its efforts to serve your energy needs; about how to use electricity safely and efficiently; and about the people who define and enhance the quality of life in communities served by electric co-ops.

### President

Jerry Hammerquist, Caputa, S.D.

### Vice President

Richard Richter, Enning, S.D.

### Secretary

Bill Bielmaier, Wall, S.D.

### Treasurer

Larry Eisenbraun, Wall, S.D.

### Directors

Howard Knappe, New Underwood, S.D.

Andy Moon, Creighton, S.D.

Marcia Arneson, Rapid City, S.D.

Marion Wilson, Rapid City, S.D.

Stan Anders, Union Center, S.D.

### CEO/General Manager

Dick Johnson

### Editor

Veronica Kusser

West River Electric Cooperative Connections is the monthly publication for the members of West River Electric Association. Members subscribe to Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership for \$6.00 a year. West River Electric Cooperative Connections purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to electric cooperative members on matters pertaining to rural electrification and better living. Nonmember subscriptions are available for \$12.00 per year. Periodicals Postage Paid at Wall, S.D., and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to West River Electric Cooperative Connections, PO Box 412, Wall, SD 57790-0412.

Other correspondence to: West River Electric Cooperative Connections, PO Box 3486, Rapid City, SD 57709; telephone (605)393-1500, Exts. 6617, 6631 or 6619; fax (605)393-0275; e-mail vkusser@westriver.com

Design assistance by:

TDG Communications, Inc. Deadwood, S.D.



### Call before you dig:

All underground cable location requests for the entire state of South Dakota are made through the South Dakota One-Call System. The number is toll free, 1-800-

781-7474 (dial 811 in state). You are required to provide this one-call center with information regarding the location where you will be digging, along with a description of the type of work you will be doing. You are required to give at least a 48-hour notice before you dig. The one-call center will then notify all utilities with underground facilities in the area where you will be digging.

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

The annual meeting of members of West River Electric Association, Inc. will be held at 1:00 pm on Saturday, the 9th of October 2010, at the Wall Community Center, in the town of Wall, County of Pennington, State of South Dakota, for the purpose of:

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

Dated at Wall, South Dakota, this 21st day of September, 2010.

Bill Bielmaier, Secretary, West River Electric Association, Inc.

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

## Authorization To Vote For An Organization

Non-individual members of West River Electric Association, Inc., such as school districts, towns, churches, corporations, etc. may vote at our Annual Meeting by completing this form and presenting it at the registration desk on October 9, 2010. Each member organization should designate a representative who is an officer, or stockholder, or member of their organization. This form must be signed by an officer of the governing body.

## Authorization To Vote

This is to certify that \_\_\_\_\_ is hereby designated the delegate to West River Electric Association, Inc. Annual Meeting on October 9, 2010, from \_\_\_\_\_ whose address is \_\_\_\_\_ Named delegate is authorized to vote on all issues that may come up at the meeting, including election of directors.

Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
By (title) \_\_\_\_\_

## 71ST ANNUAL MEETING Saturday, October 9, 2010 Wall Community Center

10:30 am Registration Opens  
FREE Lunch

1:00 pm Business Meeting  
Door Prizes

FREE Babysitting Available

**NOTE:** If you are disabled and need special accommodations to be a part of the Annual Meeting, call (605) 279-2135 or (605) 393-1500.

## Big Screen Savings

**Today's televisions offer** larger, thinner screens and, with digital cable or satellite connections, provide a virtually unlimited number of channels.

However, some models require a tremendous amount of energy to operate – almost as much as a refrigerator.

And, since the average American household has 2.93 TVs, all of this energy use adds up. U.S. televisions use more than 46 billion kWh per year, or about 4 percent of residential electricity use.

These tips will help you tune in to big screen energy savings.

**High-Definition = High Energy Use:** High-definition TV (HDTV) sets generally use more power because of better picture clarity. Also, energy consumption often relates to screen size. The larger the screen, the more electricity required.

Four types of TVs are currently available: plasma, liquid-crystal display (LCD), rear projection and cathode ray tube (CRT).

Plasma screens often are cited as the largest energy user – mainly because their large 42-inch to 65-inch screens typically draw between 240 watts to 400 watts.

LCD TVs don't need much power to operate – 111 watts on average. Most LCD screens range in size from 21 inches to 49 inches. Light-emitting diode (LED) units offer several benefits, notably better picture quality and thinner and lighter screens. They also use slightly less energy, at 101 watts.

Rear projection televisions tend to be the most energy efficient and boast the largest screen sizes.

Television manufacturers rarely advertise energy consumption, so consumers need to conduct their own energy use research through unbiased online sources such as CNET.com, an online journal for the technology industry. Look for specific model numbers, which you can take to the store.

**Tune in to Savings:** If you're not in the market for a new TV but want to make sure your model is operating efficiently, CNET.com offers these energy-saving tips:

- Turn the TV and other connected devices off when they're not being used
- Turn down the LCD's backlight – you'll save
- Turn on the power saver mode
- Control room lighting – since many energy-saving tips reduce brightness of the screen, compensate by dimming lights around the TV.

Sources: CNET.com, Natural Resources Defense Council, Nielsen

*Brian Sloboda is a program manager specializing in energy efficiency for the Cooperative Research Network, a service of the Arlington, Va.-based National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Magen Howard contributed to this article.*

## Harvest Safety

**The harvest season** is a busy time of year for farmers and with a tight deadline, it can be tempting to bypass some basic safety procedures. However, taking that extra step can be a real lifesaver. Due to the stress and fatigue involved with harvesting crops, the season is a peak time for agricultural-related injuries and death.

In order to help prevent this type of tragedy, safety should be a top priority for everyone on the farm. One of the first and most important steps is preparation. You should make sure that your machinery is in good working condition, which includes checking the lights, tires, brakes, etc. You should also be in good physical condition, which includes getting enough sleep and taking breaks during the day.

To help prevent injuries, keep these recommended safe work practices in mind as you head out to the field:

- Tractors are equipped with a rollover protective structure (ROPS) and a seat belt. Always wear the seat belt with a ROPS.
- The "No seat, no rider" rule is always in effect.
- A clean and reflective slow moving vehicle (SMV) sign is located on the rear of any tractor and piece of towed equipment that is used for roadway travel.
- An ABC fire extinguisher (minimum 5 pounds) is on the tractor.
- A fully stocked first aid kit is accessible.
- Everyone who operates the equipment has received training.
- Never bypass start a tractor. Always follow the correct starting procedure.
- All protective guards and shields are in place.
- Check for clearance from overhead power lines when moving tall equipment.
- Lock brake pedals together before traveling on the road.
- Never lean or step over a power takeoff (PTO) while it is operating.

Practicing safety can produce a healthy harvest throughout the year.

Source: Georgia Farm Bureau

### Kids' Corner Safety Poster



**"Do not take a bath during an electrical storm."**

**Roni Voller, 7 years old**  
Roni is the daughter of Alan and Karen Voller, Bison, S.D. They are members of Grand Electric Cooperative, Bison, S.D.

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents.

# Perfect Pasta



## Refrigerator Chicken Casserole

- 2-1/2 cups cooked, diced chicken
- 2 cups elbow macaroni, uncooked
- 2 cans cream of mushroom soup or may use 1 can cream of mushroom soup and 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1 soup can milk
- 1-3/4 cups chicken broth
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 (5 oz.) can sliced water chestnuts
- 8 oz. shredded Cheddar cheese
- 1/2 tsp. salt

Combine all ingredients. Pour into a well-greased 9x13-inch pan. Cover with foil; refrigerate overnight until ready to bake. Bake at 350°F. for 1 hour and 15 minutes.

**Marla Gilbert, Corsica**  
Cooperative Connections

## Ham and Noodle Casserole

- 3 T. butter or margarine, divided
- 2 T. flour
- 1 cup milk
- 1 cup processed American cheese
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 2 cups cooked, diced ham
- 1-1/2 cups cooked noodles
- 1 cup frozen peas, thawed
- 1/4 cup dry bread crumbs
- 1/2 tsp. parsley flakes

In a saucepan, melt 2 T. butter; stir in flour until smooth. Gradually add milk. Bring to a boil over medium heat; cook and stir 2 minutes. Remove from heat; stir in cheese and salt until cheese is melted. Add ham, noodles and peas. Pour into a greased 1-quart baking dish. Melt remaining butter; add bread crumbs and parsley flakes. Sprinkle over casserole. Bake, uncovered, at 350°F. for 30 minutes or until heated through.

**Rebecca Walz, Tripp**  
Cooperative Connections

## Classic Italian Spaghetti

- 3/4 lb. ground beef or bulk pork sausage
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 cup chopped green pepper
- 1/4 cup chopped celery
- 1 tsp. minced garlic
- 1 (16 oz.) can diced tomatoes, do not drain
- 1 (6 oz.) can tomato paste
- 1/2 cup water
- 2 T. snipped parsley
- 1 tsp. sugar
- 1 tsp. dried basil, crushed
- 1 tsp. dried oregano, crushed
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. dried marjoram, crushed
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 8 oz. spaghetti
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese

In a large saucepan or Dutch oven, cook meat, onion, green pepper, celery and garlic until meat is brown; drain. Carefully stir in next 10 ingredients. Bring to boil; reduce heat. Cover; simmer 30 to 40 minutes, stirring occasionally. Meanwhile, cook pasta; drain. Immediately serve sauce over pasta. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese.

**Pam Hofer, Carpenter**  
Cooperative Connections

## Skillet Pasta and Beef Dinner

- 1 lb. lean ground beef
- 1 (1 lb. 10 oz.) jar Ragù® Old World Style® Traditional Pasta Sauce
- 2 cups water
- 8 oz. uncooked rotini pasta
- 1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese

Brown ground beef in 12-inch skillet; drain. Stir in Pasta Sauce and water. Bring to a boil over high heat. Stir in uncooked rotini and return to a boil. Reduce heat to medium and cook covered, stirring occasionally, 14 minutes or until rotini is tender. Remove from heat; sprinkle with cheese. Cover and let stand 5 minutes or until cheese is melted. Servings: 4

*Nutritional Information per serving: Calories 550, Calories From Fat 150, Total Fat 17g, Trans Fat 0g, Cholesterol 95mg, Sodium 1120mg, Dietary Fiber 5g, Sugars 12g, Protein 41g, Vitamin A 20%, Vitamin C 6%, Calcium 20%, Iron 30%*

**Pictured, Cooperative Connections**

## Pork Sausage Fettuccine Casserole

- 8 oz. bulk pork sausage
- 1/4 cup chopped onion
- 1/4 cup chopped green pepper
- 8 oz. dry fettuccine, cooked
- 1-1/4 cups shredded Colby cheese, divided
- 1-1/4 cups shredded Monterey Jack cheese, divided
- 2 T. pimento
- 1 cup milk
- 1 T. flour
- 3 eggs, beaten
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/8 tsp. pepper

Brown meat with onion and green pepper until meat is no longer pink and onion is tender; drain. Combine fettuccine and sausage mixture. Add 3/4 cup each of cheeses and pimento. Spoon into a greased 2-quart casserole. Mix together milk, flour, eggs, salt and pepper; pour over casserole. Cover with foil; back at 350°F. for 35 minutes. Remove foil; bake an additional 5 minutes. Sprinkle with remaining cheeses. Let stand 10 minutes before serving.

**Karen Huether, Tripp**  
Cooperative Connections

## Macaroni-Corn Bake

- 1 can creamed corn
- 1 can whole kernel corn
- 1 cup macaroni
- 8 oz. Velveeta cheese, cubed
- 1/4 cup diced onion
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine

Combine undrained corn and uncooked macaroni. Add cheese, onion and butter slices. Place in buttered casserole. Cover and bake at 350°F. for 30 minutes. Uncover. Stir once and bake an additional 30 minutes..

**Joy Hagen, Webster**  
Cooperative Connections

Please send your favorite holiday treat and wild game 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 2010. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

# WEST RIVER ELECTRIC

## 2010 ANNUAL MEETING FEATURED SPEAKER

### DALE NIEZWAAG

*Senior Legislative Representative  
External Relations & Communications*

**Dale Niezwaag**, Senior Legislative Representative, has over 30 years of experience in the electric utility industry including work at the distribution, generation and transmission levels.



Prior to coming to Basin Electric, Dale spent ten years in the operation and member service areas of two electric distribution cooperatives in South Dakota.

In his 20 years with Basin Electric, Dale has been involved in the marketing, strategic planning, merger and consolidation consulting, and legislative areas of the cooperative. Since 2000, Dale has been involved in lobbying and legislative activities on the state and federal level.

Dale began his career as a Journeyman lineman and holds an Associate's Degree from the University of South Dakota and a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration from the University of Mary.

Dale and his wife Jane live in Bismarck and have two grown children.

## Notice of Nomination By The Nominating Committee

*Of West River Electric Association, Inc.*

**Notice is hereby given** that the members of the Nominating Committee, at a meeting of the Nominating Committee on May 26, 2010 held pursuant to Section 4, Article IV of the bylaws of West River Electric Association, Inc. nominated the following individuals for the position of Director, to be voted on at the October 9, 2010 Annual Meeting from the following Districts:

**District No. 1:** Consisting of the area served by the cooperative in Pennington County, South Dakota, West of the Cheyenne River. **Marion Wilson**

**District No. 2:** Consisting of the area served by the Cooperative in Meade and Ziebach counties, South Dakota. **Marcia Arneson**

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

You are further notified that the above nominations are made for the position of Director for a three year term to fill the term of the expiring Director, and that one individual from each district will be elected at the October 9, 2010 Annual Meeting of the Association.

## 2010 ANNUAL MEETING

**The 2010 Annual Meeting will be held on  
October 9, 2010 at the Wall Community  
Center in Wall, SD. Registration will begin  
at 10:30 a.m. with the official business  
meeting starting at 1:00 p.m.**

**WREA WILL BE CLOSED:  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2010  
FOR EMPLOYEE TRAINING**

# 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

## Nominations For Board of Directors



**Marion Wilson**  
District 1

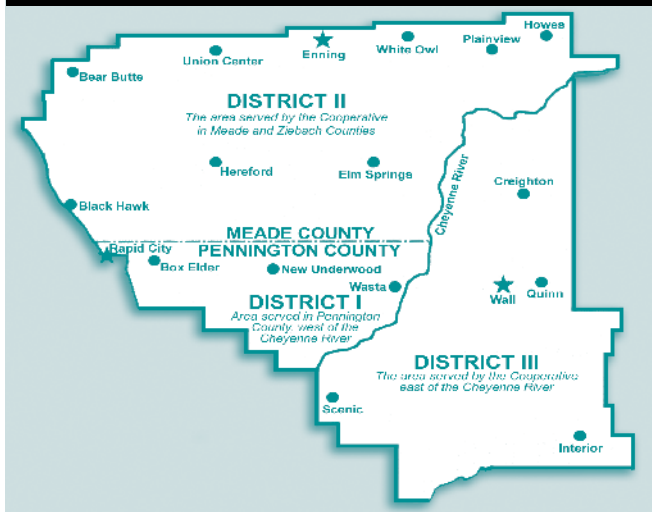
**Marion Wilson** is the incumbent Director from District 1. Marion was born and raised in the Elm Springs area. After working for Homestake for a few years, he moved back to the Elm Springs area where he farmed and ranched. In 1987, Marion moved to the Rapid Valley area and worked for 1st Bank as their building and maintenance person. For nine years Marion was in the trucking, backhoe and trenching business. Marion is on the Board of Directors for the RESCO Cooperative headquartered in Madison Wisconsin, that sells supplies and equipment to Electric Coops and other electric company's. He is involved with the Knights of Columbus in Rapid City. From 1988 to 2000 he was the Grand Knight for St Therese Council 8025 and currently writes the newsletter. Marion also volunteers to coordinate the local blood drive. He and his wife Betty have six children, 21 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.



**Marcia Arneson**  
District 2

**Marcia Arneson** of Rapid City is the incumbent director from District 2. In the past 17 years she has been with West River Electric she has served on various committees within WREA and NRECA. Marcia is a life-long resident of Meade County. She has served various positions on different boards within the area. She is a credentialed director and also earned her certified board leadership certificate. She works for a financial network in Rapid City. Marcia has 4 grown married children, 3 daughters and one son, and the proud grandmother of 10 beautiful grandchildren.

### Area Served by: West River Electric Association



**Bill Bielmaier**  
District 3

**Bill Bielmaier** is the incumbent Director from District 3. Bill currently represents WREA at South Dakota Rural Electric Association as a Board of the Director and serves as Secretary of the SDREA Board. Bill is a Commander of American Legion Post #246 at Wall, a member of the Wall Chamber of Commerce and the Pennington County Crop Improvement Association. Bill has been in agriculture for many years raising crops, livestock and certified seed. His farming operation is two miles west of Wall. Bill and his late wife Marjorie have six grown children, three boys and three girls.

## Voting Regulations

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

# Powerline Safety

Winter storms will likely expose weakened portions of the cooperatives' systems.

by Brenda Kleinjan

**C**HANCES ARE, YOU DON'T GIVE A LOT OF thought to the thousands of miles of power lines strung along the region's highways and byways. It's easy to overlook the wood poles lining the road or the short green cabinets in the ditches. But power lines can pose serious hazards if forgotten or ignored.

In South Dakota, cooperatives maintain about 65,000 miles of distribution power line. Thousands of miles of additional power lines are owned by other entities such as investor-owned utilities and municipal utilities. Much of this line runs parallel to the ribbons of highway and gravel roads that motorists travel everyday. And, whether draped from pole to pole in wiry strands or buried underground, exercising caution around this valuable resource is in everybody's best interest

Consider this: portions of the Minnesota State Fair went dark in August when a semi-trailer knocked down a power pole, injuring at least two bystanders. In April, a two-vehicle crash in Rapid City, S.D., downed a power line as one of the vehicles slid into it.

And, during last winter's blizzards, safety concerns increased as road conditions deteriorated and homeowners began moving massive amounts of snow in areas near underground cabinets.

While the injuries sustained in these incidents weren't fatal, they illustrate the dangers that can happen when caution is not used around overhead

and underground lines.

According to statistics from Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange in Lenexa, Kansas, which insures most of the nation's 900 electric cooperatives, there were 73 public contacts with cooperative power lines in the first half of 2010, 19 of which were fatal.

Some of the fatalities involved individuals raising objects into the power lines such as the man who was unloading a 20-foot piece of rebar from a truck, a residential painting contractor whose ladder fell into an overhead line, an individual who raised an irrigation pipe into the a line and a surveyor who raised a pole into the line. Other incidents included a car accident whose driver hit a power pole and made contact with a downed line when exiting the vehicle.

"We all need to work together to learn about power line safety," said Carl Schroer, a vice president at Federated.

For years, electric cooperatives have run safety reminders in their publications held safety demonstrations at fairs and schools and in other settings, all with the aim of educating their members and the public about using caution near power lines.

And, as harvest and winter driving approach, the education and concern continue.

When the snow piles up in winter storms, the risks around farm yards increases.



“The accumulated snow can disorient people. It’s fairly common for people to hook the anchor that supports the overhead wire or damage cabinets that have underground cable in them,” said Ken Schlinggen, director of member services and marketing at Central Electric Cooperative in Mitchell, S.D.

Schlinggen’s advice for homeowners: slow down and assess.

“Take the time to locate those things before you start pushing snow or moving big equipment,” said Schlinggen.

Another area of concern that has been growing over the years is the size of farm equipment. Today’s machinery dwarfs equipment of earlier eras. Augers are longer, grain bins are taller, machinery overall is just plain bigger.

“They need to be aware of the size of the equipment and how far it reaches,” said Schlinggen. “The equipment doesn’t get any smaller when they’re moving snow either.”

Each year, farmers are electrocuted when large farm machinery comes into contact with overhead power lines.

Often, the situation occurs because a newer, bigger piece of equipment no longer clears a line the way a smaller one did. In addition, shifting soil may also affect whether or not machinery avoids power lines from year to year.

### The following tips will help keep everyone on a farm safe:

- Look over work areas carefully for overhead power lines and utility poles.
- Make sure you have ample clearance when moving large machinery such as combines, grain augers, pickers, bailers and front-end loaders.
- Store large equipment properly if near or under power lines. When planning new construction, factor in existing power lines.
- Be extra careful when working around trees and brush; they often make it difficult to see power lines.
- Train all farm workers to keep an eye out for overhead power lines.

And, one final safety reminder: Never touch a fallen power line and assume all wires on the ground are electrically charged. Call your electric co-op to report it immediately. Avoid contact with overhead lines during cleanup and other activities.

**Cover:** Cooperative personnel conduct safety demonstrations, such as this one at the Black Hills Stock Show, throughout the year to encourage the public to stay safe near overhead and underground power lines. Here, trained personnel conduct a demonstration to illustrate what happens when objects come in contact with power lines. *Photo by Becky McQuiston/West Central Electric Cooperative* **Opposite:** High-profile farm equipment such as augers pose a safety risk if they are raised into overhead power lines. Operators are urged to heed all safety warnings and be mindful of the height of their equipment. **Inset:** South Dakota cooperatives maintain thousands of miles of underground power lines. Homeowners should maintain at least a 10-foot clear space in front of underground cabinets and always call 8-1-1 before digging. *Photo by Brenda Kleinjan*

## The Big Green Box

by Megan  
McKoy-Noe

**They’re big.** They’re often green. They generally sit on concrete, often within housing developments. Some folks don’t like these “electrical boxes” (a common nickname for pad-mount transformers) and try to hide them with bushes, fences or flower beds. But stay clear: even small additions around pad-mount transformers create hazards.

To improve aesthetics of new neighborhoods, developers often put in underground power lines. While this eliminates utility poles and overhead wires, it requires installing pad-mounted transformers in some front yards. Unfortunately some homeowners, concerned about curb appeal, attempt to screen pad-mount transformers from view – creating an unsafe situation for all concerned, including line workers.

At least 10 feet of clear space in front of pad-mount transformers is recommended. Linemen repair units while they are energized so homeowners don’t experience an interruption in service. To ensure safety, they use an eight-foot fiberglass hot stick that requires about 10 feet of “elbow room” in front of the access panel.

While leaving space in front of the transformer is important, this vital piece of electric equipment needs breathing room on the other three sides as well. Pad-mounted transformers surrounded by vegetation or a structure may overheat and cause service interruptions when the air circulation around them is compromised. Additionally, plant roots can interfere with its operation.

Members should also be aware that plantings along rights-of-way – strips of land owned by a member on which the co-op places poles, wires and other equipment like pad-mount transformers – could be damaged by co-op vehicles.

**Call before you dig!** Because underground service continues from the transformer to your home, you should never dig anywhere in your yard without first calling 811 to find out where cables are buried.

To learn more about how you can safely beautify the area around your transformer, contact your local electric cooperative.

*Megan McKoy-Noe writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation’s 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives. Harry Electric Cooperative in South Carolina and GreyStone Power Corporation in Georgia contributed to this article.*



## Leave Transformers Alone

- **NEVER** let anything grow closer than 10 feet from a pad-mount transformer. (The access panel is marked by a handle, lock and sticker on the front.)\*
- **NEVER** enclose a pad-mount transformer with fencing, shrubs or anything else with less than a 10-foot-wide gate or opening.
- **NEVER** allow children to play near pad-mount transformers.
- **NEVER** pour waste oils, chemicals or other liquids on or near a pad-mount transformer. These liquids can seep into the ground and damage underground cables.

\* Check with your local electric cooperative for additional restrictions.

# WEST RIVER ELECTRIC

## ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 10, 2009

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Jerry Hammerquist**  
President, District 1



**Richard Richter**  
Vice President, District 2



**Bill Bielmaier**  
Secretary, District 3



**Larry Eisenbraun**  
Treasurer, District 3

The meeting was called to order by Jerry Hammerquist at 1:00 p.m. at the Community Building in Wall, SD.

A National Anthem video was played for the membership.

The membership and all in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

All Veterans in attendance were asked to stand and be recognized.

The invocation was given by Father Leo Hausmann, St. Patrick's Catholic Church of Wall.

Drawings were held for some of the door prizes.

Secretary Bill Bielmaier reported for Floyd Reidt, Chairperson of the Credentials and Election Committee, that 313 members of West River Electric Association, Inc. were registered and that a quorum was present at the meeting.

The Notice of Annual Meeting was read by Bill Bielmaier, Secretary.

An affidavit of Mailing signed by Bill Bielmaier, Secretary as filed in the Minute Book, was read by Bill Bielmaier.

The minutes of the October 11, 2008 Annual Meeting were presented for approval. President Hammerquist asked for a motion to approve the minutes as presented. A motion was duly made and seconded to approve the minutes as mailed. Motion carried.

President Hammerquist introduced the guests in attendance.

President Jerry Hammerquist and CEO/General Manager Jim Pahl gave their report

Jim Pahl announced his retirement as CEO/General Manager of West River Electric Association and Dick Johnson has been promoted to take over the CEO/General Manager position.

Drawings were held for door prizes.

Allen Nelson, Attorney for West River Electric read the Report of the Nominating Committee. The Committee nominated Howard Knappe from District

I, Stan Anders from District II and Andy Moon from District III.

Allen Nelson read the Notice of Nomination by Petition, nominating Michael J. Smith as a candidate for Director from District II.

Allen Nelson announced that if any member had not registered yet, they should go and register at this time.

Attorney Nelson asked for a motion to cast a unanimous vote to re-elect Howard Knappe, District I, and Andy Moon, District III. A motion was made, seconded and carried to cast a unanimous vote.

At this time the Director candidates for District II were given 3 minutes each to address the membership.

Allen Nelson announced that the registration was now closed.

The voting ballots were then handed out to the membership.

President Hammerquist thanked the Nominating Committee and the Credentials and Election Committee for their help with this year's Annual Meeting.

Steve Tomac, Senior Legislative Representative from Basin Electric, gave a report.

Drawings were held for more prizes.

President Hammerquist called for old business. There was none.

President Hammerquist called for new business. There was none.

Drawings were held for the remaining door prizes

The results of the election were announced at this time. Stan Anders was elected Director for District II.

President Hammerquist thanked Todd Eliason, Assistant General Manager for Rushmore Electric, for the power point presentation for the Annual meeting

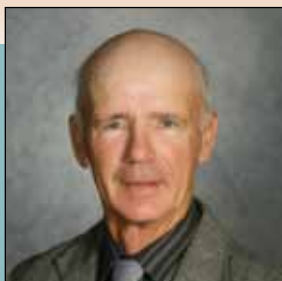
The grand prize winner was Clark Arends.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

*William Bielmaier, Secretary*



# 2010 ANNUAL REPORT



**Howard Knuppe**  
District 1



**Marion Wilson**  
District 1



**Stan Anders**  
District 2



**Marcia Arneson**  
District 2



**Andy Moon**  
District 3

## FINANCIAL REPORT

### OUR REVENUE CAME FROM:

	2008	2009
Farms and Ranches	\$ 2,031,284	\$ 2,248,578
Towns	\$11,616,698	\$ 13,013,930
Large Commercial	\$ 3,622,305	\$ 3,928,136
Small Commercial	\$ 1,836,793	\$ 2,001,843
Public, Irrigation, Other	\$ 1,258,143	\$ 1,339,363
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$20,365,223</b>	<b>\$ 22,531,850</b>

### WE PAID FOR:

Power Purchased	\$ 8,706,000	\$ 9,884,035
Maintenance & Operations	\$ 2,693,510	\$ 2,575,415
Customer Accounts & Information Expense	\$ 1,683,545	\$ 1,658,257
General & Administrative	\$ 2,000,477	\$ 2,195,801
Depreciation	\$ 2,160,225	\$ 2,275,381
Interest	\$ 2,046,612	\$ 2,075,651
Taxes & Other Deductions	\$ 457,175	\$ 561,316
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$19,747,544</b>	<b>\$ 21,225,856</b>

Operating Margins	\$ 617,679	\$ 1,305,994
Non-Operating Margins - Interest & Other	\$ 162,990	\$ 110,021
G & T & Other Capital Credits	\$ 1,665,949	\$ 983,941
Extraordinary Items	\$ -	\$ -
<b>TOTAL MARGINS</b>	<b>\$ 2,446,618</b>	<b>\$ 2,399,956</b>

### WHAT WE OWN AS OF DECEMBER 31:

*Cost of Our System	\$79,398,004	\$ 85,874,072
Less Depreciation	\$24,382,782	\$ 26,080,904
Depreciated Value of Our System	\$55,015,222	\$ 59,793,168
Cash in Banks	\$ 917,393	\$ 935,937
Other Property & Investments	\$ 8,687,422	\$ 9,142,101
Material & Supplies on Hand	\$ 2,727,511	\$ 2,375,567
**Accounts Receivable	\$ 1,965,969	\$ 2,029,995
Other Assets & Prepaid Expenses	\$ 221,749	\$ 220,040
<b>TOTAL WE OWN</b>	<b>\$69,535,266</b>	<b>\$ 74,496,808</b>

### WHAT WE OWE AS OF DECEMBER 31:

Balance of Principal Due RUS	\$20,653,849	\$ 21,449,807
Total We Owe FFB	\$13,806,022	\$ 13,409,312
Total We Owe CFC	\$ 8,789,763	\$ 8,073,297
Long Term Debt-SFAS-No. 106	\$ 360,400	\$ 599,629
<b>TOTAL OWED REA, CFC AND OTHER</b>	<b>\$43,610,034</b>	<b>\$ 43,532,045</b>
We Owe for Taxes, Materials & Other	\$ 2,530,993	\$ 4,916,684
<b>TOTAL WE OWE</b>	<b>\$46,141,027</b>	<b>\$ 48,448,729</b>

### OUR EQUITIES

Consumer Deposits	\$ 273,401	\$ 303,905
Patronage Capital & Other Liabilities	\$23,120,838	\$ 25,744,174
<b>TOTAL EQUITIES</b>	<b>\$23,394,239</b>	<b>\$ 26,048,079</b>

<b>TOTAL WE OWE PLUS EQUITY</b>	<b>\$69,535,266</b>	<b>\$ 74,496,808</b>
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\*Includes Construction Work in Progress

\*\*All consumers Owe One Month's Bill. Due the 1st of Next Month.

# Power Demands

by Brenda Kleinjan

**T**HINK ABOUT YOUR ENERGY USE TODAY.

You, and probably your neighbors and thousands of others, likely woke up and grabbed a hot shower, brewed a pot of coffee, cooked breakfast, maybe did a load of laundry, watched the morning news and then flipped the light switch off as you left for work.

When you came home, you probably flipped the lights on, started supper, ran the dishwasher, possibly washed and dried some laundry, watched television or engaged in some other activity powered by electricity.

Once bed time hits and it's lights out, many homes' energy use decreases dramatically. It stands to reason then that electricity demand hits its daily lull in the wee hours of the morning.

Regardless of the time of year, co-op members' highest energy needs tend to peak around the supper hour – that span of time between 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. where homes are likely to be their busiest.

Meals are prepared, dishes washed, television watched and – especially in the darker months of winter – most lights will tend to be on. When thousands of households are doing these activities simultaneously, the amount of electricity needed increases.

When anything that uses electricity is switched on – be it a light bulb, a toaster or a sprawling factory – a power plant instantaneously steps up to fill the need, moving electricity along a state-of-

**Consumers can save a lot of money by using appliances late in the evening or earlier in the day during 'off-peak' times.**

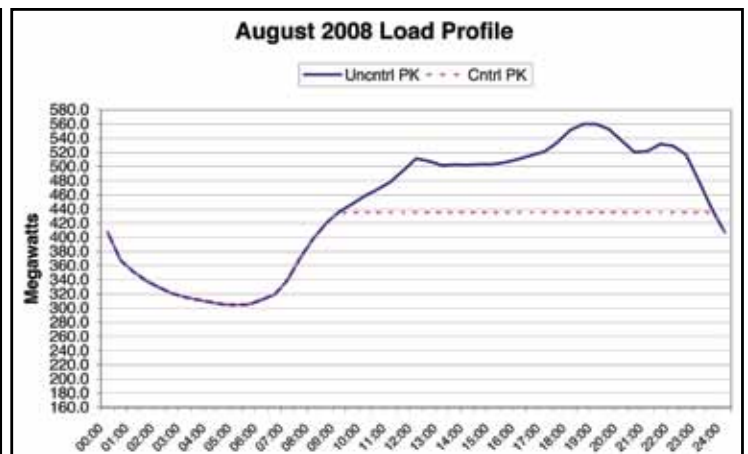
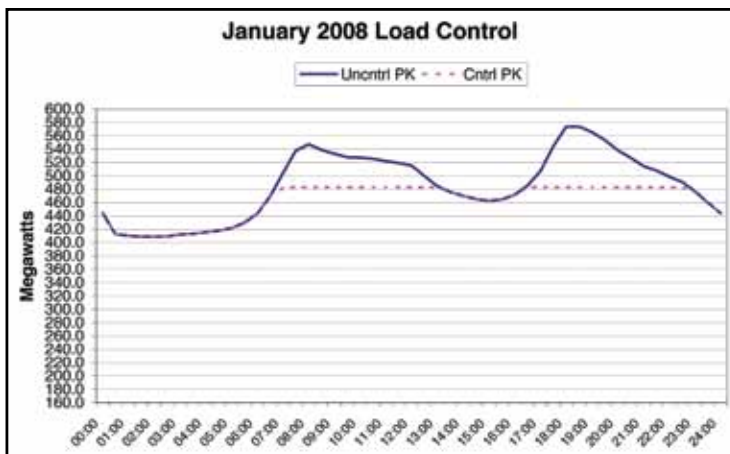
the-art network in the blink of an eye.

And, if a whole lot of devices are turned on all at once, demand for electricity increases, creating a peak demand.

This peak demand – the electric grid's equivalent of rush hour traffic – is when consumption spikes (such as cold, frosty winter mornings and those chilly weekday afternoons or evenings after school and work) and power costs skyrocket. Many electric co-ops have the ability to curb peak demand through demand-response, also called load management, programs. These enable co-ops to directly control energy-guzzling appliances, like electric water heaters, by remotely switching them off for short periods in the homes of volunteer consumers.

By implementing practices such as load control and demand response, cooperatives are able to level out those peaks, which helps control power costs.

“If we can control our peak, over time, that controls the level of resources and facilities that need to be maintained and construction all the way back to the power plant,” said Steve Ahles,



general manager of Whetstone Valley Electric Cooperative in Milbank, S.D.

Co-ops are leaders in load management or demand response, programs that allow a utility to reduce electricity demand – and keep expensive power plants from switching on to meet it – by controlling when power gets used.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) recently determined that if this kind of program were applied industry-wide, national peak demand could be cut by as much as 20 percent, reducing the need to operate hundreds of power plants during times of peak electricity use.

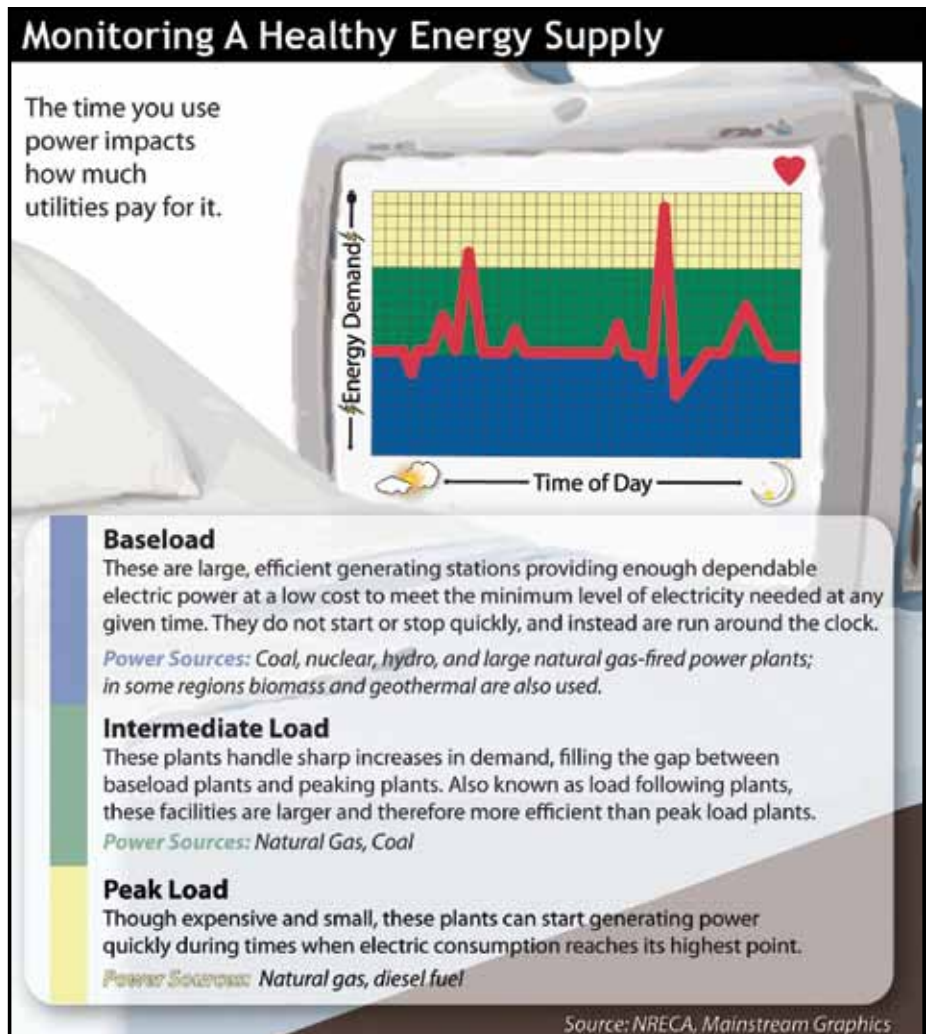
These programs allow the utility to reduce power consumption – and keep the lid on wholesale generation costs – by controlling when electricity gets used.

On the residential side, utilities can interrupt electric service to water heaters, air conditioners, electric thermal storage units and other specialized appliances in the homes of volunteer consumers. On the commercial and industrial side, service gets cut off to irrigation pumps, manufacturing equipment and even entire businesses, some of whom have installed backup generation.

Between energy efficiency and load management efforts, local electric co-ops nationwide reduced demand by 2,200 MW in 2006 – roughly the equivalent of three large coal-fired power plants, according to Energy Information Administration. That added up to \$50 million in fuel cost savings and offset more than 2,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions, equal to what 700 cars put out in a year.

In most cases, control takes place for a brief period (typically just a few hours) during times of peak demand. This allows co-ops to minimize the amount of electricity needed from pricier standby generators.

Consumers can save a lot of money by using appliances late in the evening or earlier in the day during ‘off-peak’



times, compared to afternoons and early evenings, considered ‘peak’ energy use times, when most households run dishwashers, clothes washers and other appliances.

While many cooperatives have had load control programs in place for quite a while, others are starting to implement the programs. Contact your local electric cooperative to find out how you can be involved in controlling your home’s peak energy demands.

**Opposite:** The charts on Page 12 illustrate how electric demands peaked in eastern South Dakota electric cooperatives in January and August of 2008. The dashed magenta line shows how the peaks can be leveled out when load control or demand response programs are implemented.

# WEST RIVER ELECTRIC

## West River Electric Association Employees



**ABOVE:** *Wall Line Crew:* Bill Greiner, Sanden Simons, Sid Geigle, Wayne Shull, BJ Dartt, Mike Kroells, Joel Stephens and Mike Herber.

**TOP:** *Rapid Line Crew, Top Row:* Dwight Peterson, Frank Dupris, Matt Kruse and Brandon Bisgaard. *Front Row:* Sam Lockart, Mike Oyen, Brendan Nelson, Tyson Gunn, Lance Steiger, Byron Frank, Ron Lauer, Matt Schmahl, Ross Johnson, Dave Ladner, Dustin Brimm, Koozie Johnson and Mike Letcher. *Not Pictured:* Hadley Lemburg.

**TOP RIGHT to BOTTOM RIGHT:** *Enning Line Crew:* Lane Butler & Tyler Arnio. *Member Services:* Robert Raker, Veronica Kusser & Willy Nohr. *Manager of Economic Development:* Mark Merchen. *Rapid City Office:* Becky Chihak, Bobbi Bloom, Vikki Parsons, Amy Thompson, Jannette Thayer, Christine Ritter, Dave Semerad, and Tracea Ladner. *Wall Office, Back Row:* Dawn Hilgenkamp, Debbie Shepard, Betty Haerer, Cheryl Walker, Cindy Hauk and John Fortune. *Front Row:* Jeannie Smith, Alicia Fortune, Jenny Patterson and Roberta Rancour. *Not Pictured:* Tammie Crown.



# 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

## RAPID CITY BRANCH OFFICE UPDATE...

**The move in** date for the new Branch Office is just around the corner. We plan to continue business as usual on that day with phones being answered and payments being taken at the old office. The night drop boxes at both the old office and the east side of the new office will be available for payments over the time we move.



The asphalt has been put down and stripping is on the parking lot. The shop is completely enclosed with the



overhead doors in place. The tile is in place, the paint is dry and the ceiling grid has been hung. They have started putting the trim and hanging the doors up.

Just a reminder to you, our members, we have lost a lot of our parking at the Branch Office due to the construction of the new building. Please be careful when coming in to conduct business as parking is limited.

## SILENT AUCTION

*West River Electric Association, Inc.*

Be watching our website and the Rapid City Journal for a silent auction sale date.

Old Rapid City Branch Office  
3250 E. Hwy 44, Rapid City, SD

- Desks
- Office Chairs
- Modular Work Stations
- Bookcases
- File Cabinets
- Tables
- Metal Shelving
- 50 gallon air compressor
- 1976 Olathe Tree Chipper



This is a partial listing – for a complete listing check our website at [www.westriver.com](http://www.westriver.com) or call 605-393-1500.

All items are sold “as is” without warranty of any kind.

## Capital Credits Applied To Your Account

**Once again this year** West River Electric Board of Directors have approved a capital credit retirement in the amount of \$300,000. This money will be distributed to those member-owners who were active on our service during the years 1984 thru 2009. If you opened your account since January 1, 2010 you will NOT receive a capital credit retirement payment.

Again this year we are applying your capital credits to this months' electric bill. By doing this, your member-owned cooperative saves the cost of printing, stuffing and mailing checks. Look for the notice on this months' bill entitled “CAPITAL CREDITS RETIRED 1984 THRU 2009”. If you have any questions, please contact our Wall office at 279-2135 or Rapid City at 393-1500.

## Regional Dateline

### October 3

Craft Bazaar  
Creighton Hall  
Creighton, SD  
605-457-3481

### October 4-5

Boys High School  
State A  
Golf Tournament  
Rapid City, SD

### October 4-5

Boys High School State AA  
Golf Tournament  
Huron, SD

### October 7-9

South Dakota High School  
State Soccer Tournament  
Mitchell, SD

### October 7-9

High School Girls  
State Tennis Meet  
Rapid City, SD

### October 9

West River Electric  
Assn Annual Meeting  
Wall Community Center  
Wall, SD  
605-279-2135  
605-393-1500

### October 11

West River Electric Assn  
Will Be Closed For  
Employee Training  
605-279-2135  
605-393-1500



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.

## 2010 ANNUAL MEETING

The 2010 Annual Meeting will be held on **October 9, 2010** at the **Wall Community Center in Wall, SD.**

Registration will begin at **10:30 a.m.** with the official **business meeting starting at 1:00 p.m.**

### COMING SOON

West River Electric Assn  
Branch Office Will Be  
Moving To New Location  
East Of The Old Office  
605-393-1500  
605-279-2135

### COMING SOON

West River Electric Assn  
Silent Auction  
Old Rapid City Branch Office  
605-393-1500  
605-279-2135

### October 23

High School State  
Cross Country Meet  
Huron, SD

### October 23

Symphonic Masterworks  
BH Symphony Orchestra  
Rushmore Plaza Civic Center  
Rapid City, SD  
605-394-4111

### October 24

The Russians Are Coming  
BH Symphony Orchestra  
Rushmore Plaza Civic Center  
Rapid City, SD  
605-394-4111

### October 29-30

High School All State  
Chorus & Orchestra  
Aberdeen, SD

## Events of Special Note

### September 25

Pedal Regatta &  
Fall Festival  
Sturgis, SD  
605-347-2556

### November 14

Wall Community Center  
Craft Show  
Wall, SD  
605-279-2665

### November 11-13

State High School  
Football Tournament  
Vermillion, SD

### November 13

State High School  
Competitive Cheer & Dance  
Yankton, SD

### November 18-20

High School State B, A, AA  
Volleyball Tournament  
Aberdeen, SD

### December 4

Rapid City Garden Club  
49th Annual Wreath Sale  
2900 Canyon Lake Dr.  
Rapid City, SD  
605-716-0744