



COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



From Cows to Canvas

**Michelle Weber Captures
Rural Life in Art**

Pages 8-9

**Sacred Hoops: Shooting
for Success**

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A Message to Our Members

Powering Possibilities



Matt Hotzler
Manager



Bert Rognes
Board President

We invite you to attend your Cooperative's annual meeting on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at the Hamlin Education Center located at 44577 188th St, Hayti, SD (Approximately 4 miles west of the town of Hayti at the intersection of 446th Ave and 188th St (County Road S)) Registration begins at 6:30 pm. The business meeting will start at 7 pm. Join us for cookies and coffee, and each membership that registers will get a \$20 bill credit. This year, we are doing something different with the door prizes. We will give away ten \$100 and two \$500 bill credits to those drawn from those in attendance.

The Year 2023 was a busy year with a lot of 3-phase line construction. The first part of 2023 was spent repairing our line from the December 2022 ice storm that heavily damaged our overhead lines. Then, once the weather allowed, we were busy installing underground lines, including more 3-phase lines than usual, to accommodate the growing loads.

Here are some 2023 highlights.

- **Rates** – No Rate increase for 2023. None are expected for 2024.
- **Operations** – We installed 26 miles of new underground lines, of which 15 were three-phase and 11 were single-phase lines. Nearly all the 26 miles replaced existing lines, or a reroute allowed the retirement of existing lines, resulting in half of a mile in total line being added. We built 60 new services and disconnected or retired seven active services for a net gain of 53 services.
- **Member Services** – The member services department completed 751 service orders, 507 of which were wiring service orders. The other 244 were member services such as water heater issues, secondary locations, heat meters, or irrigation.
- **SmartHub** – H-D utilizes SmartHub for online account management at their fingertips. SmartHub allows members to securely access their account information, view bills, make payments, and view energy usage. Over 1130 members have registered for SmartHub as of last year, and 603 have opted for paperless bill statements. Nearly 65% of H-D accounts are paid online through SmartHub each month.

Once again, I hope you will consider attending your Cooperative's annual meeting on Tuesday, March 19, 2024. Who knows, you may even win a nice bill credit!

For more information on the annual meeting, check out this link on our website: <http://www.h-delectric.coop/annual-meeting>.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Annual Meeting Has Been Set

Tuesday March 19, 2024
Hamlin Education Center, Hayti, S.D.
Registration: 6:30 p.m.
Meeting: 7 p.m.

Registration gift plus \$20 bill credit!
Plus, we are giving away ten \$100 bill credits and two \$500 bill credits!
Must be present to win.

**COOPERATIVE
CONNECTIONS****H-D ELECTRIC**

(USPS No. 018-905)

General Manager: Matt Hotzler**Headquarters Employees:**

Annie Aberle – Finance and

Administration Manager

Michelle Prins – Billing Clerk

Heidi Brewer-Grimlie – Accounting Clerk

Jami Bolden – Receptionist/Cashier

Roger Cutshaw – Engineer

Darren Matthies – Building Property
Worker**Operations:**

Troy Kwasniewski – Operations Manager

Todd Sprang – Line Foreman

Line Crew:

Pat Kirby – Operations Support

Joe Raml – Lead Lineworker

Cody Scarrott – Lineworker

Derek Bille – Lineworker

Kevin Holida – Lead Lineworker

Matt Miller – Lead Equipment Operator/
Mechanic

Joseph Jordan Jr. – Apprentice Lineworker

Eric Page – Apprentice Lineworker

Brady Mellendorf – Equipment Operator/
Mechanic**Member Services:**Tom Lundberg – Member Services
Manager

Noah Reichling – Electrician Foreman

Jim Thompson – Lead Electrician

Board of Directors:

President Bert Rogness – Astoria

Vice President Terry Strohfus – Hazel

Secretary Roxanne Bass – Castlewood

Treasurer Steven Hansen – Clear Lake

Dale Williams – Estelline

Casper Niemann – Lake Norden

Kevin DeBoer – Clear Lake

Calvin Musch – Revillo

Todd Moritz – Clear Lake

H-D ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is published monthly by H-D Electric Cooperative, Inc., PO Box 1007, 18240 SD Hwy 15, Clear Lake, SD 57226-1007 for its members. Families subscribe to H-D Electric Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. H-D Electric Cooperative Connections' purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to electric cooperative members on matters pertaining to rural electrification and better rural living. H-D Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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Design assistance by SDREA.

Notice of 2024 Annual Meeting

Dear Member:**March 19, 2024**

The regular annual meeting of the members of H-D Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be held at the Hamlin Education Center in Hayti, SD on the 19th day of March 2024 at 7:00 p.m. pursuant to the provisions of Section I, Article VI of the Bylaws of said cooperative to act upon the following matters:

1. To elect Directors
2. Pass upon reports for the previous fiscal year
3. Transact such business as may come before the meeting.

REGISTRATION OPENS AT 6:30 p.m.

The meeting begins at 7 p.m.

Your registration card will be located on the back cover of this newsletter. Please cut it out, sign, and present the card at the registration table. Your registration card will entitle you to an Official Ballot, a \$20 bill credit, a registration gift, and a chance to win a prize. Prizes include ten \$100 energy credits, two \$500 energy credits. You must be present to win.

If you are disabled and need a reasonable accommodation to have full and equal enjoyment of this program, please notify the business office at 605-874-2171 or 1-800-358-7233.

Dated this 20th day of February 2024

Roxanne Bass, Secretary

H-D ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Operating Statistics

	December 2022	December 2023
Customers	3,778	3,831
Amount Collected	\$1,231,982	\$1,140,748
Average Bill	\$326.09	\$297.77
Average Kilowatt-Hour	3,419	2,929
Kilowatt-Hours Purchased	13,683,139	11,853,759
Kilowatt-Hours Sold	12,918,867	11,220,304

Make Fall Safety a Top Priority

It may come as a surprise that the second leading cause of unintentional injury-related death is falls. In 2021, 44,686 people died in falls at home and at work, according to Injury Facts®. For working adults, depending on the industry, falls can be the leading cause of death.

Falls are 100% Preventable

March is Ladder Safety Month. Whether working from a ladder, roof or scaffolding, it's important to plan ahead, assess the risk and use the right equipment. First, determine if working from a height is absolutely necessary or if there is another way to do the task safely.

- Discuss the task with coworkers and determine what safety equipment is needed
- Make sure you are properly trained on how to use the equipment
- Scan the work area for potential hazards before starting the job
- Make sure you have level ground to set up the equipment
- If working outside, check the weather forecast; never work in inclement weather
- Use the correct tool for the job, and use it as intended
- Ensure stepladders have a locking device to hold the front and back open
- Always keep two hands and one foot, or two feet and one hand on the ladder
- Place the ladder on a solid surface and never lean it against an unstable surface
- A straight or extension ladder should be one foot away from the surface it rests on for every four feet of height and extend at least three feet over the top edge
- Securely fasten straight and extension ladders to an upper support
- Wear slip-resistant shoes and don't stand higher than the third rung from the top
- Don't lean or reach while on a ladder, and have someone support the bottom
- Never use old or damaged equipment; check thoroughly before use

Fall Hazards at Home

Are you a weekend warrior or do-it-yourselfer? If you take on home improvement or other weekend projects, it's important to prepare yourself for physical exertion, especially if you've been sedentary through the winter months, and take extra precautions to prevent falls.

Risky projects, like installing siding, gutters or roofs, are best left to professionals. Saving money isn't worth risking a debilitating or fatal fall.

At home or at work, many of the same rules apply. When taking on a project:

- Practice all of the ladder safety tips mentioned above
- Keep the work area clear of hazards and immediately clean up spills
- Read all instructions and safety precautions on your equipment
- Don't wear loose clothing that can get caught in equipment

We tend to think we're always safe on flat ground, but the thousands of injuries each year tell us otherwise.

- Falls are the #1 cause of death for older adults; fall-proof your home
- Keep floors and surfaces clear of clutter
- Keep file cabinets and desk drawers closed
- Keep electrical and phone cords out of traffic areas
- Install handrails on stairways
- Wear sensible footwear
- Never stand on chairs, tables or any surface with wheels
- Properly arrange furniture to create open pathways
- Maintain good lighting indoors and out

More than 6.9 million people were treated in emergency rooms for fall-related injuries in 2021. A fall can end in death or disability in a split second, but with a few simple precautions, you'll be sure stay safe at home and at work.

Source: National Safety Council



Trim Your Trees

Brace Tapio, Age 8

Brace Tapio cautions readers to trim their trees to prevent power line damage. Brace's parents are Nate and Elsa Tapio from Armour, S.D., members of Douglas 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.

SEAFOOD SPECIALS

CAJUN SHRIMP

Ingredients:

1 lb. large shrimp, peeled and deveined
2-3 tps. cajun seasoning
2 tbsps. butter

Method

Coat shrimp with seasoning. Melt butter in large skillet on medium heat. Add shrimp; cook and stir three minutes or just until shrimp turn pink. Serve over cooked rice, if desired.

McCormick.com

CRAB SALAD SPREAD

Ingredients:

8-12 oz. imitation crab meat, flake style, tear into small pieces
1 tbsp. lemon juice
1 cup (approx.) shredded Cheddar cheese
1 small can black olives, sliced
Mayo (must be Mayo), to get correct texture, less is better than too much
1/4 to 1/2 pepper, cracked

Method

Mix by hand. Serve with Club or Ritz crackers.

Linda Hubbard
Rapid City, S.D.

CREAMY SHRIMP LINGUINE

Ingredients:

8 oz. linguine
1 tbsp. butter
1 lb. large shrimp, peeled and deveined
1 cup heavy cream
1 package garlic butter shrimp scampi
2 tbsps. white wine

Method

Cook pasta as directed on package. Drain well.

Melt butter in large skillet on medium-high heat. Add shrimp; cook and stir 2 minutes or just until shrimp turn pink. Add cooked pasta, Seasoning Mix, cream and wine. Reduce heat to medium; cook 1 to 2 minutes or until heated through, stirring occasionally. Serve with grated Parmesan cheese.

McCormick.com

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

Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting

MINUTES OF THE 80TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF H-D ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC., HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2023 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE HEADQUARTERS BUILDING OF H-D ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC, CLEAR LAKE, COUNTY OF DEUEL, STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA.

The 80th annual meeting of the members of H-D Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held at the Headquarters building of H-D Electric Cooperative, Inc., Clear Lake, Deuel County, South Dakota, on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., pursuant to the notice of the annual meeting duly mailed to all members. The President of the Board, Mr. Bert Rogness, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. following refreshments in the shop. Prior to the call to order, a video from East River Electric was played for the members.

Mr. Rogness led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance and introduced Deuel High School student Gabe Matson, who led the singing of the National Anthem. Mr. Rogness gave the invocation.

Mr. Rogness acted as the Chairman of the meeting and reported a quorum of 133 members present. With a quorum present, Mr. Rogness announced the meeting was duly convened.

Mr. Rogness introduced the former directors who were present, Doyle Thompson and Alvin Kangas. He thanked the former board members for attending the membership meeting. He also acknowledged those board members who have passed away and thanked them for their service to H-D Electric Cooperative, Inc. Mr. Rogness introduced the special guests from East River Electric Cooperative, Bob Sahr and Chris Studer. Mr. Rogness then introduced each current board member for H-D Electric Cooperative, Inc. In addition, he introduced the General Manager and the Project Attorney.

Ms. Roxanne Bass read the notice and proof of mailing for the annual meeting. Mr. Bert Rogness referred the members to the minutes of the 79th annual meeting of the members on March 22, 2022, printed in the H-D Electric Cooperative Connections and mailed to

the members. On motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the minutes of the 79th annual meeting held on March 22, 2022, were approved.

A panel consisting of Mr. Bert Rogness, President, Mr. Matthew Hotzler, General Manager, and Mr. Steve Hansen, Treasurer, presented the H-D Electric Cooperative, Inc. Annual Report with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation.

Mr. Matthew Hotzler, General Manager, discussed rural electric cooperative history, the cooperative principles, major weather-related issues, FEMA disaster relief, and other outages. He discussed the H-D Electric Facebook page with 1600 followers. He discussed new services, the replacement of existing lines, and additional projects. He discussed the ongoing supply chain issues for electric supplies, service orders, the new standby generator contract, and load control.

Mr. Hotzler advised the membership there is no rate increase planned for 2023. The last rate increase was in 2018.

Mr. Steven Hansen, treasurer, reviewed the financial reports, which were available to the members in the Cooperative Connections Publication. Mr. Hansen reported that 2022 showed a clean audit. There was growth during 2022. Mr. Hansen discussed revenue and expense with the margin stabilization funds, operating and non-operating margins, and capital credits from generation and transmission entities.

Mr. Bert Rogness, who represents H-D Electric on the East River Electric Cooperative Board, presented information from East River. Mr. Rogness discussed the new General Manager appointment, transmission through East River, the Dakota Energy case, and the effect upon H-D Electric Coop, Inc. Mr. Rogness discussed reliability and market rates. Due to the structure of coops, H-D Electric has protection from drastic market rate jumps in many cases. Mr. Bert Rogness discussed Basin Electric's subsidiary Dakota Gasification Company. There were \$100 million in benefits by bill credits to the ownership of DGC, \$300,000 of which came to H-D Electric.

Mr. Matthew Hotzler discussed H-D Electric's Tesla Model 3, "joule." Mr.

Hotzler discussed the popularity of electric vehicles, the range of the vehicle, range anxiety, and chargers. He noted that Joule is very economical.

Mr. Bert Rogness discussed youth events. There have been changes over the last couple of years due to the Covid response. The coops to classrooms program is active this year. He announced the 2023 scholarship recipients.

Mr. Hotzler discussed SDREA and its services, including assisting in Safety meetings. He discussed this as part of the investment made at H-D Electric for safety. Mr. Hotzler finished the presentation by introducing the H-D Electric employees.

Mr. Bert Rogness advised the membership that the 2022 financial report needs to be approved by a resolution.

On motion duly made, seconded, and carried, it was resolved that the 2022 financial report for H-D Electric Cooperative, Inc. is approved.

Mr. Bert Rogness then introduced the project attorney, Craig D. Evenson, for instruction on the voting process. Mr. Craig D. Evenson advised the membership that candidates filing a petition in 2023 are the following:

District 3 – Todd Moritz

District 4 – Calvin Musch

District 9 – Casper Niemann

On motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the following directors were elected as the directors for H-D Electric Cooperative, Inc. for a term of three years:

District 3 – Todd Moritz

District 4 – Calvin Musch

District 9 – Casper Niemann

Mr. Rogness asked if there was any old business. There was none.

Mr. Rogness asked the members if there was any new business. There was none. Mr. Rogness then introduced Troy Kwasniewski and Heidi Grimlie to draw for door prizes.

Mr. Rogness then asked for a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned on motion duly made, seconded, and carried.

The final count of registered memberships was 137.

Independent Auditor's Report

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of H-D Electric Cooperative, Inc., which comprise the balance sheets as of December 31, 2022 and 2021, and the related statements of operations, equities, and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of H-D Electric Cooperative, Inc. as of December 31, 2022 and 2021, and the results of its operations and cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of H-D Electric Cooperative, Inc. and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about H-D Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

Auditors Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue

an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and Government Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and Government Auditing Standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of H-D Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about H-D Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The Schedule of RUS,

FFB, and CFC Long-Term Debt is presented for the purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audits of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued a report dated April 20, 2023 on our consideration of H-D Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of H-D Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards in considering H-D Electric Cooperative, Inc., internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

In accordance with the Rural Utility Service's requirements set forth in 7 CFR Part 1773, we have also issued a report dated April 20, 2023, on our consideration of H-D Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s compliance with aspects of contractual agreements and regulatory requirements for electric borrowers. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of compliance and the results of that testing, and not directed primarily toward obtaining knowledge of noncompliance. That report is an integral part of procedures performed in accordance with Rural Utility Service's requirements in considering H-D Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s compliance with certain regulatory requirements.

Eide Bailly

Sioux Falls, South Dakota
April 20, 2023



Rural Artist Michelle Weber has illustrated 11 children books in addition to showcasing her art nationwide and internationally.

Michelle Weber Captures Rural Life in Art

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

During her upbringing in Windom, Minn., Michelle Weber discovered her passion for art at a young age. She was the kid who was always doodling, often paying more attention to her drawings than to the class. Holding on to her passion, Weber took her first art class in high school with her art

teacher, Mark Nass. Although the class had a rocky start, Nass recognized her potential and helped fuel a passion that would ultimately lead Weber to becoming a prominent rural artist.

“I was a junior in high school when I enrolled in my first real art class, and to be honest, I kind of hated it,” said Weber. “That first week, I was mortified that I wasn’t any good.”

Initially contemplating dropping the class, Weber sought a signature from her art teacher to change her art class to a study hall instead. Despite her request, Nass refused to let her drop the class and encouraged her to try give the class another chance.

“After a few weeks, everything just clicked,” said Weber. “I fell in love with painting and began living in the school’s art room.”

In less than a year, Weber made substantial progress in her artistic abilities. Enough so, that her teacher encouraged her to apply for the Congressional Art Competition. She applied,

and her painting not only won in her district but also earned a spot in the U.S. Capitol building in Washington D.C., where it was showcased for an entire year.

Weber's success in the Congressional Art Competition foreshadowed what was to come. Drawing inspiration from her upbringing on a farm and involvement in 4-H, Weber began primarily painting livestock. In 2011, Weber's friend from Mitchell, S.D., Amanda Radke, approached her with a request to illustrate a children's book featuring livestock and rural agriculture, a perfect fit for Weber's artwork. This opportunity led to the creation of "A World With Cows," marking Weber's first foray into a full-time career as an artist.

"The book was a huge stepping stone for both of us," said Weber.

The children's book marked not only the beginning of a career but also established Weber's niche – capturing the focal point of rural life on canvas: livestock, horses, buffalo, and more. Weber has since illustrated 10 additional children's books and successfully sold her artwork both nationwide and internationally.

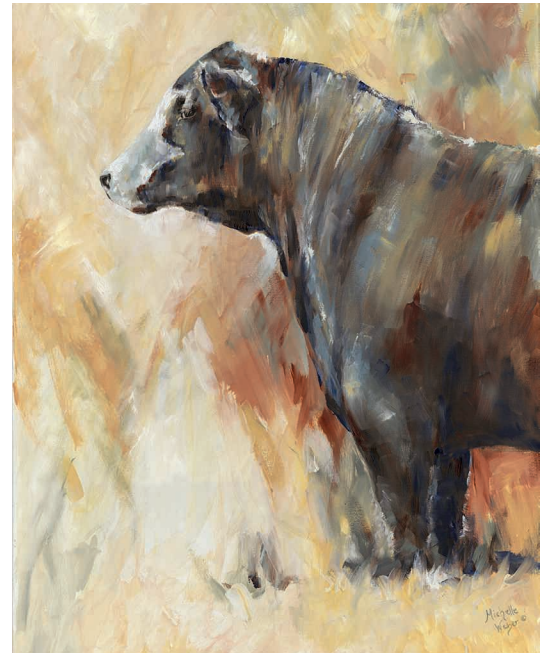
Traditionally, her oil paintings have been rooted in a realism, capturing every detail of the depicted animals. More recently, Weber has expanded her art to include a more whimsical and abstract representation of the rural lifestyle.

"My niche market is the producer, so it's important that my art reflects an authentic rural lifestyle," said Weber. "I want these paintings to have a touch of who I am, but also have the integrity of this lifestyle retained on canvas too."

Today, Weber resides just outside Lake Benton, Minn., a town just outside the South Dakota border. From her small town, Michelle Weber also maintains a website, michelleweberstudio.com, where she showcases a wide range of products

featuring her artwork, including prints, notecards, children's books, and even cake pans. In addition to her website, Weber recently opened a studio named, "The Studio by Michelle Weber" in the center Lake Benton.

"The Studio is a space located right in the heart of Lake Benton," said Weber. "Some people look at Lake Benton with a population of less than 700 or less and ask, 'Why would you open your studio there?' But I stand behind supporting these small. They are the heartbeat of this country, so it only seemed fitting to bring it home."



A Weber painting, titled "Side Eye."

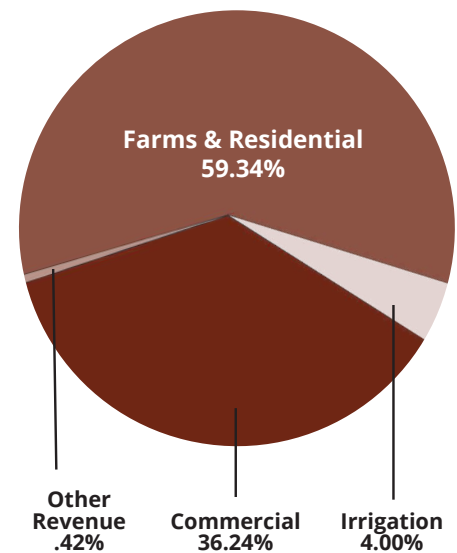


Weber is widely known for her oil paintings that capture the essence of an authentic rural lifestyle on canvas.

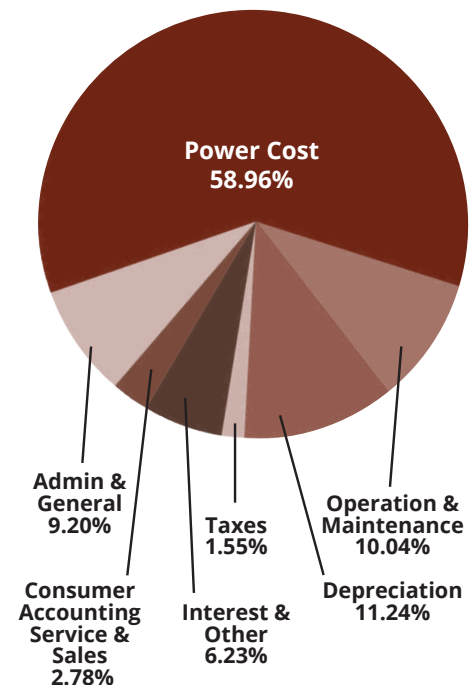
CO-OP FINANCES

Operating Summary		
	2022	2023
Income		
Farms and Residential	\$7,849,883	\$7,851,380
Commercial	\$4,467,344	\$4,794,881
Irrigation	\$437,283	\$529,717
Other Operating Revenue	\$58,174	\$56,213
REVENUE FROM ELECTRIC SALES	\$12,812,684	\$13,232,191
Margin Stabilization	(60,216)	(237,240)
TOTAL REVENUE	\$12,752,468	\$12,994,951
Expense		
Cost of Purchased Power	\$7,073,835	\$7,411,603
Operation of Lines	\$901,061	\$746,440
Maintenance of Lines	\$588,924	\$516,093
Consumers Accounting & Collecting	\$167,060	\$173,107
Customer Service Expense	\$177,866	\$171,774
Sales Expense	\$4,532	\$5,187
Other Administrative & General Expense	\$1,051,233	\$1,155,890
Depreciation	\$1,331,005	\$1,412,405
Taxes	\$195,348	\$194,848
Interest Expense	\$733,027	\$774,450
Other Misc. Expense	\$17,342	\$8,670
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$12,241,233	\$12,570,467
Operating Margins for the Year	\$511,235	\$424,484
Non-Operating Margins for the Year	\$145,668	\$266,914
G & T Capital Credits & Other	\$1,035,757	\$815,733
TOTAL MARGINS FOR THE YEAR	\$1,692,660	\$1,507,131
Balance Sheet		
	12/31/2022	12/31/2023
Assets		
Lines, Office Bldg, & Operating Equipment	\$47,393,160	\$49,312,568
Construction Work In Progress	\$371,363	\$122,299
Less: Reserve for Depreciation	(18,349,803)	(19,253,519)
TOTAL ELECTRIC PLANT LESS DEPR	\$29,414,720	\$30,181,348
Cash on Hand	\$27,081	\$22,576
Patronage Capital & Investments in Related Organizations	\$8,508,196	\$9,042,055
Working Capital, Member Loans & Investments in Other Organizations	\$3,990,451	\$4,530,084
TOTAL CASH AND INVESTMENTS	\$12,525,728	\$13,594,715
Receivables from Electric Consumers	\$1,252,611	\$1,174,682
Interest & Others	\$101,430	\$266,792
TOTAL RECEIVABLES	\$1,354,041	\$1,441,474
Material & Supplies	\$1,810,851	\$2,611,733
Prepaid Insurance & Dues	\$47,400	\$48,658
Deferred Debits	\$547,233	\$1,053,398
TOTAL MATERIAL & OTHER ASSETS	\$2,405,484	\$3,713,789
TOTAL OF WHAT WE OWN	\$45,699,973	\$48,931,326
Liabilities		
Amount borrowed from RUS and CFC	\$47,730,985	\$50,852,985
We paid back on Principal	(20,657,748)	(21,751,594)
Advance Payment to RUS	(8)	-
TOTAL LONG TERM DEBT	\$27,073,229	\$29,101,391
We Owe East River (Consumer Loans)	\$49,133	\$48,141
We Owe Consumers (Deposits)	\$35,581	\$35,908
Deferred Credits	\$399,995	\$415,100
Regulatory Liabilities	\$2,334,132	\$2,571,372
Accounts Payable & Other Liabilities	\$1,481,714	\$1,349,430
TOTAL OTHER LIABILITIES	\$4,300,555	\$4,419,951
TOTAL AMOUNT WE OWE	\$31,373,784	\$33,521,342
Patronage Capital & Other Equity	\$14,326,189	\$15,409,984
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$45,699,973	\$48,931,326

2023 Revenue Dollar



2023 Expense Dollar



2023 Financial Statements have not been audited.

Director Candidate Profiles

As of the Feb. 1 magazine deadline, H-D Electric has received a completed petition for District 5, 7 and 8 for the 2024 Director Elections. If more petitions are received on or before the Feb. 23 petition deadline, a candidate profile will be posted on the H-D Electric website at www.h-delectric.coop.

District 5

Steve Hansen has served on the H-D Electric board of directors since 1988 and holds the office of treasurer. He also represents H-D Electric on the SDREA board of directors.

Steve and his friend Eunice Alexander operate a cash grain and beef farm northwest of Clear Lake which his grandfather bought in 1915.

Steve has four children who have blessed him with 12 grandchildren. He has recently become a great grandfather to his first great granddaughter.

The utility industry is continually facing new challenges. Among them pressure on carbon-based generation, increased cost, and availability of infrastructure, and recently security threats to our physical and technical assets of the co-op.

I enjoy working to address these issues and to ensure “your” co-op will continue to provide safe and reliable electricity and the associated services.

District 7

Bert Rogness operates a grain and livestock farm east of Astoria with his son Darin, on the farm his great grandfather homesteaded. Bert and his wife Verna have four children and thirteen grandchildren.

Bert has served on the H-D Electric board since 1997 and has been board President since 2002. He has also served on the East River Electric Board since 2005. Bert is currently on the South Dakota Value

Added Agriculture Development Center board and is on the board of Blom Prairie Lutheran church in Toronto.

Bert says, “with all the changes happening nationwide in the utility industry, and with wholesale electric rates climbing, I want to continue to keep H-D Electric a dependable provider of electricity and work to keep our rates competitive.”



Bert Rogness
District 7

District 8

Dale Williams and his wife MaryAnn live north of Estelline on the family farm that has been in the family for over 112 years. They raise corn and soybeans that are nearly half irrigated.

Dale and MaryAnn have three children, a daughter and two sons, and have been blessed with eight grandchildren. Dale and MaryAnn's two sons farm alongside them, and their granddaughter that is the 5th generation farmer.

Dale has served on numerous boards and is currently serving on the H-D Electric board. He is a member of Grace Free Lutheran Church and a past deacon.

About H-D Electric, Dale says, “It has been challenging and rewarding serving on this board. You have a co-op that is committed to serving you, our owners, with the best possible service we can provide. Working to keep your electric bills from skyrocketing will be one of our top priorities. I will continue to do my best for you if you give me your vote. Thank you.”



Dale Williams
District 8



Steve Hansen
District 5

Congratulations Rodney and Jeri Kindt

Winners of the \$100 Bill Credit in the Paperless Bill Drawing

Benefits of Paperless Bill Statements:

- Receive your bill quicker with Email Notification and avoid frustration over postal delays.
- View or print your electric bill anytime with 24/7 secure access to your online account.
- Helps H-D Electric reduce operating costs of printing, paper and postage which saves you, the Member, money and helps the environment.

Signing up is easy as 1-2-3:

Website:

- ⇒ Visit <https://hdelectric.smarthub.coop/> and login using your Email Address and Password.
- ⇒ If not registered, create a new SmartHub account by clicking on 'New User? Sign up to access our self-service site'.
- ⇒ Once logged in to SmartHub:
 1. Click on 'My Profile'
 2. Choose 'Update My Paperless Settings'
 3. Click button to turn 'ON' paperless billing

Mobile App:

- ⇒ Download our free, secure SmartHub mobile app from the Apple or Google Play Store:
- ⇒ Provider is H-D Electric
 1. Click on Menu
 2. Go to 'Settings'
 3. 'Activate Paperless Billing', click the slider to enable paperless



Sacred Hoops Coach Tuffy Morrison is just one of many volunteer coaches who make Sacred Hoops Basketball a reality for rural athletes.

SHOOTING FOR SUCCESS

Sacred Hoops Basketball Scores Big with Rural Youth

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

Sacred Hoops Basketball, a nonprofit organization unique to South Dakota, has been changing the game for youth basketball across the state for more than six years. Using basketball as a tool for youth development, the program organizes teams, trains coaches, and hosts tournaments and workshops for young individuals in all communities – both big and small.

Since the program's conception, the emphasis has centered on rural engagement. Allan Bertram, the owner and operator of Sacred Hoops, co-founded the program alongside Jordan Long and a few other movers and shakers as a way to bring quality basketball instruction to students who would otherwise need to travel hundreds of miles to participate. Their goal was to make basketball accessible to all athletes across the state, not only improving their basketball skills but

also their life skills.

"We wanted to bridge the gap for kids in rural areas, particularly our athletes in low socio-economic areas who may not have been able to play basketball otherwise," said Bertram. "We want to ensure that every kid who wants to play can."

Beyond hosting tournaments and teams, Bertram and the organization's other volunteers have found other ways to make changes on and off the basketball court. In addition to hosting more than 120 high school instruction programs across the state, Sacred Hoops Basketball annually distributes more than \$70,000 in scholarships that aid athletes from low-income families to play ball. The organization was also the driving force behind a recent initiative that placed 2,000 new pairs of shoes in the hands of children from select, rural



Sacred Hoops Director and Coach Ted Standing Soldier draws up a play for the the Sacred Hoops West River Youth Team.

elementary schools in South Dakota.

"We've seen so many kids grow and fulfill their passion," said Bertram. "In today's world, our youth sometimes don't understand what their purpose or passion is, and that's why so many of our youth are struggling. It doesn't matter what a kid is passionate about – it could be music, sports, gaming, or whatever – but it's our job to help feed that passion because that is what gives those kids a purpose."

Today, the program has expanded to encompass more than 50 dedicated volunteers and 600 athletes across 60 teams in their summer season, with athletes spanning from third grade to high school. These numbers, said Bertram, have added up to a real impact for athletes across the state. Within Sacred Hoops Basketball, more than 75 athletes have gone on to play college-level basketball.

"It gives us a great sense of pride because those kids are not only getting a post-secondary degree but also get to continue their passion by playing at the next level," said Bertram. "Many of these kids come from rural areas or

locations."

Sacred Hoops Basketball Director and Coach Ted Standing Soldier also emphasized the impact that the nonprofit has had on West River athletes. Standing Soldier regularly works with athletes from several rural

West River communities, including Pine Ridge, Belle Fourche, Kadoka, and more.

"We have athletes from all over come to play on one team, and it's changing the game for these kids. We have seen several of our athletes start making junior varsity and varsity teams as middle schoolers," said Standing Soldier. "These are kids we want to help reach their full potential, both on and off the court."

Reflecting on his upbringing, Standing Soldier said that basketball played a significant role in his early life, ultimately leading to college scholarships that allowed him to play basketball for Platte Community College in Nebraska and later the University of Mary in North Dakota. Those opportunities, he said, are ones that he wants to share with other youth in South Dakota.

"Basketball has been a part of my entire life," he said. "I developed a love for the game. God has used it to impact my entire life, and now I'm using it to impact others."



The Sacred Hoops Basketball AAU West Coast National Championship Team.



Ali Van Sambeek's one-year-old smiles while feeding the chickens.

Keeping Chickens

Shannon Marvel

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During summertime mornings, Ali Van Sambeek will send her five-year-old out into the backyard to retrieve what's needed to cook that morning's breakfast.

"He's learned how to fry an egg on the stove, so in the summer he'll go out to the coop, bring back an egg and cook himself breakfast. Or I'll tell kids we need some tomatoes and eggs for breakfast, and they'll go out to get them in the backyard," Van Sambeek said.

Nestled in the Black Hills between Hermosa and Keystone, Ali and her husband raise four children, all under the age of seven, and a couple dozen chickens.

The chickens were added to the Van Sambeek family about a year ago.

"We wanted our kids to have more chores. We both grew up ranching and farming. We don't personally do that

anymore and we wanted our kids to have a taste of that life," Van Sambeek said.

"We haven't had to buy a store-bought egg since we started," she gleamed.

To begin, Van Sambeek started asking friends who raised their own chickens in their backyards a lot of questions.

Around that time and by chance, Van Sambeek learned of a friend that was looking to get rid of a couple hens and a coop for free.

So Van Sambeek took advantage of the opportunity and gave the hens a home in her backyard.

"We started with four, and were up to 20 at one point. And now we're down a little bit after an unfortunate situation with a hawk. That was our kids' first experience with losing animals. But this spring we'll get chicks again," Van Sambeek said.

The Van Sambeeks started off with Dominique brown layer chickens, but expanded the number of breeds in their

coop to get a more colorful plethora of eggs.

"I really wanted the green, dark brown and blue eggs. We pretty much have all the colors now. They've stopped laying throughout the winter, in the summer we'll get about eight or nine eggs a day," Van Sambeek said.

With her children being at the ages of 7, 5, 3 and 1, raising chickens has been



Ali Van Sambeek's son refills the water jug for the family's chickens.

a great way to teach them that their food doesn't just come from the store.

"Somebody has to put work into it – it's kind of cool when it's your own work. That's been one of the biggest things. We also have a pretty big garden. We feed the scraps from the garden back to the chickens. It's so much fun for the kids to see that process," Van Sambeek said.

Over in the eastern part of the state near Brandon, Stephanie Peterson has taken her love of raising backyard chickens and her expertise in doing so to new levels.

Peterson grew up in Lemmon and Rapid City before moving to Washington, D.C., to work on Capitol Hill for U.S. Sen. Tom Daschle.

During her time in Washington, D.C., Peterson raised four backyard chickens. Nine years ago, Peterson and her family moved back to South Dakota and bought a small acreage just outside of Brandon.

She purchased 15 hens and one rooster in the process and immensely enjoyed caring for the chickens and was entertained by their antics.

That developed into a full-fledged business for Peterson, named Fruit of the Coop.

"I heard that the backyard chicken keeping classes instructor for Sioux Falls Community Education was no longer available to teach, and I stepped right into the opening. I've been teaching classes since 2015. I also help small communities draft and pass backyard chicken ordinances for their towns, in addition to offering private consultations for folks who want personalized help getting started with backyard chickens," Peterson said.

She even offers advanced classes on veterinary care for flocks and is a distributor of non-GMO, organic chicken feed grown and milled by a local family farm.

"I started my egg business in 2016, working directly with chefs and restaurant owners to provide pasture-raised eggs to Sioux Falls restaurants. I also offer farm tours and field trips, and operate a farm stay AirBnb here at Fruit of the Coop," Peterson said.

What drives Peterson's passion for chicken and eggs is how interesting of an animal she's found chickens to be, with what she described as "unique biological makeups and also fun personalities."

Over the years, Peterson has seen the number of people raising their own chickens increase.

According to the American Pet Product Association's survey, ownership of backyard chickens increased from 8% in 2018 to 13% in 2020.

"And since COVID-19, the numbers have skyrocketed. The pandemic allowed for folks to have the time to pursue their backyard chicken hobby. But more importantly, many people began to focus on where their food was coming from and how to eat more locally," Peterson said.

"Raising your own chickens for eggs is an easy way to take control of a small part of the food system we all participate in. It

is now estimated that 12 million people in the U.S. own backyard chickens."

Things you need to know when considering backyard chickens:

- Hatching a Plan (local laws, cost, choosing a breed, where to buy)
- Chicken Little (setting up a brooder, food and water, heat, socializing)
- Feather Your Nest (coops and runs, predator proofing, cleaning, nest boxes, ventilation, space needed, seasonal care)
- Chicken Scratch (feeders and waterers, nutrient-dense feed, oyster shell, grit, treats)
- Ruling the Roost (free range, dust baths, molting, pecking order, injuries and diseases)
- Eggs/The Fruit of Your Coop (laying age, the "bloom," winter laying)



The Van Sambeek kids inspect the chicks that will be added to their coop.



MARCH 1-3, 2024
National Pheasant
Fest & Quail Classic
 1201 N West Ave.
 Sioux Falls, SD

MARCH 2
Live on Stage
 High Country Guest Ranch
 Hill City, SD

MARCH 7
Elevate Rapid City Economic Summit
 8 a.m.
 The Monument
 Rapid City, SD

MARCH 9
French Toast/Pancake Feed & Health Fair
 8:30 a.m.
 Tea Community Building
 Tea, SD

MARCH 9
SunCatcher Therapeutic Riding Academy & 3rd Annual Shamrock Gala
 5 p.m.
 Alex Johnson Ballroom
 Rapid City, SD

MARCH 11-15
Black Hills Institute's 50th Anniversary Celebration
 Hill City, SD

MARCH 14-16
Spring Rummage Fundraiser
 Spearfish Senior Center
 Spearfish, SD
MARCH 15
East Dakota Chapter NWFT 31st Annual Banquet
 Ramkota Exhibit Hall
 Sioux Falls, SD

MARCH 15-16
Badlands Quilter Weekend Getaway
 5:30 p.m. Friday, all day Saturday
 Wall Community Center
 Wall, SD

MARCH 16
Live On Stage
 High Country Guest Ranch
 Hill City, SD

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.

Please bring this page with you

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Attend H-D Electric's Annual Meeting

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

6:30 p.m.
Registration

7 p.m.
Meeting Begins

Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Meeting Location:
Hamlin Education Center
 Hayti, SD

Voter Registration Form
 To be used only by:
 Churches, Halls, Public Entities
 Corporations or Partnerships.
 Please present this form to receive a ballot.

REGISTRATION CARD

(Name of Organization)

delegate and appoints:

(Name of Voting Delegate)

as the person authorized to vote on behalf of the above entity at the 2023 annual meeting of H-D Electric Cooperative, Inc.

(Signature of Member)

(Signature of Officer)

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