

2008 PROJECTS



Steve Reed
CEO/Manager

This is the time of year that we plan projects for the upcoming year. We have several projects on tap again this year. The largest project will be working with the South Dakota Department of Transportation (SD DOT) as they rehabilitate the Ocoma/Chamberlain Bridge. The rehabilitation will necessitate

our replacing the conductors we have on top of the bridge. This line is our alternate feed for our transmission line. In the event of a transmission outage in the Ocoma area we would normally throw a switch and start receiving power from Chamberlain rather than Fort Thompson. We are working with the DOT to minimize the time that this feed will be unavailable; however, there will be times when it will be unavailable, thus increasing the exposure to consumers in that area. The DOT plans to bid the project in the spring and we will then have a time frame and be in a better position to inform the members.

We have seen a rapid increase in the price of materials along with delays in getting materials. I recommend that if you are going to need a new service that you contact us as early as possible.

At this time it looks as though 2007 will be another good year for the cooperative and we hope that 2008 will be even better.

Co-op Statistics

KWH Purchased:

	NOVEMBER	YTD
2007	10,404,104	112,910,840
2006	10,790,208	109,699,237

Hours worked without a loss-time accident:
754,052 through December

From the Mailbag

I would like to thank West Central for the rebate they gave me for putting in a new electric water heater. Works good!

Daniel F. Hoffer, Reliance

Thank you for considering and selecting me for the 2007 West Central Electric/Basin Electric scholarship. This scholarship, as well as many others, is a very important part of my higher education at the University of Sioux Falls. My parents have always instilled the principle of accepting responsibility for all my finances in me, which includes paying for my higher education. This can be very costly for anyone, not to mention an 18-year old high school graduate. With all the expenses that I am attempting to pay for this scholarship is very helpful to my future plans, and in part makes my dreams of becoming a software programmer possible. I would like to thank you again for selecting me for this very generous scholarship.

Michael Westerberg, Philip

Thank you very much for choosing me as one of your scholarship recipients. I really appreciate it. It will be very helpful for college. I am going to attend BHSU this fall. Thanks again!

Justine Perry, Vivian

Thank you very much for sponsoring my NICE trip to Shippensburg, Pennsylvania. While there I learned how to execute a cooperative case study, was involved with a student cooperative, and played the "Farm Supply Management Game," all of which informed me greatly about how a cooperative functions on a daily and long term basis. I also went to Hershey Park and toured the Gettysburg Battlefield. The overall experience taught me so much, and it was really fun!

Ambur Knutson, Kadoka

Thank you for your contribution, first of all, to the community of Murdo, and then, to the Community Bible Church Family. We appreciate immensely the part you have had in helping us make our Church building more economically feasible to heat and cool. Your contribution of new Cove heaters and the rebate to allay the cost of purchasing and installing new electric heat units has been a great blessing. Thank you, Joe Connot, for calling our attention to your program and for your cooperation in seeing to the details of a successful change-over. Certainly, the word "Cooperative" fits your organization.

Pastor Alvin L. Gwin, Community Bible Church of Murdo

P.S. You are all invited to come share either the comfort of the air conditioning, or the comfort of the heat, depending on the season. And, of course, to enjoy the comfort of both throughout the year.

West Central Electric Cooperative Connections

(USPS No. 018-988)

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Youth News

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS Win a Trip to Washington DC

West Central Electric will once again sponsor two high school juniors on an all expense paid trip to Washington, DC. Each June over 1,200 high school juniors and seniors travel to Washington, DC to participate in the Rural Electric Youth Tour. During the week they learn about Washington, DC, government, cooperative philosophy and rural electrification. The students are selected and sponsored by their local rural electric cooperatives. The South Dakota Rural Electric Association (SDREA) coordinates arrangements for the South Dakota students.

Some of the sites that will be toured are: The Lincoln Memorial, National Cathedral, The White House, Air and Space Museum, Washington Monument, U.S. Capitol, Ford's Theater, The Kennedy Center, the Metro, Arlington National Cemetery, Mount Vernon, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, The Smithsonian, Iwo Jima Statue, National Archives, U.S. Supreme Court, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Students will participate in a breakfast briefing with the South Dakota Congressional Delegation.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

All area high school juniors whose parents or guardians are members of West Central Electric.

WHAT DOES IT COST?

West Central Electric, along with the other local electric cooperatives that participate in the weeklong event, funds the tour. The funding for the tour provides for each participant's transportation, room and board, entertainment and sightseeing events. Students are required to provide their own personal spending money (snacks and souvenirs).

WHEN IS IT HELD?

The weeklong trip will be held June 13-19, 2008. Participants will meet for an orientation meeting on June 12th in Sioux Falls. The group will fly to DC on Friday, June 13, and return to South Dakota on Thursday, June 19. A commercial bus will be used for transportation while in DC.

HOW DO I QUALIFY?

Each entrant must submit an essay, not to exceed 500 words, on the subject of "Why I Want to Participate in the Washington Youth Tour." All essays must be typed and include a cover sheet which states the title of the essay, the entrant's name and address, name of parent or guardian and the name of your school.

Information may be picked up from your local school guidance counselor or from West Central Electric Cooperative, PO Box 17, Murdo SD 57559. All essays must be received by West Central Electric on or before February 22, 2008.

"I am so thankful that I was chosen for this once in a lifetime opportunity. You gave me a chance to see how our nation's capital is run and the memories that I have will stay with me forever."

**- Erica Thompson
2007 West Central Electric
Youth Tour Delegate**