



87th annual meeting of the members held

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) held its 87th annual meeting at the Richland County Event Center June 7. A total of 277 members attended, along with their guests.

CEO Jason Brothen updated the membership on material shortages. Due to substantial load growth in the Dore, Nohly, Fairview and Sioux Pass areas, LYREC has been working on a new substation, he reported. The Hunter substation will be placed between Nohly and Sioux Pass and will give LYREC more options for handling load growth.

LYREC has been working with landowners to get the existing three-phase line on Highway 201 moved due to the Montana Department of Transportation road expansion. He discussed the maintenance aspects of LYREC, such as tree trimming, right-of-way clearing and pole testing. Brothen also reported on the growth planned for the Marley and Trenton area. He also discussed the importance of protecting the electrical grid from physical and cyber attacks. He requested the membership's assistance in reporting any suspicious activity around any of LYREC's facilities.

Brenner, Averett and Co. completed the audit, President Allen Thiessen reported. LYREC's total assets are over \$89 million and the margins in 2022 were \$3.6 million. The cooperative paid \$1,040,000 in

capital credits in June. Later in the year, LYREC will assess its financial condition and determine if it will retire additional capital credits at the end of the year. LYREC does not anticipate a rate increase this year, Thiessen reported.

He reported on shared services with Mid-Yellowstone Electric Cooperative. He also reported on Upper Missouri Power Cooperative, Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Western Area Power Administration.

Attorney Jason Holden reported on the Nominating Committee meeting March 2. The Nominating Committee nominated only one candidate per district, so the election of trustees was by acclamation. Dennis Nelson was reelected for District 5, Greg Rauschendorfer was reelected for District 6 and Thiessen was reelected for District 7.

Scholarships for \$1,000 were awarded to: Abby Hecker, Allyson St. Pierre, Andoni Idoate, Aubree Johnson, Ben Carlsen, Drae Nelson, Emilee Iversen, Hannah Anderson, Jace Bell, Jesse Strickland, Keela Kary, Lexi Morlock, Sophie Peters, Taylor McPherson, Whitney Van Hook, Max Nicholson, Burton Polari, Jesse Selting, Kiawana Eide, Lacey Selting and Maysen Mindt. Proof of college enrollment must be sent to scholarships@lyrec.coop by Aug. 1. ■



Join our grassroots team

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) takes pride in being able to offer reliable electricity at affordable rates. As with any cooperative, our strength is in our people – the members of the cooperative.

Working together is a critical component of why cooperatives are successful and you, as a member-owner, can help us protect your interests, and all of the cooperative members' interests, in the legislative process. By joining the grassroots team, you can help us reach out to legislators who make the decisions about critical issues impacting electric cooperatives in our state, region and nation.

If you choose to join the grassroots team, you will get an email only when topics arise that will affect cooperatives. The email will explain the issue and give you the contact information to reach out to the legislators. It's as simple as that. If you are interested in joining the grassroots team, call 406-488-1602 or email lyrec@lyrec.coop. ■

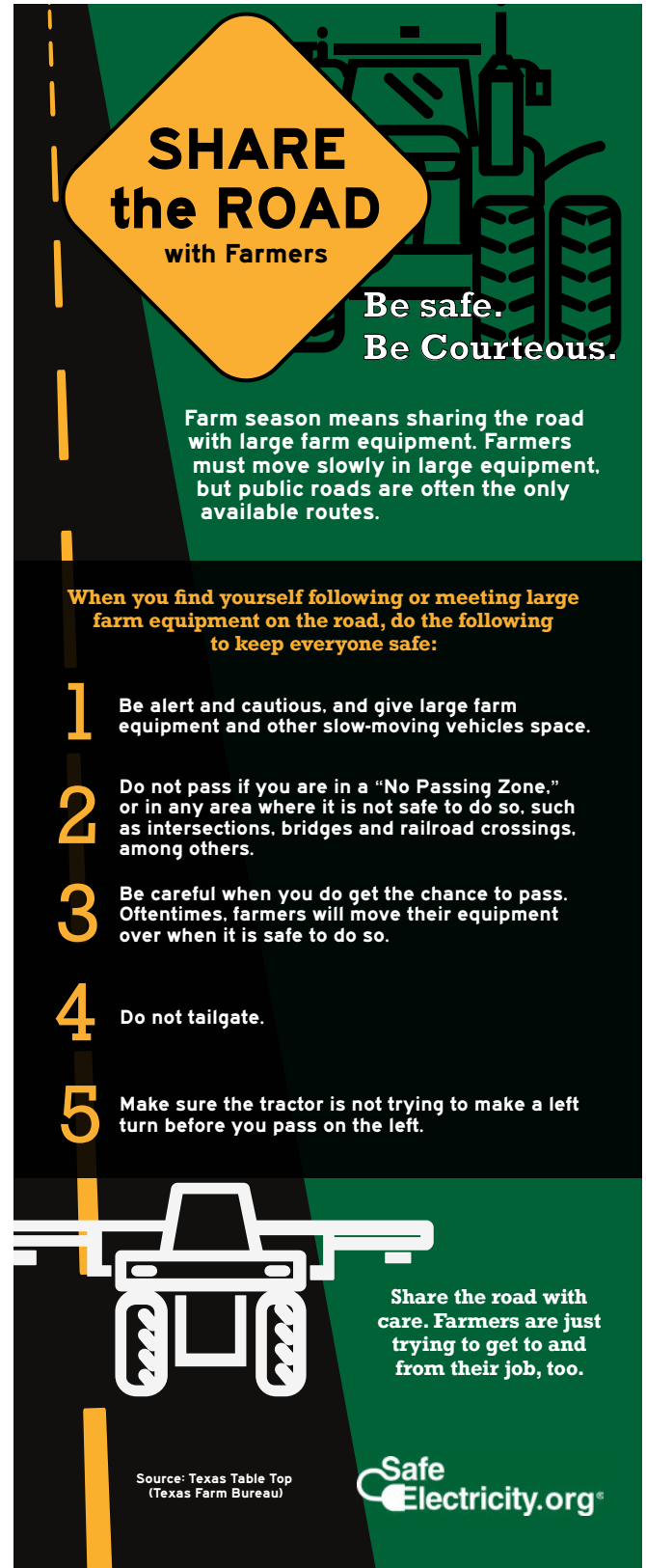
Budget billing: Sign up through August

Cooler weather will be here before you know it. Heating requires more energy than any other system in your home, typically making up about 42% of your energy bill.

Budget billing is available to all residential members who have an "A" credit rating and have established a 12-month history with Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC). The member can remain on budget billing if the account remains current.

To determine your budget billing amount, LYREC will average your current and last 11 months of bills. Therefore, there will be variations each month, but the change will not be as drastic and will make budgeting easier.

If you would like to sign up for budget billing, call LYREC's office to see if you qualify. To sign up, you will need to submit an application before Aug. 31. To get a form, stop by the office or go to www.lyrec.coop. ■



SHARE the ROAD with Farmers

**Be safe.
Be Courteous.**

Farm season means sharing the road with large farm equipment. Farmers must move slowly in large equipment, but public roads are often the only available routes.

When you find yourself following or meeting large farm equipment on the road, do the following to keep everyone safe:

- 1** Be alert and cautious, and give large farm equipment and other slow-moving vehicles space.
- 2** Do not pass if you are in a "No Passing Zone," or in any area where it is not safe to do so, such as intersections, bridges and railroad crossings, among others.
- 3** Be careful when you do get the chance to pass. Oftentimes, farmers will move their equipment over when it is safe to do so.
- 4** Do not tailgate.
- 5** Make sure the tractor is not trying to make a left turn before you pass on the left.

Share the road with care. Farmers are just trying to get to and from their job, too.

Source: Texas Table Top (Texas Farm Bureau)

Safe Electricity.org

DORM SAFETY avoid the overload



Sending a child to college? Discuss safety first

When you are shopping for dorm room supplies, décor, snacks and other back-to-campus items, take a moment to discuss safety tips with your child before hugs and goodbyes.

Here are some safety topics to help keep your college student safe.

Electrical safety tips:

- Do not put a cellphone under a pillow or place it on or under bedding. It could overheat or catch fire.
- In the dorm or apartment, make sure outlets near water sources are equipped with ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). If they are not, contact the resident assistant, campus housing staff or landlord. (Look for a test and reset button on the face of the outlet.)
- Use power strips with an over-current protector that will shut off power if too much current is drawn.
- Avoid overloading extension cords, power strips or outlets.
- Do not hang decorative lights with nails or tacks; always use plastic hooks.
- Do not run electrical cords across traffic paths or under rugs.

General safety tips:

- Find out what type of public safety department is on campus and how it functions; ask which services the department offers and the steps it takes to prevent crime.
- Locate emergency call buttons or phones across

campus in case of an emergency.

- Walk with a friend, especially at night.
- When attending events or parties, go with at least one person you know and trust. If your friend leaves, do not stay.
- Always be aware of your surroundings.
- Avoid being distracted (listening to music or texting) while walking on campus.
- Find out what types of mental health services or counseling the campus offers. ■

Tom Hall joins LYREC



Tom Hall

Tom Hall began employment with Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative in June as a GIS specialist. Hall, his wife and three children have been living in Billings for the past 10 years. He began his career in surveying 26 years ago and has surveyed in seven countries and 43 states. Hall enjoys hunting, fishing and camping in his spare time. ■



Discounts offered for Medora vacation

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) is offering its members a discount by being a Touchstone Energy® member. Simply call 800-MEDORA-1 and give the discount code of “Touch 2023” for a 15% discount on all of the following during any night of the season:

THINGS TO DO:

- Medora Musical
- Pitchfork steak fondue
- Bully Pulpit Golf Course
- Gospel Brunch tickets
- Old Town Theater shows

LODGING AT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Elkhorn Quarters
- Badlands Motel
- Rough Riders Hotel
- Medora Campground

Operating report

Year to date:	May 2022	May 2023
Total miles energized	2,141	2,149
Total number of meters	6,238	6,283
Kilowatt-hours sold	125,364,150	160,457,696
Revenue	\$13,256,396	\$16,687,091
Total expenses	\$13,113,209	\$15,809,111
Operating margins	\$768,902	\$3,213,678

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Fax: 406-488-6524

Website: www.lyrec.com

TRUSTEES

Allen Thiessen	President
Greg Rauschendorfer	Vice President
Dennis Schmierer	Secretary/Treasurer
Colin Gartner	Trustee
Tim Franzen	Trustee
Dennis Nelson	Trustee
Jim Vitt	Trustee

EMPLOYEES

Jason Brothen	General Manager
Brenda Bond	Chief Financial Officer
Jami Propp	Member Service Manager
Kyle Kavanagh	IT Coordinator
Margo Zadow	Billing Coordinator
Pam Wilcoxon	Plant Accountant
Tiffani Hentges	Customer Service Representative
Melissa Buckley	Customer Service Representative
Chris Hillesland	Chief Operations Officer
Rich Gorde	Journeyman Lineman
Eric McPherson	System Controller
Kevin Goff	Operations Assistant
Kelly Keyser	Operations Manager
Aaron Eide	Journeyman Lineman
Bryan Franck	Journeyman Lineman
Jesse Obergfell	Journeyman Lineman
Tanner Roth	Journeyman Lineman
Ryder Peterson	Journeyman Lineman
Cole Jankovsky	Journeyman Lineman
Lee Delp	Apprentice Lineman
Preston Long	Apprentice Lineman
Trey Schepens	Apprentice Lineman
Jory Bell	Apprentice Lineman
Brandon Mueller	Master Electrician
Mike Eberling	Mechanic
Dan Gieser	EMS
Lee Alvstad	Mechanic/EMS
Richard Tremblay	EMS
Bo Kindopp	GIS/Easement Technician
Tom Hall	GIS Specialist
Corey Candee	Chief Information Officer
Jeremy Reese	Information Technology Technician
Braden Kindopp	Information Technology Technician
Edwin Gatzke	Line Locator/Groundsman
Justin King	Warehouse Supervisor
Dennis Fine	Summer Help

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative