

Focused on YOU



Electric cooperatives were created to serve their members. Because we're a co-op, we're able to adapt to our community's unique needs. That's the power of co-op membership.

CELEBRATING MEMBERSHIP: October is National Co-op Month

BY ANNE PRICE

Autumn is a busy time, and October is a particularly eventful month, with school, community and sports activities in full swing. It's also when all cooperatives celebrate National Co-op Month.

When Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) celebrates Co-op Month, it means we are celebrating you! After all, our co-op wouldn't exist without you, our members.

Our core business purpose is to serve as your electricity provider, but the larger mission of the co-op is to help make our corner of the world a better place. "Concern for community" is one of seven guiding

principles all co-ops share.

Similar to how our wires run through our service territory, our concern for community flows through all of our decisions, because being a co-op means being a responsible partner and good neighbor.

LYREC works to help our community thrive through initiatives led by our employees and a local board comprised of neighbors who live right here in our community. Because we're local, we understand our community's unique needs and strive to help meet them.

We're proud to support local youth through our

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Youth Tour and scholarship programs. We partner with and support area food banks, the Richland County Commission on Aging and the Salvation Army to help the at-risk population with basic needs. With your help, we also offer Operation Round Up to provide financial assistance to our community and nonprofit organizations.

The word “cooperative” is close to “cooperation,” meaning people working together toward a common goal, mutually benefiting one another and the larger community. LYREC shares services with five other cooperatives. This helps lower costs for LYREC members and the other cooperatives’ members. That’s the essence of the cooperative spirit. Our employees and member-elected board members are invested in the community where they live and serve.

Above all, we put our members’ priorities first. As your trusted energy partner, we know that saving

energy and money is important to you. That’s why we share numerous ideas on ways to save on energy.

We want to empower you to manage energy use at home. If you haven’t already, take a moment and download our app, SmartHub. Through the app, you can conveniently monitor and manage your energy use. We also offer a prepaid program. The prepaid program allows you to pay as you go. Instead of getting a bill for the previous month’s usage at the beginning of each month, you will put money on your account throughout the month and the funds will be deducted daily. And we’re here to help, so give us a call if you have questions about your energy bills.

LYREC is continuously examining ways to operate more efficiently, while continuing to provide the highest level of friendly, reliable service you expect and deserve. After all, we’re your local co-op. We were built by the members we serve. ■



Need heating assistance?

If you are having difficulty paying your heating bill, there is help. The Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) of Montana and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) of North Dakota are accepting applications. These programs help Montana and North Dakota residents with their heating bills through the winter months.

Eligibility is based on your household income and resources. If you reside in Montana, you can contact Energy Share at 800-227-0703. If you live in North Dakota, you can contact Community Action at 701-572-8191. You may also download an application at www.lyrec.coop or call Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative for more information. ■



LYREC, along with six other local cooperatives, served over 400 popsicles and 900 root beer floats at the Richland County Fair and Rodeo Aug. 4.



Lambert school upgrades to LED lights

We didn't even know we were in the dark," says Lambert School District Superintendent Nicole Simonsen, after having the school's fluorescent lighting replaced with light-emitting diodes (LEDs). According to Simonsen, the Lambert school has been having difficulty replacing parts in the fluorescent bulbs for the last couple of years.

The initial investment to convert the entire school's

lighting isn't cheap. However, Simonsen spoke with another school in the area that converted its bulbs to LEDs and was told the school received a grant from its electric provider to help with the cost of the conversion to LEDs.

All utilities in Montana are required to spend Universal System Benefits (USB) funds on low-income areas and energy conservation. Simonsen reached out to Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) to see if the Lambert school could get assistance with its lighting conversion. LYREC was able to use \$20,000 of the USB funds to assist with the cost of the conversion.

There are several benefits to LED lighting. One benefit that has been proven time and time again is the improvement of academic performance. The LED lights can imitate natural light, which improves concentration and creates a better learning environment. Another benefit is the cost-savings and lifespan of the bulbs. Lambert's florescent bulbs were 32 watts, and they have been replaced with 11- and 17-watt LED bulbs, which will reduce the energy consumption substantially.

There are so many great benefits to LEDs. When changing out your next bulb, consider going with an LED. Remember, when purchasing LEDs, you will want to look for the lumens. Watts and lumens have no direct relationship in LEDs. Also, keep in mind that LEDs come in a variety of color temperatures, or Kelvin, so pay close attention to the warmth or color of light. ■

John Redman Memorial Scholarship

To be eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship:

- The applicant's parent/legal guardian must be a LYREC member.
- The applicant must currently be enrolled in college full time.

To apply:

- Make a short video explaining what you believe it takes to be a great leader. Also, tell about a time you demonstrated leadership skills.
- Complete an application and email it to scholarships@lyrec.coop.
- Once your application is received, you will be emailed a link to upload your video.

For more information or to download an application, go to <https://lyrec.com/scholarships>. All submissions must be made by Oct. 17 at 5 p.m.



In memory of longtime director, John Redman, LYREC has started a memorial scholarship in his name.

SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES

According to the **National Fire Protection Association**, an average of **1,450 fire deaths** occur every year in homes with missing or non-functioning smoke alarms.

2/3 fire deaths occur in homes with missing or non-functioning smoke alarms.



INSTALL SMOKE ALARMS IN:

<p>Every bedroom</p>	<p>Outside each sleeping area</p>	<p>On every level of your home, including basement</p>
<p>On levels without bedrooms, install in living room, den or family room</p>	<p>Install near stairways leading to upper levels</p>	<p>Install smoke alarms 10 feet from cooking appliances to minimize false alarms</p>

<p>Use interconnected smoke alarms for additional safety and early warning</p>	<p>Low pitch sound and vibration smoke alarms are available for those who are hard of hearing</p>	<p>DO NOT INSTALL near windows, doors or ducts</p>	<p>NEVER paint smoke alarms</p>
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REMEMBER TO:

TEST smoke alarms monthly **CHANGE** battery yearly **REPLACE** alarm every 10 years



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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
- Corey Candee Chief Information Officer
- Jeremy Reese Information Technology Technician
- Edwin Gatzke Line Locator/Groundsman
- Justin King Warehouse Supervisor

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Operating report

Year to date:	July 2021	July 2022
Total miles energized	2,127	2,140
Total number of meters	6,217	6,235
Kilowatt-hours sold	162,032,090	177,179,104
Revenue	\$16,961,928	\$18,877,867
Total expenses	\$16,238,818	\$18,177,082
Operating margins	\$1,521,404	\$1,328,278