

## Nominating Committee names candidates

**A** Nominating Committee consisting of Kirk Panasuk, Bryce Romo, Mason Johnston, Mark Pust and Lana Watson met at Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative's (LYREC) office March 2. The purpose of the meeting was to nominate candidates for the election of directors in District 5, 6 and 7.

The committee selected Dennis Nelson for District 5, Greg Rauschendorfer for District 6 and Allen Thiessen for District 7.



Nelson

### District 5

Dennis Nelson is a farmer and rancher from Bainville. He and his wife, Tami, have three children, Lindsey, Drue and Drae. They also have three grandchildren, Aubrey, Carter and Samuel. Prior to his election to the LYREC board, he served the Bainville community on various boards and organizations. Dennis has represented District 5 for three terms.



Rauschendorfer

### District 6

Greg Rauschendorfer is a native Montanan with European roots. He was educated in Richland County and later attended Montana State University-Bozeman. The knowledge he received from both his schooling and mentoring prepared him for his family ranching operation.

"You, the membership of LYREC, have given me the privilege to serve you since 1993 as director and currently as vice president. After hours of National Rural Electric Cooperative Association educational seminars and hands-on experience, I have learned my full responsibilities as director and how complex the electric grid is. As a director, I must be knowledgeable in all aspects of the industry, including, but not limited to, the generation of electricity, all the way to how the electricity is distributed to your homes and businesses. In 2021, I was asked to run

for the Rural Electric Supply Cooperative (RESCO) as Montana's director position. I now serve on the Wisconsin-based cooperative board of directors," he said.

"Our latest strategic initiative is shared services. This is nothing new to the cooperative model. We have always built our co-op using the cooperative principles and cooperation among cooperatives is going to be vital moving forward. Shared services benefit each co-op in many ways, such as collaborating knowledge, increasing volume when ordering material for better pricing, and numerous other ways to serve the members efficiently. With this initiative, we view the membership of each co-op as equals, with all engaged being responsible for their fair share of the cost," he said.



Thiessen

### District 7

Allen Thiessen was born in Sidney and raised on a farm south of Lambert. He graduated from Lambert High School, attended Montana State University for two years, and worked in Manhattan, Mont., for a year before returning to Lambert to start his own business. He and his wife,

Sue, have two children, Anthony Thiessen and Angela Olson, as well as grandchildren, Taylor, Madison, Julen, Ainhua, Riley, Andoni, Cole and Alec.

Al's civic involvements include past president of the Lambert Sewer and Water Association, former member of the Lambert Volunteer Fire Department, founding board member of the Lion's Den (teen center), former board member and currently emeritus board member of the Foundation for Community Care, and board member of the Lambert Cemetery Association.

Al is serving his 36th year as a LYREC board member and is currently serving as president. He served 10 years on the board of the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association in Great Falls, and six years as president. He also served on the board of the Mid-West Electric Consumers Association in Denver, Colo.,

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for 11 years. For the past 19 years, Al has represented LYREC on the board of Upper Missouri Power Cooperative in Sidney. In 2012, he was elected to the board of Basin Electric Power Cooperative in Bismarck, representing the 11 cooperatives in Upper Missouri Power Cooperative. He also represents Basin Electric on the boards of the Dakota Gasification Company and Dakota Coal Company.

“It is a real honor to represent the members of Lower Yellowstone on the board of directors as well as on the power supply sector of the industry. As you all know, our world is changing rapidly and we all have to work together to make sure our members are not only protected, but actually benefit from these changes. I really appreciate everyone’s support and value your input as we work together to face the future,” he said. ■

## LYREC annual meeting June 7

The annual meeting of members of Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) will be held at the Richland County Event Center at 6 p.m. June 7. Members will be able to join virtually or in person. Information on how to register for the virtual meeting will be shared via social media and at [www.lyrec.coop](http://www.lyrec.coop) in May. Each member account joining either in person or virtually, and staying through the

business meeting, will receive a \$100 bill credit.

The annual meeting notice and reports will be mailed mid-May. Registration and dinner will begin at 5 p.m., with the business meeting starting at 6 p.m. Child care will be provided and several scholarships will be awarded during the business meeting. Scholarship applicants are encouraged to attend the annual meeting. We hope to see you June 7. ■

## Annual meeting scholarships: CREATE A GREETING CARD

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) will be awarding several \$1,000 scholarships during the June 7 annual meeting. This year, for a chance to win a scholarship, you will need to create a greeting card. You are already taking beautiful shots for your Snapchat and Instagram pages, so why not put your skills to work and snag a \$1,000 college scholarship with your photo?

### Scholarship eligibility criteria:

- The applicant or parent/legal guardian must be a member who is currently receiving electric service from LYREC.
- The applicant must be a student who is enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time college/university or vocational technical school in the fall of 2023.
- An individual applicant can receive a maximum of two annual meeting scholarships.

### Photo guidelines:

- The photo must be a scenic photo of LYREC’s service territory (no individuals in photo).
- The applicant must send a tagline for the photo within the email.
- The applicant must send a separate photo of themselves.
- Photo entries MUST be a minimum of 2,000 pixels.
- The entries must be the applicant’s original work.

### Submittal information:

- Download a scholarship form at [www.lyrec.coop](http://www.lyrec.coop).
- Photos must be electronic and sent to [scholarships@lyrec.coop](mailto:scholarships@lyrec.coop).
- The subject line of the email must be “Greeting Card Contest.”

The scholarship recipients will be drawn at random. However, if any of the required information is missing or incomplete, the applicant will be omitted from the scholarship pool. The deadline to apply for the scholarship is 5 p.m. Tuesday, May 30. The scholarship recipients will be announced during the June 7 annual meeting. The applicants’ attendance is not required, but recommended. ■



# HOME ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Safety is Smart, Prevention is Power



Each year, electrical malfunctions account for **35,000 home fires**, causing over **1,130 injuries**, **500 deaths** and **\$1.4 billion** in property damage.

The average American home was **built in 1977**. Many existing homes **simply can't handle** the demands of today's electrical appliances and devices.

## ! Learn the warning signs of an overloaded electrical system:



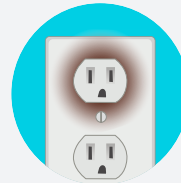
Frequent **tripping of circuit breakers** or **blowing of fuses**



**Dimming of lights** when other devices are turned on



**Buzzing sound** from switches or outlets



**Discolored outlets**



Appliances that seem **underpowered**

## ⚡ How to avoid overloading circuits:



**Label your circuit breakers** to understand the different circuits in your home



Have your home **inspected by a qualified electrician** if it's older than 40 years or has had a major appliance installed



Have a qualified electrician **install new circuits** for high energy use devices



Reduce your electrical load by using **energy-efficient appliances** and **lighting**





## 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:	February 2022	February 2023
Total miles energized	2,141	2,149
Total number of meters	6,222	6,242
Kilowatt-hours sold	54,268,057	63,821,641
Revenue	\$5,435,664	\$6,575,906
Total expenses	\$5,714,454	\$6,559,356
Operating margins	(\$278,791)	\$2,555,662

3200 W. Holly - Sidney, MT 59270

Phone: 406-488-1602

Fax: 406-488-6524

Website: [www.lyrec.com](http://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
Corey Candee	.....	Chief Information Officer
Jeremy Reese	.....	Information Technology Technician
Edwin Gatzke	.....	Line Locator/Groundsman
Justin King	.....	Warehouse Supervisor

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 