



Nelson



Rauschendorfer



Thiessen

## Nominating Committee to meet in March

The Nominating Committee will meet Tuesday, March 3, at Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative's office. The purpose of the Nominating Committee is to select candidates for the board of trustees. The cooperative members will have an opportunity to vote for the candidates during the June 3 annual meeting.

The Nominating Committee will consist of two members from District 5, District 6 and District 7. The committee will nominate one or more candidates for District 5, District 6 and District 7. The present trustees holding seats in these districts are Dennis Nelson, District 5, Greg Rauschendorfer, District 6, and Allen Thiessen, District 7. Nominating Committee members are:

- Representing District 5 - Cynthia Gardner and Wagner Harmon
- Representing District 6 - Tammi Bidegaray and Jennifer Vaira
- Representing District 7 - Mark Pust and Susan Torgerson

If you are a member of Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative, reside in District 5, 6 or 7, and are interested in becoming a candidate for the board of trustees, contact one of the Nominating Committee

members and ask to be considered for nomination.

If you have a joint membership, either member on the account can run for the board of trustees. A joint membership is entitled to one vote at any meeting of the cooperative.

REMINDER: As voted on at the 2019 Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative annual meeting of the membership, nominations from the floor during the annual meeting will no longer be accepted. ■

### Follow us on Facebook and Instagram



[https://www.instagram.com/lower\\_yellowstone\\_rec/](https://www.instagram.com/lower_yellowstone_rec/)

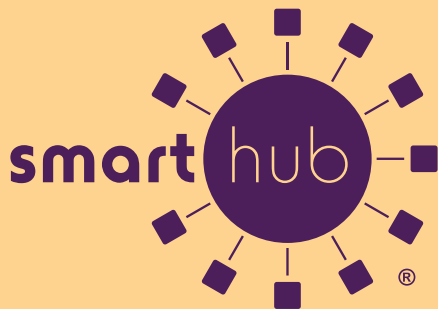


<https://www.facebook.com/loweryellowstone>



## Richland Opportunities Inc. receives donation

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) was proud to present Richland Opportunities Inc. with two checks with a combined total of \$1,000. LYREC's donation was generously matched by Basin Electric Power Cooperative. Richland Opportunities Inc. has been providing support services to people with developmental disabilities since July 1, 1979.



## Smart. Fast. Easy.

With SmartHub you can:

- Pay your bill online.
- Monitor your usage.
- Set up text or email notifications.
- View you bill and billing history.
- Set up automatic payments.

Scan the code to download the FREE app to your smartphone today! You can also download the app by visiting the Apple App Store or Google Play.



## Prepay program to be implemented

Prepay meters have been growing in popularity in the United States. According to Prepaid Energy Hub, well over 200 electric cooperatives in the United States are offering, piloting or planning to introduce prepaid services based on advanced metering infrastructure (AMI).

Prepay meters put you in the driver's seat for purchasing electricity. It's like filling your car with gasoline. You monitor the fuel level and decide when you should refill. If you don't have enough to fill up, you put in what you can. As you use electricity, you get updates via email or text about your power usage, so you'll have a better idea of how much you're using. When you get low, just "fill the tank" again. You can pay enough for a couple of days, a week or months in

advance. Because you're paying for your electricity upfront, how much you buy is up to you. And, there are no security deposits, late fees or disconnect fees.

There are no additional costs associated with prepay. However, you must pay the monthly facility charge, which will automatically be deducted from your prepay balance. You can "fill the tank" by using SmartHub, by phone, by visiting the office or by mail.

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) will be implementing this program in the future. Once the program is implemented, you will have to request the prepay option. Follow LYREC on Facebook and Instagram for updates. ■



# Making Washington work for you

by Dan Riedinger



**E**lectric cooperatives are deeply connected to the communities they serve and are focused on meeting consumers' energy needs today and into the future. Providing our consumer-members with safe, reliable and affordable power will always be our highest priority, but this requires much more than simply maintaining overhead power lines and other infrastructure.

It requires us to focus on what our elected leaders are doing in Washington, D.C., to ensure they are acting in your best interest. Here are some of the issues we are watching in the nation's capital.

## **RURAL Act**

Congress created a problem for electric co-ops when it made changes to the tax code in 2017 that inadvertently put co-ops' tax-exempt status at risk if they received government grants. This could have stuck co-op members with the cost of paying taxes had Congress not acted to fix the problem. Fortunately, Congress passed bipartisan legislation, known as the RURAL Act, that makes it clear that electric co-ops won't lose their tax-exempt status just because they receive government grants.

## **Wind energy**

Recently, the U.S. Department of Energy selected the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) - our national trade association - to research small-scale, community-based wind energy solutions that can be deployed by electric co-ops. This research, to be conducted in partnership with Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, is critical to helping co-ops meet their members' desire for affordable renewable energy solutions.

## **Carbon capture**

In response to public policy discussions in Washington, D.C., about ways to reduce emissions, electric co-ops are participating in cutting-edge research to capture and use carbon emissions to make commercial products. This work is underway at the Integrated Test Center, just outside of Gillette, Wyo., where researchers will strive to advance technologies and expand understanding of what's possible in this new arena.

## **Rural broadband**

Many electric co-ops are working to help close the digital divide by bringing broadband to unserved and underserved areas. NRECA called on Congress to make more funds available for rural broadband deployment. Congress answered the call and funded ReConnect, a pilot program that supports efforts to make broadband possible in rural communities. The first grants were announced late last year, with several co-ops and their communities the beneficiaries.

These are just a few of the ways that electric co-ops are working in Washington, D.C., to meet the needs of the communities we serve, because our commitment to you extends far beyond the edge of our service territory. ■

## Need assistance heating your home this winter?

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) of Montana and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) of North Dakota is accepting applications. This program assists Montana and North Dakota residents and families with their heating bills through the winter months.

Eligibility is based on your household income (all money brought into the household) and resources (any assets you have in

the bank, property or real estate, CDs, stocks and bonds.)

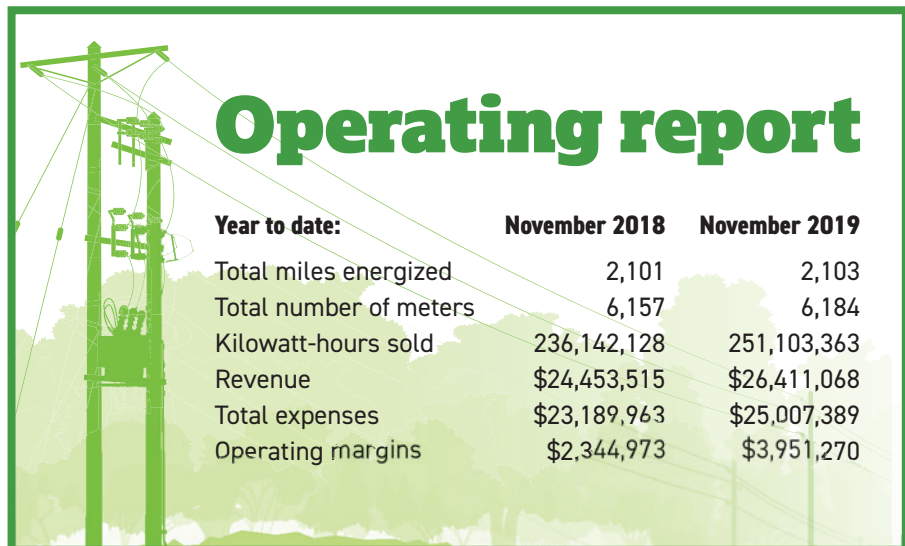
If you currently reside in Montana and need help paying your heating bill, you can contact Energy Share at 800-227-0703. If you live in North Dakota, you can contact Community Action at 701-572-8191. You may also download an application at <https://www.lyrec.com/low-income-assistance> or call Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative. ■

## Statement of nondiscrimination

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative is a recipient of federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not

all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W. Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 800-795-3272 (voice) or 202-720-6382 (TDD).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. ■



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  
 John Redman ..... Secretary/Treasurer  
 Colin Gartner ..... Trustee  
 Dennis Schmierer ..... 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 ..... CSR/Staff Assistant  
 Chris Hillesland ..... Chief Operations Officer  
 Rich Gorde ..... Foreman  
 Eric McPherson ..... System Controller  
 Kevin Goff ..... Operations Assistant  
 Kelly Keysor ..... Operations Manager  
 Lee Alvstad ..... Journeyman Lineman  
 Aaron Eide ..... Journeyman Lineman  
 Bryan Franck ..... Journeyman Lineman  
 Jesse Obergfell ..... Journeyman Lineman  
 Blade Jankovsky ..... Journeyman Lineman  
 Tanner Roth ..... Journeyman Lineman  
 Ryder Peterson ..... Journeyman Lineman  
 Lee Delp ..... Apprentice Lineman  
 Cole Jankovsky ..... Apprentice Lineman  
 Brandon Mueller ..... Master Electrician  
 Dan Gieser ..... Energy Management Supervisor  
 Mike Eberling ..... Mechanic  
 Richard Tremblay ..... Service Technician  
 Bo Kindopp ..... GIS/Easement Technician  
 Corey Candee ..... Chief Information Officer  
 Jeremy Reese ..... Information Technology Technician  
 Edwin Gatzke ..... Line Locator/Meter Reader  
 Justin King ..... Warehouse Supervisor

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 