

Nominating Committee to meet in March

The Nominating Committee will meet Wednesday, 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 candidates during the June 2 annual meeting.

The Nominating Committee will consist of two members from District 1 and District 2. The committee will nominate one or more candidates for District 1 and District 2. The present trustees holding seats in these districts are Jim Vitt, District 1, and Colin Gartner, District 2.

Nominating Committee members are:

- Representing District 1 – Bob Albin and Dennis Trudell
- Representing District 2 – Steve Joslin and Ben Larson

If you are a member of Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative, reside in District 1 or 2, 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.



Colin Gartner



Jim Vitt

If you have a joint membership, either member on the account can run for the board of trustee's seat. 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.

Operation Round Up assists local church with COVID-19 challenge

The First Lutheran Church in Savage, Mont., has had to overcome new challenges due to the pandemic such as restrictions on in-person services. The church has been broadcasting its services on Facebook through an iPad.

First Lutheran Church received a grant for \$815 from Operation Round Up (ORU). The funds will be used to upgrade its cameras and speakers, which will improve the audio and visual for its virtual services.

Thank you to our generous members for donating to the ORU Trust fund. Our small change does make a big difference in our community. The next applications are due March 15. For more information about ORU, go to www.lyrec.coop. ■



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 are accepting applications. This program assists Montana and North Dakota residents and families with their heating bills through the winter months.

Eligibility is based on household income (all money brought into the household) and resources (any assets you have in the bank, property or real estate, CDs and 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 www.lyrec.coop or call Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative.

Once you have submitted your application, it can take up to two months before receiving assistance. If you need assistance, please download an application today. Failure to provide all requested information and verification will delay the eligibility determination and may result in application denial.

If you do not fall within these guidelines, but have an emergency and need assistance, please call LYREC at 406-488-1602 or 844-441-5627 for referrals. The application deadline is April 30.

Below are the income eligibility criteria for Montana residents:

Number in household	Annual income
1	\$26,616
2	\$34,805
3	\$42,995
4	\$51,184

Below are the income eligibility criteria for North Dakota residents:

Number in household	Annual Income
1	\$30,346
2	\$39,683
3	\$49,021
4	\$58,358

Update your contact info

Should an emergency arise, Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) may need to reach you regarding the situation. LYREC is contacting each member to get updated information. With over 2,400 members, this will be an ongoing process as time allows. Please take a few minutes to update your information, so LYREC can serve you better.

Basin Electric Power Cooperative scholarship due Feb. 15

Basin Electric Power Cooperative (BEPC) is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to a Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) member's dependent. The applicant must be a student who is enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time graduate or undergraduate course of study at an accredited, two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical year school.

Scholarship recipients are selected based on academic record, leadership and participation in school and community activities, honors, work experience, a statement of education and career goals, and an outside appraisal. To apply, complete the required criteria and the scholarship application, which can be obtained at www.lyrec.coop.

The BEPC applications are due Feb. 15. Please send all application to:

LYREC
Attn: Jami Propp
P.O. Box 1047
Sidney MT 59270

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. ■

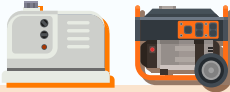
GENERATOR SAFETY

USE BACKUP POWER SAFELY

When used properly, portable and standby generators are a great option to provide backup power during brownouts or blackouts. **Learn how to use generators safely** with the following tips:

GENERATORS

Location



Always keep generators at least **20 feet away** from your home



Never operate a generator in an **enclosed space**



Make sure the generator has **3-4 feet** of clear space above and on **all sides** for proper ventilation



Keep generators **away** from doors, windows, and vents



Always **direct exhaust away** from your home

Use



Always use **grounded cords** and inspect cords for damage prior to use



Use the **proper cord** for the wattage being used



Always use **GFCI protection**



Make sure to start / stop generators when **no electrical loads** are connected



Keep generators **dry, do not operate when wet**, and refuel when cool

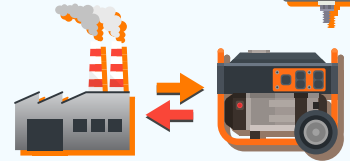


Do not overload generators



Do not plug a generator directly into your home, connect items being powered **directly to the generator**

TRANSFER SWITCHES



Transfer switches, whether manual or automatic, allow you to choose between **utility power** or **backup generator power**



Transfer switches are the only way to **safely power** your home's electrical system

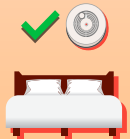


Using a transfer switch **prevents backfeeding**. This occurs when your generator becomes a power source for the **surrounding area** and can damage your home, your neighbor's homes, and injure workers trying to restore power

CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) POISONING PREVENTION



Improper use and installation of generators could **cause CO poisoning**



Make sure your home has **carbon monoxide alarms** outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home



CO can kill in as little as **5 minutes**

Symptoms of CO poisoning



Dizziness



Headaches



Nausea



Tiredness



If you experience CO poisoning symptoms, **get fresh air, do not reenter areas, and call 911.**

The truth about electric space heaters

Before you purchase a new space heater that claims to lower your heating bill, consider the operating costs. While the marketing material may say it will save you up to 50 percent on your heating bill, the reality is a 1,500-watt heater by any manufacturer plugged in for 24 hours will use the same amount of electricity and cost you the same. Use the formula provided to calculate operating costs of an electric space heater, or any electric appliance.

Watts X hours of operation ÷ 1,000 X kilowatt-hour (KWH) electric rate

For example, a 1,500-watt space heater running 24 hours per day would cost \$2.56 per day at a rate of \$0.071 per KWH.

1,500 X 24 = 36,000

36,000 ÷ 1,000 = 36

36 X .071 = \$2.56

If you ran one 1500-watt heater 24 hours a day for 31 days, it would cost you \$79.36! ■



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You're at the heart of everything we do.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY
FROM OUR CO-OP FAMILY TO YOURS!

Operating report

Year to date:	November 2019	November 2020
Total miles energized	2,103	2,104
Total number of meters	6,184	6,225
Kilowatt-hours sold	251,103,363	233,310,003
Revenue	\$26,411,068	\$24,881,193
Total expenses	\$25,007,389	\$24,128,661
Operating margins	\$3,951,270	\$1,408,904



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Website: 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 Journeyman Lineman
 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