

# Lower Yellowstone's 83rd annual meeting

JUNE 5



Enjoy a free meal, high-voltage safety demonstration, or perhaps a bucket truck ride at Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative's 83rd annual meeting June 5. The annual meeting will be held in the Richland County Event Center, with registration and dinner from 5 to 6 p.m.

### **Business meeting, presentations**

The business meeting will begin at 6:15 p.m., with voting for directors to commence at approximately 7:30 p.m. Only one candidate was nominated for each seat this year: John Redman in District 3 and Dennis Schmierer in District 4. Unless someone is nominated from the floor during the meeting, the races will be uncontested.

*(continued inside)*

There will not be a keynote speaker at the annual meeting this year. The reports will include information on the finances of the cooperative, the board and manager's report, followed by a short report on Operation Round Up and the Washington, D.C., Youth Tour.

### Voting

Each member or entity member shall be entitled to one vote. Entity members shall designate in writing an officer, shareholder or director of the corporation as its voting proxy.

An individual member may vote in person, or by proxy. An individual member shall appoint a member as proxy in writing on an appointment form and file it with member or customer service before or at the time of the annual meeting. However, no individual member may be designated as proxy for more than three other individual members. No individual member proxy shall be valid after one year from the date it was made. A proxy will be enclosed in your annual meeting program that you will be receiving this month.

### Scholarships

Scholarships will be awarded during the meeting. The registration for scholarships will be from 5-6 p.m. To be eligible: The parent/guardian of the applicant must be a member who is currently receiving electric service from Lower Yellowstone Electric. The applicant must be a student who is enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited two-year or four-year college/university or vocational school for the upcoming fall term. The applicant must be accompanied by a parent/guardian and both must



be present to win. No individual can receive more than two luck-of-the-draw scholarships. Late entries will not be accepted.

### Prizes

Several door prizes will be given away during the meeting. Each member who attends the meeting will also receive a gift. In addition to the prizes, each member who stays

for the business meeting will receive a \$25 bill credit. The bill credit will be applied to the bill you will receive at the beginning of July.

We hope you are able to join us for the June 5 annual meeting. Please bring your program to the meeting. This year's theme is "Working together for a more POWERFUL future." ■



REDMAN



SCHMIERER

## Nominating Committee names candidates

**A** Nominating Committee consisting of Joy Buxbaum, Rowdy Cvancara, Steve Pust and Dave Rice met at Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative's (LYREC) office March 5. The purpose of the meeting was to nominate candidates for the election of directors in District 3 and 4. The election will be held during the June 5 annual meeting.

The committee selected John Redman for District 3 and Dennis Schmierer for District 4. Candidates

may also be nominated from the floor at the June 5 annual meeting.

### District 3

John Redman was elected to the board of trustees at the 1992 annual meeting and is currently the secretary/treasurer. John is retired from farming and ranching. Redman came to Richland County in 1960 when he started farming with electric pump irrigation. He and his wife, Doris, have five children. John has a bachelor of science degree from

Montana State University. Redman is a past master of the Lower Yellowstone Masonic Lodge No. 90. He has been associated with the 4-H program for nearly 35 years.

### District 4

Dennis Schmierer was born and raised in Savage, Mont., where he graduated from high school and went on to the National College of Business in Rapid City, S.D. Dennis and his wife, Karen, have four children and seven grandchildren. He and his brother raise beets and cattle near Savage.

Dennis was elected to Lower Yellowstone Electric's board in 2001. Shortly after his election, Dennis joined Lower Yellowstone Electric's Safety Committee and is currently still active on the committee.

Dennis states, "Serving on LYREC's board has had many challenges. However, it is very rewarding. One of the most rewarding aspects of being a board member is continuously finding ways to improve the members' power quality by upgrading LYREC's service so that LYREC can continue to thrive in the future." ■



## Planning a trip to Medora this summer?

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) is able to offer its members a discount by being a Touchstone Energy® member. Simply call 1-800-MEDORA-1 and give the discount code of "Touch 2019" for a 15 percent discount on any of the following during any night of the season:

### Things to do:

- Medora Musical
- Pitchfork steak fondue
- Bully Pulpit Golf Course

### Lodging at any of the following:

- Elkhorn Quarters
- Badlands Motel
- Rough Riders Hotel

**LYREC members can also receive 20 percent off admission at the Cowboy Hall of Fame by providing the discount code "Touch 2019."**

# Don't be left in the dark

Generators are one of those appliances that people don't see as a necessity; they sit in your garage 99 percent of the time and are rather expensive. However, when the power goes out and you are without heat, water or a way to preserve your food, a generator quickly becomes a necessity. Lower Yellowstone Electric works to continuously maintain and upgrade our electric grid to make it as reliable as possible, but there are always unforeseen issues that can cause interruption of power.

In March, Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) experienced an outage caused by an underground fault. Luckily, the crews were able to feed a good part of the line from other substations, yet some members were without power for nine hours with temperatures below zero.

Underground issues are far more difficult to resolve than overhead. Often, the crews have to test several miles of line before they can isolate the issue. Once they isolate the issue, they have to call One Call to locate any other underground facilities and wait for those facilities to be

marked so they can begin digging. When the ground is frozen, the repair is even more time-consuming. Thank you to our members for being patient during extended outages. Rest assured, the line crews work as quickly and as prudently as possible when the power is out.

If you have special needs that require electricity be available 24/7, please consider investing in a generator for unforeseen circumstances. If you would like more information on generators, please contact LYREC at 406-488-1602. ■



The hole has been cleared and the crew is beginning repairs to the cable.



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 Keyser ..... 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
- Edwin Gatzke ..... Line Locator/Meter Reader
- Justin King ..... Warehouse Supervisor

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

## Operating report

Year to date:	February 2018	February 2019
Total miles energized	2,101	2,103
Total number of meters	6,168	6,162
Kilowatt-hours sold	49,899,764	49,627,444
Revenue	\$4,808,569	\$4,855,877
Total expenses	\$4,588,321	\$4,227,356
Operating margins	\$1,019,005	\$2,870,662