

We're thankful for our members

BY JAMI PROPP

“No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of others.” In the spirit of this quote by Charles Dickens, I'd like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for your membership in our electric cooperative. Because of your connection to Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC), we are able to make our community a better place.

As part of the cooperative business model, one of our core principles is “concern for community.” While our priority is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy, we view our role in the community as a catalyst for good.

One way that LYREC members show concern for community is through Operation Round Up (ORU). By allowing LYREC to round up your electric bill to the next whole dollar, participating members donate an average of 50 cents per month, or \$6 a year, to the Operation Round Up trust fund. One may think that \$6 a year may not seem like a lot, but it adds up fast when hundreds of people join the effort.

Since granting the first funds



Operation Round Up Trustee **Vonnie VanHook** presents a check for \$950 to **Jackie Miller** for the Savage Sunrise Manor.

in April 2018, the Operation Round Up trustees have dispersed nine donations to community organizations, totaling \$6,979. The ORU board received one application for ORU funds in the third quarter of this year. The Savage Sunrise Manor was presented with funds that will be used to purchase additional tables and chairs for gatherings they host throughout the year. During this season of giving thanks, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our members and remind them that this charitable giving program would not be possible without you.

Those eligible to apply for funds include nonprofit and community

organizations in the general service area of Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative. The funds will not be used to pay any electric/utility bills or be used in any way for political purposes.

LYREC will be accepting applications for the next grant cycle of Operation Round Up until Dec. 15. Representatives from nonprofit or community organizations who would like to apply for an Operation Round Up grant can download the application form at www.lyrec.com. Applications are also available at the LYREC office, by calling 406-488-1602 or sending an email to Jami Propp at jamip@lyrec.coop. ■

JUNE 15-21, 2019

WRITE A WINNING ESSAY AND

WIN A TRIP OF A LIFETIME!



ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT TO WIN AN ALL-EXPENSE-PAID TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

- The student's parents or legal guardians must be served by Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative
- The student must be a sophomore or junior in high school
- The student must submit an application, letter of recommendation and essay

Non-member contest - \$100 cash prize

- The student must be a sophomore or junior in high school
- The student must submit a non-member application and essay

The deadline is **Nov. 30, 2018**. Emailed entries should be directed to jamip@lyrec.coop, and hard copy entries mailed to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 1047, Sidney, MT 59270.

If you have a question, contact Jami Propp, Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative, at the address listed above, or call 406-488-1602 during regular business hours.

Check out the essay contest guidelines and download an application at www.lyrec.com.



essay question:

What would your day be like without electricity?

HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORES & JUNIORS

YOUTH TOUR

Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association Memorial Scholarship available

Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA) is accepting applications for a \$500 MECA Memorial Scholarship. The applicant's parent/guardian must be a Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) member and must be attending college in the fall of 2019. Applications are judged on academic strength, school and community activities, employment, volunteerism, community service and personal statement.

An LYREC committee will choose one applicant to send to the MECA committee. A committee comprised of co-op staff members from across the state of Montana will judge the applicants. If the MECA committee chooses an applicant from LYREC, LYREC will match the \$500 scholarship.

To apply, complete the application form, along with all required materials. You may get the application from your school counselor or at www.lyrec.com. MECA Memorial Scholarship applications are due by Jan. 25, 2019.

The applicants must send their completed application forms to LYREC, Attn: Jami Propp, P.O. Box 1047, Sidney, MT 59270. ■



Need assistance heating your home this winter?

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is accepting applications.

LIHEAP assists Montana residents and families with their heating bills from Oct. 1-April 30. LIHEAP eligibility is based on your household income (all money brought in) 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 or Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative to get an application.

Once you submit your application, it can take up to two months before receiving assistance. If you need assistance, please pick up an application today. Below are the income eligibility criteria for 2018-2019.

Number in household	Annual income
1.....	\$23,876
2.....	\$31,223
3.....	\$38,214
4.....	\$45,916
5.....	\$53,263

The following documents are needed when applying for LIHEAP.

- A recent copy of your fuel bill.
- Income records such as wage stubs, unemployment compensation, child support, interest income, retirement benefits, alimony payments, social security award letters, self-employment and property income.
- Your most recent bank statement for all accounts.
- Propane users will need a current balance from their provider

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.

If you are a North Dakota resident, call Community Action at 701-572-8191 for eligibility inquiries and assistance. ■

VALUABLE REBATES

If you are a Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) member, we have several rebates available.

Electric water heaters:

- At least a 40-gallon tank.
- Insulation factor of R12-13, EER (at least) 0.9.
- At least a 10-year warranty. (Extended warranties do not qualify.)

up to and not exceeding \$200 for upgrading a residential member's electric service.

- The cooperative retains the right to specify the brand, size and manufacturer of its choice.

Electric heat:

- Rebate amount of \$25 per kilowatt of installed load of electric heat.
- It can be electric baseboard, electric plenum heaters or heat pumps.
- Space heating is the only use for the heater.
- The member may put the heaters under the electric heat rate program. (Contact our office for more information about the electric heat rate program.)

Double-throw switch:

- LYREC agrees to rebate its member up to and not exceeding \$200 for installing a double-throw switch on a residential member's service.
- The cooperative retains the right to specify brand, size and manufacturer of its choice.

Heat pump:

- Rebate amount of \$150 per ton of installed heat pump.
- The heat pump can be either air-to-air or ground-source.

Grain drying:

- LYREC agrees to rebate its member \$30 per horsepower for an electric natural air grain drying setup on a grain bin.
- The cooperative retains the right to specify brand, size and manufacture of its choice.

Service upgrade:

- LYREC agrees to rebate its member

The member must provide proof of purchase for any of the above rebates. For more information on rebates, please call LYREC.

3200 W. Holly - Sidney, MT 59270

Phone: 406-488-1602

Fax: 406-488-6524


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.....	Foreman
Eric McPherson.....	Foreman
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
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:	July 2017	July 2018
Total miles energized	2,111	2,101
Total number of meters	6,157	6,167
Kilowatt-hours sold	154,771,002	152,510,656
Revenue	\$15,856,517	\$15,609,493
Total expenses	\$14,891,838	\$14,995,262
Operating margins	\$2,568,336	\$1,529,750