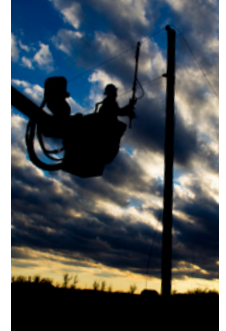




## #PowerOn

Then. Now. Always.  
We're proud to power your life.  
**October is National Co-op Month.**



**A**s an electric cooperative, our top priority is always to provide reliable, affordable energy to you, the consumer-members we serve. Because we are a co-op, our mission is to enrich the lives of our members and serve the long-term interests of our local community, and this mission has never been more critical than in recent months.

One of the seven principles that guides all co-ops is “concern for community.” This principle is the essential DNA of Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) and it sets us apart from other electric utilities.

October is National Co-op Month, and electric cooperatives across the country are highlighting the many ways we “Power On.” Keeping this theme in mind, we recognize the essential role we play in serving our communities.

Who would have fathomed in March that the COVID-19 virus would amount to a

test of our community and our nation? The changing circumstances due to the pandemic have created both challenges and opportunities. Over the past several months, we've all been challenged to operate differently, and LYREC has stepped up to help our members and strengthen the safety net for our more vulnerable neighbors.

As an essential service, and to ensure reliability of your power supply, we modified our operations to safeguard business continuity. Our line crews have been split to maintain separation. Some staff worked remotely. In the office, we limited and modified meetings and gatherings to allow for safe separation. We also adjusted our walk-in office availability and in-person service calls to ensure the health and safety of our employees and our valued members. In addition, we have limited business travel and have held board meetings virtually. For the health and

safety of everyone, we think these measures were the prudent course of action for the times.

For our members impacted by COVID-19 who needed help with their electric bills, we suspended disconnection of service, waived late fees, and worked with those hardest hit to make special payment arrangements. We also implemented a prepay program that eliminated a security deposit and allows the consumers-members to pay as they go.

We've seen other local businesses rising to meet similar challenges during this time, because that's what communities do. While the challenges caused by COVID-19 have been daunting, we are heartened to see how everyone is pulling together.

In 1937, Lower Yellowstone Electric was built by the community to serve the community, and that's what we'll continue to do - power on. ■



## Simplify how you pay your bill

**L**ower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative offers several no-contact payment options.

To make a quick payment, we have three different tools. We have the SmartHub app, automated phone system and an online payment option.

### SmartHub app

You can download our SmartHub App to your smartphone or tablet. With SmartHub, you can make payments, sign up for notifications, and view your usage.

### Pay-by-phone

To ensure your payment information is kept secure, LYREC no longer accepts payments over the phone. Members can call the automated payment system at 1-844-209-7159. You will need your account number or need to call from a number that LYREC has on file for you.

### Visit our website

If you would like to make a payment online, but don't want the hassle of creating an account, you can visit our website at [www.lyrec.coop](http://www.lyrec.coop) and click on "View and Pay Bill."

LYREC also offers an automatic payment option through which the amount of your electric bill is deducted from your checking or savings account on the 15th of each month. There are also drop boxes located at our office and across the street from Reese and Ray's IGA.

If you would like more information on any of these options, please call our office at 406-488-1602. ■

## Book, game and food drive

**I**n the spirit of Co-op Month, Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) will hold a book, game and food drive throughout October.

Unfortunately, our seniors and children have felt the impact of social isolation with the COVID-19 pandemic. In an effort to shine light on this pandemic, LYREC will be collecting new and used books, puzzles, games and crafts. The donations will be distributed to several organizations throughout our service territory.

The Richland County Food Bank is continuously in need of donations. All donations are greatly appreciated.

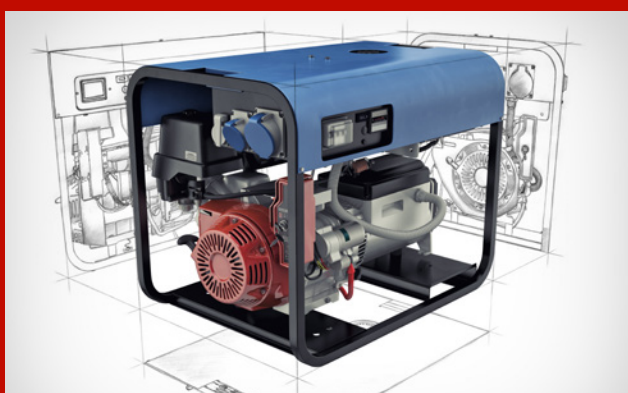
There will be a bin placed in the front of LYREC office for donations. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please call our office at 406-488-1602. ■





# Be prepared for winter's wrath

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) strives to provide you with reliable, uninterrupted service every day of the year, but sometimes Mother Nature creates unavoidable power outages. LYREC wants you to remain safe during severe winter weather, so consider preparing now for the possibility of power outages this winter.



## Operate generator safely

If your standby electric generator has been in storage since last winter, make sure it is still operating properly – before an outage occurs.

And always follow the manufacturer's recommendations on how to use your generator. Most important is the transfer switch that disconnects the farm or home from the power line and connects it to the generator. It must be a double-throw transfer switch which prevents the generator from feeding electricity back onto the power line. This protects the lineworkers who may be working to restore your service.

If you have additional questions, please call LYREC. We will be glad to work with you to make sure your generator is used properly.

## Stay away from downed power lines

Mother Nature isn't always kind to power lines. Winter winds, snow and ice often prove to be too much for utility poles and power lines. If you see a downed power line or utility pole, contact LYREC immediately.

Do not go near the line or the pole. Just because it's on the ground doesn't mean it's safe to approach.

## During an outage

To prevent an overload on the system while power is being restored, take these steps:

- Turn off every inside light except one.
- Turn down your thermostat.
- If the outage lasts more than 60 minutes, turn off your electric water heater.
- Make sure your kitchen range is off, both the surface and the oven.
- Turn off all unnecessary appliances and unplug sensitive electronic equipment.
- When power comes back on, slowly switch your appliances and lights back on and gradually return your thermostat to its normal setting.





## Co-op participates in 4-H sales

If the past few months have taught us anything, it has taught us the impact and importance of strong leadership. The 4-H program is one of America's largest youth development organizations. The organization's goal is to empower young people with the skills to lead for a lifetime.

Many of Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative's (LYREC) annual events have been canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. One long-running tradition is participating in the 4-H sale. This year, LYREC purchased the premium on three market steers at the Richland County 4-H sale and two sheep during the Roosevelt

County 4-H sale.

An integral part of being part of the co-op is giving back to the community. LYREC's participation in the sale is a way to acknowledge and reward the hard work the youth have put into their projects. ■



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### 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
Jeremy Reese	Information Technology Technician
Edwin Gatzke	Line Locator/Meter Reader
Justin King	Warehouse Supervisor

## Operating report

Year to date:	July 2019	July 2020
Total miles energized	2,103	2,104
Total number of meters	6,152	6,205
Kilowatt-hours sold	157,528,705	152,754,653
Revenue	\$16,414,307	\$16,144,558
Total expenses	\$15,763,286	\$15,721,438
Operating margins	\$3,000,165	\$931,496