

Nominating Committee submits candidates



Vitt



Gartner

A Nominating Committee consisting of James Hunter, Dean Faulkner and Ted Reitz met at Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative's office March 3. The purpose of the meeting was to nominate candidates for the election of directors in Districts 1 and 2. The election will be held during the June 3 annual meeting. (Meter 20533)

The committee selected Jeff Bieber and Jim Vitt for District 1, and Colin Gartner for District 2. Jeff Bieber subsequently declined. Candidates can also be nominated by petition or from the floor at the June 3 annual meeting.

District 1

Jim Vitt

Jim is a lifelong resident of Richland County, growing up in the Sioux Pass community. Jim is married to the former Loretta Denowh and together they have four children: Dale and his wife, Jill; Tara and her husband, Ruben Moreno; son Kelly; and Pam and her husband, Lance Dennis. Jim and Loretta have seven grandchildren, so you might occasionally be a captive audience to stories of their antics.

Jim and Loretta raise registered Angus cattle along with Dale and Jill.

Jim graduated from Fairview High School in 1970, attended Dawson Community College for a short time, and was a member of the U.S. Army National Guard for six years.

Jim is a member of St. Matthew's Catholic Church. He is a member of the American Angus Association, Montana Angus Association and Eastern Montana Stockgrowers. Jim served three terms on the Fairview school board, and is currently serving on the parish council at St. Matthew's Church.

Jim was appointed to finish Marvin Kilen's term on the Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative board. Jim has enjoyed his short term with the board and would like the members' support to continue to serve his members as a director.

District 2

Colin Gartner

Colin is a Sidney native and graduated from Sidney High School. He attended Montana State University and received a bachelor's degree in agricultural education. He taught for two years at Flathead High School in Kalispell. In 1984, he moved to Sidney and taught agriculture education and FFA until 1994. Colin was elected director of District 2 in 1996. He is currently farming and ranching northwest of Sidney.

He and his wife, Sue, have two children. Marianne is a freshman at Montana State University-Bozeman studying agricultural education, and Christopher is a junior at Sidney High School. Sue is a nurse at Sidney Health Center Extended Care. Colin is a member of the Montana Grain Growers, Montana Stockgrowers Association, National Cattlemen's Beef Association and the Sidney FFA Alumni.

"I would like to continue to serve on Lower Yellowstone Electric's board of directors to protect what the generations of directors and members have built, which is a reliable electric distribution system with affordable rates. I would like to thank the members for their support in the past," he said. ■



Scholarships to be awarded

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative will award 20, \$1,000 scholarships at the co-op's annual meeting Wednesday, June 3.

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- 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.
- An individual applicant can receive a maximum of two luck-of-the draw scholarships.

The scholarship registration will close at 6:15 p.m. June 3. ■

Obergfell joins crew



Obergfell

Jesse Obergfell is Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative's new journeyman lineworker.

Jesse, his wife,

Taya, and his daughter, Paisley, recently moved back to Sidney. He grew up and graduated from Sidney.

Jesse enjoys hunting and fishing in his free time. Jesse was previously employed with McCone Electric. ■

Join us on Facebook



The monthly magazines are great ways to communicate with our members, but now

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) will be able to get its messages to members instantly using Facebook.

One of LYREC's seven cooperative principles is education, training and information. By using Facebook, LYREC is hoping to be able to reach additional members. Facebook will be used to report and update our members on outages, inform members about planned power outages, update our members on what is happening at the co-op and much more. Join us on Facebook today! ■



Congratulations to **Joel Grieger**, a McKenzie Electric member, on winning the Green Mountain grill.

Farm and Ranch Show

Burke-Divide Electric, McKenzie Electric, Sheridan Electric, Mountrail-Williams Electric, Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative had a booth at the Farm and Ranch Show in Williston, N.D.

The booth had great energy efficiency displays, useful tips on energy conservation and, of course, freshly baked chocolate chip and oatmeal raisin cookies. Thank you to everyone who stopped by our booth during the Farm and Ranch Show. ■

Lower Yellowstone Electric member **Lyle Sponheim** takes a spin on the Segway.



Putting safety first this month – and throughout the year

It's May – and Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative is celebrating National Electrical Safety Month. While safety for our members is top priority year-round, Electrical Safety Month is a time to acknowledge the importance of safety excellence.

This year, we're focusing on electrical safety in the home. Electricity is the cause of more than 140,000 fires each year, resulting in more than 500 deaths, 4,000 injuries and \$1.6 billion in property damage, according to the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI).

There are many measures you can take to ensure the safety of your loved ones. Use these helpful tips from ESFI to safeguard your home:

In the kitchen

- Vacuum refrigerator coils every three months to eliminate dirt buildup that can reduce efficiency and create fire hazards.
- Ensure all countertop appliances are located away from the sink.
- All appliance cords should be placed away from hot surfaces. Pay particular attention to cords around toasters, ovens and ranges. Cords can be damaged by excess heat.
- The top and the area above the cooking range should be free of combustibles, such as potholders and plastic utensils. Storing these items on or near the range may result in fires or burns.

Light the way to safety

- The wattage of the bulbs you use in your home should match the wattage indicated on the light

fixture. Overheated fixtures can lead to a fire.

- Check lamp cords to make sure they are in good condition – not damaged or cracked. Do not attempt to repair damaged cords yourself. Take any item with a damaged power cord to an authorized repair center.
- Extension cords should not be used to provide power on a long-term or permanent basis. Have additional receptacles installed by a professional to provide power where needed.

Be prepared

- Nearly two-thirds of fire deaths result from fires in homes without working smoke alarms. Smoke alarms should be located on every level of your home, inside each bedroom and outside each sleeping area.
- Test smoke alarms every month. Batteries should be replaced at least once a year – or sooner if indicated in the manufacturer's instructions. All smoke alarms should be replaced at least every 10 years.
- Talk to your family about an emergency plan in the event of a fire in your home. If you have small children, include them in planning an emergency escape route – they are more likely to remember the plan if they're involved in creating it.
- Electrical safety awareness and education can save lives. For more tips and information about electrical safety, visit www.esfi.org. ■

HIDDEN NUMBERS

If you find your meter number hidden in this issue, it is worth a \$25 credit on your next statement. The meter number will appear within the four Lower Yellowstone Electric pages. Give us a call during the month your meter is listed, and claim your \$25 bill credit. ■



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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
Scott D. Johnson	Mgr. of Office Services
Jami Propp	Member Services Coordinator
Brenda Bond	Staff Accountant
Margo Zadow	Billing Administrator
Pam Wilcox	Cashier/Receptionist
Chris Hillesland	Operations Manager
Doug K. Hettich	Asst. Mgr. of Operations
Rich Gorde	Foreman
Eric McPherson	Sub-Foreman
Kevin Goff	Engineer Assistant/Materials Mgr.
Kelly Keysor	Engineering Staking Technician
Lee Alvstad	Journeyman Lineman
Richard Tremblay	Journeyman Lineman
Aaron Eide	Journeyman Lineman
Bryan Franck	Journeyman Lineman
Jesse Obergfell	Journeyman Lineman
Dan Gieser	Journeyman Lineman/Meter Tech.
Blade Jankovsky	Apprentice Lineman
Ryder Peterson	Apprentice Lineman
Tanner Roth	Apprentice Lineman
Mike Eberling	Mechanic
Bodrey Kindopp	Staking Technician
Corey Candee	Electrical/IT Tech.
Edwin Gatzke	Line Locator/Meter Reader
Justin King	Warehouse Worker

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