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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Season's greetings from Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative

The holiday season is a great time to reflect. We are grateful for our own families, as well as our co-op family. Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) is driven by a sense of mission and purpose. Our team feels a strong connection to our community and our members, because we live here, too.

While many of our community programs, such as toy and food drives, ramp up this time of year, we have several programs in place to help our members year-round. We would like to remind you about some of these services in hopes you'll find them beneficial.

SmartHub. We hope you'll take advantage of SmartHub, an app that empowers you to monitor, manage and pay your energy bill conveniently through your phone.

Prepaid metering. Another service we offer is prepaid metering, which is intended to help budget

your monthly energy costs. It also allows us to waive security deposits. Members can pay for electricity before it's used, then use the electricity until the credit expires. During that time, members using prepay will receive regular updates on their balance through text.

Appliance rebates. LYREC also offers rebates on energy-efficient appliances, such as water heaters and heat pumps.

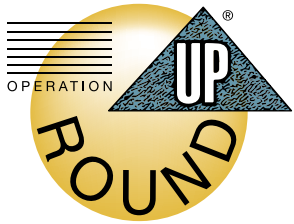
Operation Round Up. Our Operation Round Up program helps nonprofit and community organizations. By simply opting to "round up" your energy bill to the next whole dollar amount, you can help others right here in our community. Through members' donations over the last three years, we've been able to donate over \$43,000.

Youth. One of the most important investments we make is in our local youth. LYREC continues to support schools, youth clubs and programs, along with providing scholarships for our local students. Each year, through our Youth Tour program, we send a high school sophomore or junior to Washington, D.C., for a weeklong immersion to experience democracy in action.

At the heart of all these programs is you, the members we proudly serve. Looking back, we are grateful for all the wonderful community partners and for the positive impact we can continue to make.

This holiday season, we wish you and your loved ones peace, joy and prosperity. Our team at LYREC knows the future will be bright, because of you. ■





Making your community great

The Operation Round Up (ORU) trustees granted a total of \$3,100 to four organizations in September.

ORU's mission is to disburse funds to nonprofit and community organizations in the general service area of Lower Yellowstone Electric Cooperative solely for charitable, educational, scientific, health

or safety purposes.

The popularity of the program continues to grow. We hope the community realizes what an impact you are making with your contributions each month. Thank you to our generous members who continue to donate monthly to the ORU Trust. ■



The Sidney Middle School yearbook and announcement class received \$300 to purchase new software that will make editing their daily announcements quicker and more proficient.



The Savage Volunteer Fire Department received an ORU grant for \$1,000. The funds will be used to replace and purchase additional two-way radios.



Dylan Klasna, an ORU trustee, presents an \$800 check to Leann Evenson and Mary Johnson, from the Lambert Public School. The funds will be used to purchase a popcorn popper for their concession stand. The funds from the concession sales go toward the students' educational trips.



Ann Bouchard presents a \$1,000 check to Richland Opportunities Inc. to help purchase a standby generator for its facility.



The students donned the lineworkers' safety gear during the safety demonstration.

School safety demo presented

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) visited several elementary school students to share electrical safety tips during Co-op Month in October.

The safety trailer the lineworkers built in 2017 has been a useful tool in teaching children and adults about the hazards of electricity. It has been used at several schools, ag days, Richland County Fair, the annual meeting and a community night hosted by LYREC.

One of LYREC's goals is to stay involved in the safety and welfare of our community. The demonstration is designed to educate our members of the hazards of living and working in the presence of electrical power lines.

Thank you to the schools for taking the time to let LYREC share electrical safety tips. We enjoy getting to visit with our future members and the enthusiasm the students bring to the demonstration. ■



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

From our co-op family to yours, wishing you a happy holiday season and a joyous New Year.

LYREC will be closed Dec. 23 and 24 for Christmas, and Dec. 30 and 31 for New Year's.

Scholarship opportunities offered

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) is accepting applications for the Basin Electric Power Cooperative and the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA) memorial scholarship. All applications must be submitted to: LYREC, Attn: Jami Propp, P.O. Box 1047, Sidney, MT 59270 by the due dates listed below.

Basin Electric Power Cooperative scholarship

Basin Electric Power Cooperative is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to an LYREC member's dependent. 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/technical school in the fall of 2022.

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, which can be obtained at www.lyrec.coop. **The application is due Feb. 11, 2022.**

MECA memorial scholarship

MECA is offering a \$500 scholarship to one eligible student from the northeast district of Montana. The applicant's parent/guardian must be an LYREC member and the applicant must be attending college in the fall of 2022. Applications are judged on academic strength; school and community activities; employment; volunteerism; community service; and a personal statement.

A committee comprised of LYREC staff will choose one application to send to MECA for a chance to win a \$500 scholarship. If the MECA committee chooses an applicant from LYREC's service territory, LYREC will match the \$500 scholarship.

To apply, complete the application form, along with all required materials. You may get an application at www.lyrec.coop. **MECA memorial scholarships are due Jan. 25, 2022.** ■



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 Dan Gieser EMS
 Lee Alvstad Mechanic/EMS
 Richard Tremblay EMS
 Bo Kindopp GIS/Easement Technician
 Corey Candee Chief Information Officer
 Jeremy Reese Information Technology Technician
 Edwin Gatzke Line Locator/Groundsman
 Justin King Warehouse Supervisor

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Operating report

Year to date:	September 2020	September 2021
Total miles energized	2,104	2,127
Total number of meters	6,217	6,224
Kilowatt-hours sold	191,507,338	208,602,329
Revenue	\$20,486,225	\$21,879,796
Total expenses	\$19,786,095	\$20,854,689
Operating margins	\$1,259,478	\$2,061,567