



It's a matter of (co-op!) principles

BY ANNE PRICE

This is a time of year for reflection, and we are most grateful for our wonderful communities. All Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) employees are thankful to be in such an incredible place. We are fortunate to live in the same place where we work, which makes our ties to this community that much stronger.

You may recall last month when we touched on the first three cooperative principles. This month, we would like to tell you about the remaining four principles. The cooperative principles are essential to the co-op business model and benefit all members of the co-op.

Autonomy and independence

The fourth principle, autonomy and independence, means the co-op operates in an autonomous way that is solely directed and guided by its members, reflecting the values and needs of our local community. This means the co-op is not being influenced by leaders or shareholders several states away. Instead, the co-op is led by the local members it serves.

Education and training

The fifth principle, education and training, focuses on enhancing the knowledge of co-op employees and board members, which enables them to contribute to

the development of the co-op.

By investing in continuous learning for our employees and board members, our co-op is making a commitment not just to individual professional and personal growth, but to the future of the co-op and the high quality of service our members expect and deserve. It's a win-win situation.

We also strive to inform our members (that's you!) and the public about the mission and operations of the co-op. In fact, you receive this magazine every month, so we can share the latest co-op news and updates, as well as energy efficiency and safety tips.

Cooperation among cooperatives

Cooperation among cooperatives is the sixth principle and fosters the way co-ops work together to address bigger challenges. While this principle applies to all types of cooperatives, it is especially relevant in the energy industry. In our case, we put this principle in action after major storms and disasters that cause widespread power outages. When this happens, we call on nearby co-ops to come to our aid and assist with restoration efforts, and we extend the same help to them when they need us. We can't think of a better example of cooperation among cooperatives.

In addition, because we are part of the national electric co-op network, we can connect and collaborate with other electric co-ops to tackle industry-related challenges, like cybersecurity and an ever-changing energy landscape.

Concern for community

The seventh principle, concern for community, is essential to who we are as cooperatives. We serve our community not only by being an essential service, but by helping to power our local economy. Whether through economic development, volunteerism or donations to local causes, we invest in this community because it's our home, too. Throughout October, LYREC held a book, game and food drive for area senior citizens. The donations will be distributed to several organizations throughout our communities.

We hope you'll find that most cooperatives bring good people together to make good things happen in the community. We hope you feel that way about us, your local electric co-op.

Everyone at LYREC is thankful for your membership, and we hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving. ■



Need assistance heating your home this winter?

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) of Montana and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) of North Dakota are accepting applications. This program assists Montana and North Dakota residents and families with their heating bills through the winter months.

Eligibility is based on your household income (all money brought into the household) and resources (any assets you have in the bank, property or real estate, CDs, and 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. If you live in North Dakota, you can contact Community Action at 701-572-8191. You may also download an application at www.lyrec.coop or call Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative.

Once you have submitted your application, it can take up to two months before receiving assistance. If you need assistance, please download an application today. Failure to provide all requested information and verification will delay the eligibility determination and

may result in application denial.

Below are the income eligibility criteria for Montana residents:

Number in household	Annual Income
1.....	\$27,282
2.....	\$35,676
3.....	\$44,071
4.....	\$52,465

Below are the income eligibility criteria for North Dakota residents:

Number in household	Annual Income
1.....	\$32,475
2.....	\$42,467
3.....	\$52,460
4.....	\$62,452

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. ■

Sign up for SmartHub & get \$10 bill credit

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) would like to thank our members for signing up for SmartHub. To show our appreciation during this holiday season, anyone who is a current SmartHub user or who signs up for SmartHub by Dec. 31, 2021, will receive a \$10 bill credit on the bill that comes out the beginning of February. As of Jan. 1, 2022,

SmartHub users will no longer be able to receive a paper bill; however, you can log onto your account and view your bill at any time. If you need help signing up for SmartHub, call our office at 406-488-1602 or 844-441-5627. There is also a step-by-step guide located at <https://lyrec.com/smarthub>. ■

JUNE 19 TO 24, 2022



WASHINGTON, D.C.

**AN ALL-EXPENSE-PAID TRIP
TO WASHINGTON, D.C.**

**TOP 3 REASONS
TO ENTER THE ESSAY-
WRITING CONTEST**

- To enter the essay-writing contest, you must be a sophomore or junior in high school.
- You and your parents or guardian must be served by Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative.
- If you have any questions, please contact Jami Propp, LYREC, at 406-488-1602 during regular business hours.
- The deadline is Nov. 29, 2021. You can email entries to Jami Propp at jamip@lyrec.coop or mail a hard copy to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, P.O. Box 1047, Sidney, MT 59270.

1. All-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., compliments of Lower Yellowstone REC
2. A whole week to visit unforgettable historic monuments, museums and the U.S. Capitol
3. A learning experience you'll never forget

ESSAY QUESTION:

What does the second cooperative principle mean to you and your community?



CHECK OUT THE ESSAY CONTEST GUIDELINES AT
www.lyrec.coop

3 cool things about LEDs

Sure, LED lightbulbs are highly efficient, but they offer benefits far beyond lower energy bills.

Have you made the switch to high-efficiency LED bulbs? You may know that LEDs use a lot less energy than standard bulbs, but are you aware of all the other benefits they bring to the table? When you install LEDs in your home, you'll...

1. Forget how to change a lightbulb

High-quality LED bulbs last 25,000 hours or more. At an average of five hours a day, 365 days a year, they can last for at least 14 years. You may find yourself having to look at the instructions on the package the next time you need to change one out.

2. See your home in a whole new light

Color rendering index (CRI) measures how well a lightbulb displays colors compared to sunlight. Incandescent bulbs set the standard with a score of 100. The latest LED products have a CRI of up to 90, making the light in your home look vivid and natural.

3. Improve your options

Bulbs emit light in different tones, ranging from cool to warm. Warm (yellowish) light is great for your family room, while cool (bluish) light is better for performing tasks, such as in a workroom. LEDs cover the entire color range, so they can be used anywhere in your home or outdoors. ■



Operating report

Year to date:	August 2020	August 2021
Total miles energized	2,104	2,127
Total number of meters	6,210	6,217
Kilowatt-hours sold	174,108,925	187,863,992
Revenue	\$18,451,009	\$19,568,587
Total expenses	\$17,859,602	\$18,679,326
Operating margins	\$1,150,238	\$1,828,202



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TRUSTEES

Allen Thiessen President
 Greg Rauschendorfer Vice President
 Dennis Schmierer Secretary/Treasurer
 Colin Gartner Trustee
 Tim Franzen 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 Customer Service Representative
 Chris Hillesland Chief Operations Officer
 Rich Gorde Journeyman Lineman
 Eric McPherson System Controller
 Kevin Goff Operations Assistant
 Kelly Keysor Operations Manager
 Aaron Eide Journeyman Lineman
 Bryan Franck Journeyman Lineman
 Jesse Obergfell Journeyman Lineman
 Blade Jankovsky Journeyman Lineman
 Tanner Roth Journeyman Lineman
 Ryder Peterson Journeyman Lineman
 Cole Jankovsky Journeyman Lineman
 Lee Delp Journeyman Lineman
 Preston Long Apprentice Lineman
 Brandon Mueller Master Electrician
 Mike Eberling Mechanic
 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 