



Notice of annual meeting

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative's (LYREC) 89th annual membership meeting will be held June 4 in hybrid format. Members can attend in person at the Richland County Event Center in Sidney or join virtually.

Join us starting at 4:30 p.m. for dinner and registration. The business meeting will follow at 5:30 p.m.

Guest speaker

We are excited to welcome Brent Battenfeld, a journeyman lineworker from Mid-Yellowstone Electric Cooperative. Battenfeld will share his powerful story of helping bring electricity to the remote village of Cocalitos, Guatemala, through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association' International Program earlier this year.

Scholarships

During the business meeting, scholarship winners will be announced! LYREC will be awarding up to 30 scholarships, each worth \$1,000.

Kids' activities

Bring the whole family! There will be fun activities for kids during the business meeting, a chance to win a bike, bucket truck rides before the meeting, weather-permitting.

Prizes

Throughout the evening, we'll be giving away tickets to the Medora Musical and ending the night with a grand prize drawing!

The official meeting notice, including financial information, proposed bylaw amendments and other important details, will be sent in mid-May. The virtual meeting invitation will also be available on LYREC's website and social media pages. Members who participate in the meeting, either in person or online, and who remain through the business session will receive a \$50 bill credit per account.

Bylaw amendments

The proposed bylaw amendments will be included with the meeting notice mailed to members. Each member account will have the option to vote on the amendments either by mail or electronically. The proposed changes will also be available online at lyrec.coop.

For any questions regarding the amendments, email lyrec@lyrec.coop or call 406-488-1602.

Completed ballots will be submitted to a third-party for processing, with a pre-addressed return envelope for your convenience. ■



2025 PHOTO CONTEST

Submit a photo to enter to win a scholarship!

Who can enter: The applicant's parent or legal guardian must be a current LYREC member, and the applicant must be enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time college, university or vocational school in the fall of 2025. Applicants may receive a maximum of two annual meeting scholarships.

What: Original photos capturing the serenity and beauty of LYREC's service territory.

What to submit:

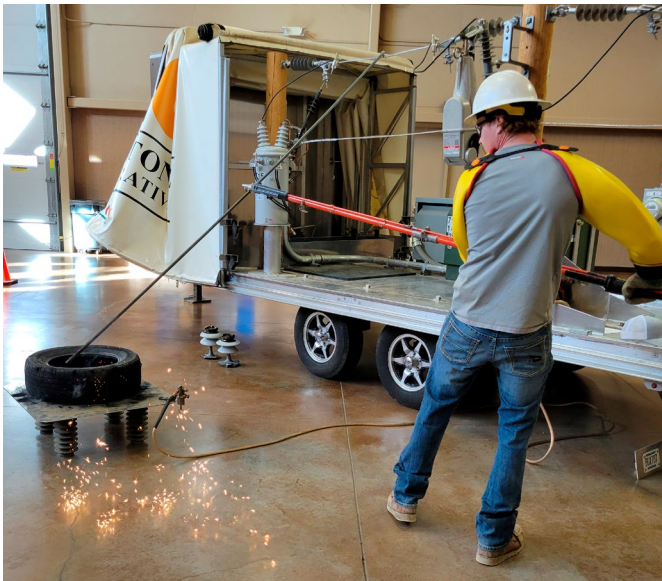
- The applicant must provide a tagline for the photo.
- The applicant must submit a separate photo of themselves.
- A completed and signed annual meeting photo contest application.

How to submit: Email the photos and completed registration form to scholarships@lyrec.coop. Photos must be submitted as digital images with a minimum size of 3 MB. They must be at least 300 DPI at actual size and saved as .jpg, .png or .tiff files.

Deadline: May 27

The scholarship recipients will be drawn at random and announced at the June 4 annual meeting. However, if any required information is missing or the photos do not meet the size requirements, the applicant will be omitted from the scholarship pool. Applicants' attendance at the annual meeting is recommended.

Visit **lyrec.coop** for contest registration form and rules. ■



Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) took part in the MonDak Ag Days in March. Apprentice Lineworker **Jory Bell** showcased the high-voltage trailer, which was built in 2017 and serves as an excellent tool for educating the public about the dangers of power lines and electrical equipment. In May, LYREC is visiting local area elementary schools to educate students on electrical safety.

Facility charge

If you've ever examined your bill closely, you may have noticed a separate line item for a facility charge. Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) serves a wide range of members, including some who use electricity year-round and others who only need it for part of the year. Regardless of usage, the cost of delivering power remains the same.

The facility charge is a fixed monthly fee that helps cover the essential operating costs of the utility, ensuring reliable service. Similar to monthly charges for phone or TV services, this fee supports the infrastructure, equipment and personnel needed to keep electricity available at all times.

So, whether you're heating your home, operating a well pump or irrigating your fields, power is always ready at the flip of a switch, thanks to the ongoing investment of your cooperative. ■

Nominating Committee names candidates



Franzen



Schmierer

A Nominating Committee consisting of Rowdy Cvancara, Kenny Iversen, Trey Bloesser and Mark

Tombre met at Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative's (LYREC) office March 4 to nominate candidates for the election of directors in Districts 3 and 4.

The committee nominated Tim Franzen for District 3 and Dennis Schmierer for District 4. With no other nominations, the election of trustees will be by acclamation. Franzen will be reelected to represent District 3 and Schmierer will be reelected to represent District 4.

Schmierer and Franzen thank the Nominating Committee for the time the members put into the nominating process. They would also like to thank the membership for the support of the board of directors and LYREC as a whole. ■

Capital credits returned

In December 2024, Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) returned over \$2 million in retired capital credits to its members. Capital credits come from margins, or money remaining at the end of the year after all operating expenses have been paid. The margins are allocated to each member's capital credit account based on the member's electricity usage. The allocated margins are retained and used by

LYREC for operating capital, reducing the amount the cooperative needs to borrow.

In December, active members received credits on their bills, while checks were mailed to former members. However, the checks for the individuals listed below were returned due to insufficient address information. If you have contact information for anyone on the list, please call our office at 406-488-1602.

Akerly, Amber.....Trenton, N.D.
Barnes, Eugenia and Shane.....Loma, Colo.
Comeau, Mary A.Northglenn, Colo.
ESI ConstructionBoise, Idaho
Hager, CourtneyFairview, Mont.
Harlan, Michael and Laura.....Eclectic, Ala.
Noteboom, Harvey, Don and Dennis Surprise, Ariz.
JP Oil Co.Lafayette, La.
Lyon, DonnaSidney, Mont.

Panther Energy Co. LLCTulsa, Okla.
Petry, MarkHuntingburg, Ind.
Reidle, Melissa.....Fruita, Colo.
Sink, DorothyEasley, S.C.
Stride Well Service Co.Gainesville, Texas
Tighe, Tom and Bridget.....Sidney, Mont.
Voll, Pamela.....Sidney, Mont.
Williston Comm. BroadcastingGlendive, Mont.
Wilsey, Dan and KarenTwin Valley, Minn.



**ALWAYS
CALL
BEFORE YOU
DIG**

One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked **AND** helps protect you from injury and expense.

**Safe Digging Is No Accident:
Always Call 811 Before You Dig**

Know what's below. Always call 811 before you dig. Visit call811.com for more information.

Understanding budget billing

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) offers budget billing to help members manage their energy costs more effectively. Instead of facing significant monthly fluctuations due to seasonal changes in energy usage, budget billing provides a stable, predictable payment amount, making it easier to plan for electricity expenses throughout the year.

This service is available to residential members who are current on their accounts, maintain an "A" credit rating and have at least 12 months of billing history with LYREC.

Enrollment is open from April 1 to Aug. 31. To sign up, visit lyrec.coop or call our office at 406-488-1602. ■



Discounts offered for Medora vacation

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative is able to offer its members discounts in Medora by being a Touchstone Energy® member. Simply call 800-MEDORA-1 and give the discount code of "TOUCH2025" for a 15% discount on all of the following during any night of the season.

THINGS TO DO:

- Medora Musical
- Pitchfork steak fondue
- Bully Pulpit Golf Course
- Gospel Brunch tickets
- Old Town Theater shows

LODGING AT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Elkhorn Quarters
- Badlands Motel
- Rough Riders Hotel
- Medora Campground

The code is good for reservations over the phone, website or in person. A greens fee discount will be applied at check-in at the golf course.

3200 W. Holly - Sidney, MT 59270

Phone: 406-488-1602

Website: lyrec.coop

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
Jami Propp	Member Service Manager
Pam Wilcoxon	Chief Financial Officer
Melissa Buckley	Plant Accountant
Kyle Kavanagh	IT Director
Margo Zadow	Billing Coordinator
Katie Jochim	CSR/Billing Coordinator
Tiffani Hentges	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
Tanner Roth	Journeyman Lineman
Ryder Peterson	Journeyman Lineman
Cole Jankovsky	Journeyman Lineman
Preston Long	Journeyman Lineman
Trey Schepens	Apprentice Lineman
Jory Bell	Apprentice Lineman
Brandon Mueller	Master Electrician
Mike Eberling	Mechanic
Dan Gieser	EMS
Lee Alvstad	Mechanic/EMS
Richard Tremblay	EMS
Bo Kindopp	GIS/Easement Technician
Tom Hall	GIS Specialist
Corey Candee	Chief Information Officer
Jeremy Reese	Information Technology Technician
Edwin Gatzke	Line Locator/Groundsman
Justin King	Warehouse Supervisor
Parker Brothen	Summer Help

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 