



Trustee **Colin Gartner** speaks with a member about the importance of grassroots.

83rd annual meeting recap

On June 5, members from across Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative's (LYREC) service territory convened at the Richland County Event Center for the 83rd annual meeting. The evening began with bucket truck rides and safety demonstrations. There were 228 members in attendance.

Co-op news

CEO Jason Brothen discussed the importance of the cooperative principles and how LYREC promotes these principles. Brothen updated the membership on the year's projects and plans moving forward. Brothen reported that LYREC will be continuing with the pole testing

program in the Crane and Savage areas and that the metering project is complete.

Brothen presented service awards to employees who have reached milestone years of service and also recognized one employee for his participation in Brave the Shave.

President Allen Thiessen presented the financial statements and reported the cooperative is in good financial condition, with a net margin of \$2.2 million. He reported that LYREC's electric plant has grown to \$74.6 million, which has increased by \$4 million since 2017. President Thiessen stated that LYREC will be paying \$1.7 million in capital credits this year. He also reported that LYREC has



Congratulations, scholarship winners! Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative awards \$41,000 to local students, including, back row from left to right, Rain Rehbein, Trey Bloesser, Katherine Hill, Elizabeth Hill, Gerit Johnson, Chad Christenson, Lilli Seitz, Autumn Rehbein, Ainhua Idoate, Kallie Candee, Jori Bell, Zach Sommerfeld, middle row from left to right, Peyton Slater, Tyler Thiessen, Dylan Johnson, Ashlind Conradsen, Kylee Byer, Carson Cayko, Connor Fink, Seth Prevost, Jaden Strickland, third row from left to right, Austin Strickland, Tianna Earle, Josephine Langwald, Catalina Langwald, Janelle Brien, Carlee Strasheim, Ben Broadhead, Jacalyn Wright, Cassidy Candee, Max Peters, front row from left to right, Holly Bouchard, Kyle Topp, Kelly Danielson, Elizabeth Shannon, Kayla Nelson, Peyton Beyerle, Emma Skov, Owen Nelson, Jace Johnson and Shanyne Reidle.

been speaking with several other cooperatives in our area about the possibility of shared services.

Guest updates

Gary Wiens, CEO of the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA), provided an update on the recent legislative session. Wiens discussed a lawsuit regarding capital credits that would have required one of Montana's electric co-ops to refund equity. As a result of that lawsuit, a bill to protect the equity of Montana's co-ops was introduced in this year's legislation session. The bill passed unanimously by the state House and Senate. Wiens also touched on some other legislative success stories for the co-ops.

Mary Sundheim, trustee of Operation Round Up (ORU), reported that ORU

has awarded \$12,463 to 15 nonprofit organizations since the implementation of the program. Sundheim informed the membership how to apply for ORU funds, and how members can enroll to contribute to the program.

The Youth Tour delegate, Allyssa Hill, spoke about her experience on the 2018 Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. She encouraged the members to have their children apply for this fantastic opportunity.

Directors elected

John Redman was nominated for District 3 and Dennis Schmierer for District 4. After no floor nominations were made, it was announced that John Redman was re-elected for District 3 and Dennis Schmierer was re-elected for District 4.

Bylaws

A large portion of the meeting was spent on the proposed bylaw changes. All the proposed changes were accepted. You can find the bylaws at www.lyrec.com.

Scholarships and prizes

The meeting ended with awarding 41 college scholarships. These scholarships are funded with the unclaimed capital credits, which may only be used for educational purposes. Edwin Stickland was the recipient of the grand prize Medora Musical package. Ella Whiteman and Erik Seigfreid were the bike winners.

Thank you to all the members who attended. Lower Yellowstone Electric cannot conduct our business without you, our member/owners. ■



FARM EQUIPMENT IS ON THE MOVE

LOOK UP AND LOOK AROUND POWER LINES AND POLES MAY BE CLOSER THAN YOU THINK

For your safety, make sure you have at least 10 feet of clearance between power lines and your combines, grain augers, balers and front-end loaders.

Farming equipment is vulnerable to hitting power lines because of its large size, height and extensions. Newer, larger equipment is especially at risk.

Look for low-hanging lines when you enter and leave a field.

Keep in mind that uneven ground and shifting soil conditions can put you in harm's way.

If your equipment does make contact with a power line, do not leave the cab. Call 911, tell others to stay away, and wait for help.

If you are a Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative member and you see a power line issue that may need attention, call LYREC at 406-488-1602 or email lyrec@lyrec.com.

Your safety matters. Working together helps ensure the safety of all!



Planning a trip to Medora this summer?

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) is able to offer its members a discount by being a Touchstone Energy® member. Simply call 1-800-MEDORA-1 and give the discount code of "Touch 2019" for a 15 percent discount on any of the following during any night of the season:

Things to do:

- Medora Musical
- Pitchfork steak fondue
- Bully Pulpit Golf Course

Lodging at any of the following:

- Elkhorn Quarters
- Badlands Motel
- Rough Riders Hotel

LYREC members can also receive 20 percent off admission at the Cowboy Hall of Fame by providing the discount code "Touch 2019."

Valuable rebates offered by co-op

If you are a Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) member, we have several rebates available.

Electric water heaters:

- At least a 40-gallon tank.
- \$4-per-gallon rebate, not to exceed \$300.
- Insulation factor of R12-13, EER (at least) 0.9.
- At least a 10-year warranty. (Extended warranties do not qualify.)

Electric heat:

- Rebate amount of \$25 per kilowatt of installed load of electric heat.
- It can be electric baseboard, electric plenum heaters or heat pumps.
- Space heating is the only use for the heater.
- The member may put the heaters under the electric heat rate program. (Contact our office for more information about the electric heat rate program.)

Heat pump:

- Rebate amount of \$150 per ton of installed heat pump.
- The heat pump can be either air- to-air or ground-source.

Service upgrade:

- LYREC agrees to rebate its member up to and not exceeding \$200 for upgrading a residential member's electric service.
- The cooperative retains the right to specify the brand, size and manufacturer of its choice.

Double-throw switch:

- LYREC agrees to rebate its member up to and not exceeding \$200 for installing a double throw-switch on a residential member's service.
- The cooperative retains the right to specify brand, size and manufacturer of its choice.

Grain drying:

- LYREC agrees to rebate its member \$30 per horsepower for an electric natural air grain drying setup on a grain bin.
- The cooperative retains the right to specify brand, size and manufacturer of its choice.

The member must provide proof of purchase for any of the above rebates. For more information on rebates, please call LYREC.



3200 W. Holly - Sidney, MT 59270

Phone: 406-488-1602

Fax: 406-488-6524


Website: www.lyrec.com

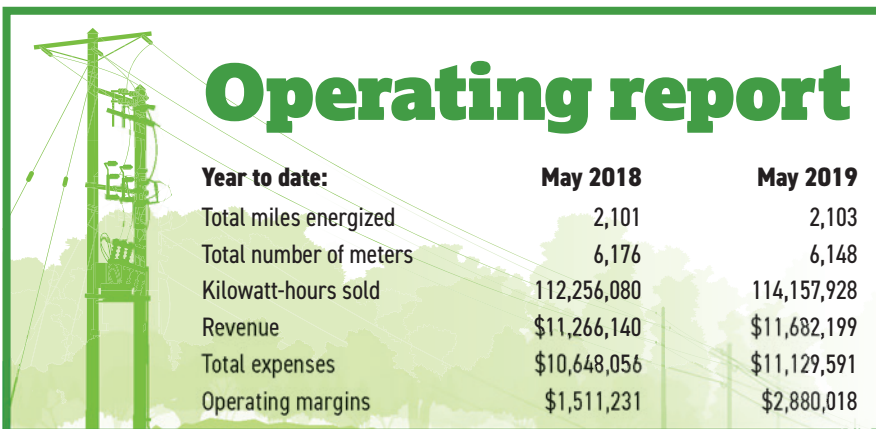
TRUSTEES

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 Keysor	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
Edwin Gatzke	Line Locator/Meter Reader
Justin King	Warehouse Supervisor

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Operating report

Year to date:	May 2018	May 2019
Total miles energized	2,101	2,103
Total number of meters	6,176	6,148
Kilowatt-hours sold	112,256,080	114,157,928
Revenue	\$11,266,140	\$11,682,199
Total expenses	\$10,648,056	\$11,129,591
Operating margins	\$1,511,231	\$2,880,018