

Nominating Committee to meet in March

The Nominating Committee will meet Tuesday, March 5, at Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative's office. The purpose of the Nominating Committee is to select candidates for the board of trustees. The cooperative members will have an opportunity to vote for the candidates during the June 5 annual meeting.

The Nominating Committee will consist of two members from District 3 and District 4. The committee will nominate one or more candidates for District 3 and District 4. The present trustees holding seats in these districts are John Redman, District 3, and Dennis Schmierer, District 4.

- Representing District 3 – Joy Buxbaum and Rowdy Cvancara
- Representing District 4 – Steve Pust and Dan Rice

If you are a member of Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative, reside in District 3 or 4, and are interested in becoming a candidate for the board of trustees, contact one of the Nominating Committee members and ask to be



John Redman



Dennis Schmierer

considered for nomination.

If you have a joint membership, either member on the account can run for the board of trustees. If only your spouse's name is on the account, your spouse is the only one eligible to serve on the board of trustees. A joint membership is entitled to one vote at any meeting of the cooperative. ■

The truth about electric space heaters



Before you purchase a new space heater that claims to lower your heating bill, consider the operating costs. While the marketing material may say it will save you up to 50 percent on your heating bill, the reality is a 1,500-watt heater by any manufacturer plugged in for 24 hours will use the same amount of electricity and cost you the same. Use the formula provided to calculate operating costs of an electric space heater, or any electric appliance.

Watts X hours of operation ÷
1,000 X kilowatt-hour (KWH)
electric rate

For example, a 1,500-watt space heater running 24 hours per day would cost \$2.56 per day at a rate of \$0.071 per KWH.

$$1,500 \times 24 = 36,000$$

$$36,000 \div 1,000 = 36$$

$$36 \times .071 = \$2.56$$

That's more than \$75 a month for just one heater!

ATTENTION: MEMBERS

RATES WILL INCREASE JANUARY 2019 BILLING

\$5/MONTH INCREASE PER METER

\$10/MONTH INCREASE PER METER (Large commercial & industrial only)



Beginning with the January 2019 use/billing cycle Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative will have an increase to the facility charge of \$5.00 on all meters except for meters in rate class 50 & 61 which will increase by \$10 on all meters.

Rate increase effective January

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) feels fortunate that we have been able to keep our rates stable throughout the last several years. However, as President Allen Thiessen reported at the June 2018 annual meeting, LYREC will be having a small rate increase in 2019.

The fact is that things cost more today than they did yesterday, last year or five years ago. The cost of maintenance and enhancements to the power grid are no different. However, when compared to commodities that we buy every day, electricity remains a good value.

The new 2019 rate will begin with sales starting Jan. 1, and the bill you receive in February will reflect the increase. The facility charge will increase by \$5/meter monthly on residential, irrigation, single-phase and small commercial

accounts. The large commercial and industrial accounts will increase by \$10/meter monthly.

LYREC's monthly facility charge is one of the lowest in the state. Even after the 2019 rate increase, there are only two Montana cooperatives with a lower residential base rate. LYREC's residential facility charge will increase to \$20 a month, compared to the average of \$28.76 throughout the rest of Montana.

Regardless if an LYREC member uses a lot of electricity or very little, the cost of getting electricity to your homes and businesses remains the same. The funds from the facility charge helps pay for LYREC's equipment and infrastructure so that LYREC can maintain the integrity of the system.

Please be assured that both your board of directors and the staff of Lower Yellowstone Electric are

doing everything we can to ensure rate increases only occur when it is essential. We are committed to delivering you safe and reliable service each day of the year. ■



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STAY CLEAR!

A DOWNED POWER LINE MAY STILL BE ENERGIZED AND COULD CAUSE SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

Do :

- If you see a downed power line, move away from it and anything touching it. The ground around power lines – up to 35 feet away – may be energized.
- Immediately report the downed line to your local electric cooperative.
- Assume that all downed power lines are energized.

Don't :

- Never touch a downed power line. Do not attempt to move a downed power line or anything else in contact with it by using an object such as a broom or stick.
- Never drive over downed power lines.
- Never touch or step in water near where a downed power line is located.

If a person comes into contact with a downed power line:

- Call 911.
- Do not touch the person. You could become the next victim.
- Warn others to stay away.

Downed power lines and vehicles:

If your car comes into contact with a downed power line while you are inside, stay in the car. Direct others to stay away from the car.

Call 911.

Statement of nondiscrimination

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative is a recipient of federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W. Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 800-795-3272 (voice) or 202-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Gage Bloesser, Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., winner

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) is proud to announce Gage Bloesser as the winner of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association annual Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. Gage is the son of Rolly and Jan Bloesser and is a junior at Savage High School.

In June, hundreds of electric co-ops across the country send participants to Washington, D.C., for a chance to learn about the cooperative business model and a full week of sightseeing. Participants will also have the chance to meet with their elected officials and discuss the issues that are important to them.

LYREC feels it is important to invest in the youth of our community by providing opportunities like these. “The students who have participated in the past have returned home with a deeper understanding of what it takes to be a leader and have put these skills to use right here in our



Gage Bloesser

community,” says LYREC Member Service Manager Jami Propp.

Bloesser was selected for his impressive portfolio of school and community involvement and his essay about life without electricity. Bloesser will join 30 other students from Montana in June to embark on the week-long Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. ■



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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 Keyser	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
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:	October 2017	October 2018
Total miles energized	2,111	2,101
Total number of meters	6,163	6,158
Kilowatt-hours sold	213,844,891	213,393,831
Revenue	\$22,253,726	\$22,140,228
Total expenses	\$20,705,995	\$21,101,020
Operating margins	\$3,254,762	\$2,108,988