

## LYREC 84th annual meeting cancelled due to COVID-19

**T**he Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) board of trustees voted unanimously to cancel the 2020 annual meeting of members scheduled for June 3. The decision to cancel was not made lightly, but LYREC board and management felt it was in the best interest for the health and safety of our members,

employees and communities.

LYREC is committed to maintaining open communication with our members. We will be posting important information regarding cooperative business on social media, our website and in our monthly magazine. LYREC will also be looking for additional ways to meet with members this fall.

Only one candidate per district was nominated at the March 3 Nominating Committee Meeting. Accordingly, the election of trustees will be by acclamation. Dennis Nelson will be re-elected to represent District 5, Greg Rauschendorfer will be re-elected for District 6, and Allen Thiessen will be re-elected for District 7. ■



## Scholarships to continue

**O**ne highlight of the Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) annual meeting is the luck-of-the-draw scholarships. Although the annual meeting has been cancelled this year, LYREC will still be awarding scholarships.

### Eligibility guidelines:

The applicant or parent/guardian must be a member who

is currently receiving electric service from LYREC.

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- or four-year college/university or vocational technical school for the upcoming fall term.

An individual applicant can receive a maximum of two luck-of-the-draw scholarships.

### For a chance to win a \$1,000 scholarship:

Fill out the luck-of-the-draw scholarship application. Applications are available at [www.lyrec.coop](http://www.lyrec.coop), then click on the scholarship icon located on the homepage.

Think about an item that uses electricity, other than your wireless devices, that you would not want to be without. Take a photo with the item you have chosen - be creative!

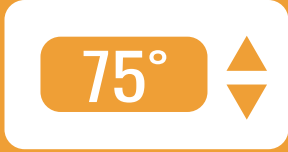
Submit the application, along with the photo, to [scholarships@lyrec.coop](mailto:scholarships@lyrec.coop) by Friday June 5. ■

### Scholarship announcements:

The scholarship winners will be announced June 10 via Facebook.

Follow LYREC's Facebook and Instagram page for more information.

# Beat the Heat this summer



Install and set a programmable thermostat. It could save up to 10 percent on heating and cooling costs a year.



Use a fan. Ceiling fans will allow you to raise the thermostat setting 4 degrees without impacting your comfort.



Insulate your attic and seal cracks and openings to prevent warm air from leaking into your home.

As summer starts to heat up and temperatures rise, many of us are cranking up the air conditioners to stay cool. It should come as no surprise that air conditioners use about 5 percent of all the electricity produced in the U.S., according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

This summer, instead of blasting the air conditioner (and blowing your electricity bills through the roof), you can take simple actions that will help you beat the heat. For example, replacing

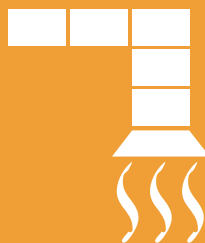
a dirty, clogged air filter with a clean one can lower your air conditioner's energy consumption by 5-15 percent, while using a ceiling fan will allow you to raise the thermostat setting about 4 degrees without impacting your comfort.

With just a few small changes, you can relax in comfort this summer while saving some cold, hard cash.

Here are some tips from your local electric cooperative:



Don't heat your home with appliances. On a hot day, consider using an outdoor grill rather than an oven.



Insulate and seal ducts to prevent air loss.



Install energy-efficient window coverings that let natural light in and prevent solar heat gain.



# Temporarily suspending meter disconnects



**L**ower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) is concerned with the well-being

of our members. We are aware that many of our members are facing a financial hardship due to the state of the economy and the COVID-19 pandemic. At the directive of Gov. Steve Bullock, LYREC has temporarily suspended disconnecting electric service and is waiving late fees to support its members through May 24 (this date may be extended). However, these disconnect suspensions are not bill waivers. LYREC will be working with members on deferred payment plans and other assistance to ease the transition of the pandemic. If you are having trouble making your payment, please contact LYREC today at 406-488-1602. ■



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 2020" 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

# Avoid phone scams



**Urgent call from a utility? It could be a scam.**

**E**very year, thousands of people lose money to telephone scams. Well-organized scammers can spoof, or replicate, the phone number so that it appears on your caller ID to make it look like it is coming from your trusted energy provider.

These scams tend to use

aggressive and intimidating tactics. The scammer will insist you're behind on your utility bill and threaten to disconnect service or take legal action. The scammer will typically demand that you use a prepaid debit card or money order, often within a short, urgent timeframe, to pay the "past due" amount. At this point, you might be panicking, and that's what these imposters are counting on.

You can combat this scam by being aware of the status of your account. Never give your banking or personal information over the phone to someone you did not call. If you receive a call from anyone requesting personal or banking information, hang up. Call the provider directly. Do not use the phone number given by the scammer. ■

## Prepay metering offered to members

**L**ower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) is offering members with a standard single-phase service a new way to pay for their electricity. Prepay metering does not use the traditional billing process where you pay for the electricity after you use it; instead you pay for your electricity before you use it. It's like filling your car with gasoline. You monitor the fuel level and decide when you should refill.

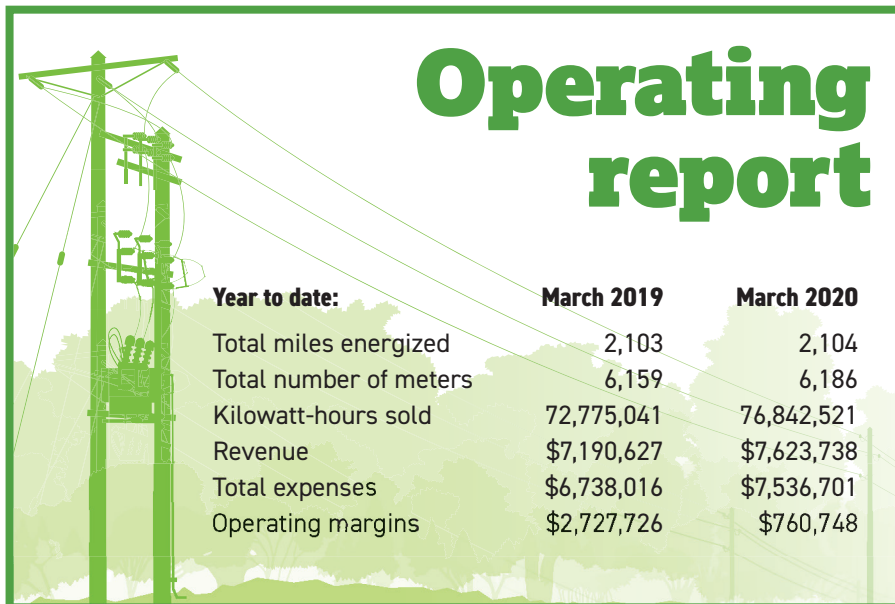
To establish a new account with the prepay metering option, the member must sign a prepay service agreement and make a minimum payment of \$25. For existing members, the balance up to the current reading must be paid in full and a \$25 credit must be applied to the account prior to switching to prepay metering.

The prepay meter is read daily and your account balance is reduced by the previous day's usage. The member is responsible for monitoring his or her account balance and will not be receiving a monthly bill. Once the account balance is \$25 or less, the member will receive alerts by email and/

or text message. If the account balance reaches zero, power is automatically disconnected until payment on the account is received. Once the account has a credit balance of \$25, the meter will automatically be reconnected.

There are several benefits to the prepay metering program. As a new member, the member may choose prepay metering in lieu of paying a security deposit. A member may make several payments throughout the month rather than one lump sum; however, the minimum payment must be at least \$25. If an existing member opts to switch to prepay, any deposit fee previously paid by the member will be applied to the member's outstanding balance. There are no extra fees associated with prepay metering or disconnect/connect fees.

Due to the way the disconnect meters work, not all meters are eligible for the prepay metering service. If you would like more information on prepay metering, please call our office at 406-488-1602. ■



3200 W. Holly - Sidney, MT 59270

Phone: 406-488-1602

Fax: 406-488-6524

Website: [www.lyrec.com](http://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  
 Jeremy Reese ..... Information Technology Technician  
 Edwin Gatzke ..... Line Locator/Meter Reader  
 Justin King ..... Warehouse Supervisor

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 