



Operation Round Up helps fund the Readers for Leaders program in Fairview, Mont. The program raises literary awareness and vocabulary among the community youth.

Giving back to our community

Over the years, you've probably heard or read about Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative's (LYREC) concern for our community. This is one of the core principles that sets cooperatives apart from other types of utilities and businesses. We've always taken this mission and responsibility to heart. It's who we are as a co-op.

Over the past few months, like so many of you, we've risen to meet new challenges and strengthen the safety net for our community, particularly for those who are most vulnerable. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we've made numerous adjustments to programs and operations to maintain business continuity while staying focused on the bigger mission of

helping our consumer-members during this turbulent time.

Now, with the holidays fast approaching, these recent events have made us think about the role we play in our community. While our purpose is to provide safe and reliable energy to you, the members we serve, we have a greater mission – to be a catalyst for good.

You're probably aware of our Operation Round Up program, where we collect donations from generous members like you who have "rounded up" the amount due on their electric bill to help nonprofit charities and organizations in our community. LYREC supports the youth in our communities in a variety of ways, such as providing scholarships to college-bound students, or our Washington, D.C., Youth Tour program, where we take our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C., for a weeklong immersion to experience democracy in action. Regardless if it is taking part in career fairs at our local schools, participating in 4-H sales, or donating to make post-prom parties a success and keep our youth safe, LYREC steps up to the plate.

LYREC has held an annual coat and food drive for the past two decades. This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we decided to hold a book and game drive in conjunction with the food drive. Our senior citizens and children have felt the impact of social isolation in the last eight months and we wanted to bring some joy to their lives.

continued on next page



Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative lineworkers **Lee Delp** (left) and **Aaron Eide** (right) demonstrate how to stay safe around electricity during the Healthy Kids Expo held at the Richland County Event Center.

continued from previous page

We also have a strong commitment to safety. Not only do we take our employee safety seriously by providing monthly safety trainings, but for our community as well. We visit schools

to teach children of all ages how to stay safe around electricity. We hold safety demonstrations at community events, annual meetings and other gatherings. We also share safety tips to remind our community of safety hazards.

LYREC invests in the economic

development of the community. We have made our facilities open to the community for nonprofit fundraising events such as the pumpkin patch, haunted house and escape rooms.

You'll also see our employees serving on local boards, serving on the fire department, coaching youth sports, or volunteering at charitable events. Because when you work at a co-op, you understand the importance of a strong community. After all, without you, the co-op wouldn't exist.

We know that our core job is to keep the lights on, but our passion is our community. Because we live and work here, too, we want to make it a better place for all.

If there's anything we can do to help you - whether providing energy-saving advice to help lower your monthly bill or discuss payment plan options during these difficult times - please reach out to us at 406-488-1602.

Concern for community is the heart and soul of who we are. And no matter what the future brings, you can count on your electric co-op to care about you. ■

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.

Below are the income eligibility criteria for Montana residents:

Number in household	Annual income
1.....	\$26,616
2.....	\$34,805
3.....	\$42,995
4.....	\$51,184

Below are the income eligibility criteria for North Dakota residents:

Number in household	Annual income
1.....	\$30,346
2.....	\$39,683
3.....	\$49,021
4.....	\$58,358

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.

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 for referrals. ■

What should I report to my local co-op?



- **If you see a downed power line or utility pole, contact Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative immediately.**
- **If you see broken wires, cross arms or other equipment that may be damaged.**
- **If a tree is growing into a power line.** Call a professional to trim that tree before it causes a hazard for you or leaves you without power. Children climbing that tree can get shocked or killed; branches can break or fall onto the wire, causing an outage; or the wind can whip a limb into the line and cause an outage. But remember: When power lines are involved, always leave the trimming to professionals. Call your cooperative.

To report an outage

Because power outages can't be totally eliminated, Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative offers these steps to follow if an outage occurs:

- **Confirm the outage.** Check your own fuses and circuit breakers first.
- **Check with a neighbor to confirm if he or she is also experiencing an outage before you call the cooperative.** This will help your cooperative determine the extent of the outage.
- **Call the cooperative.** If the outage is widespread, the phone lines may be busy, but keep trying. Your cooperative will send a line crew to find the problem and restore power as quickly as possible.



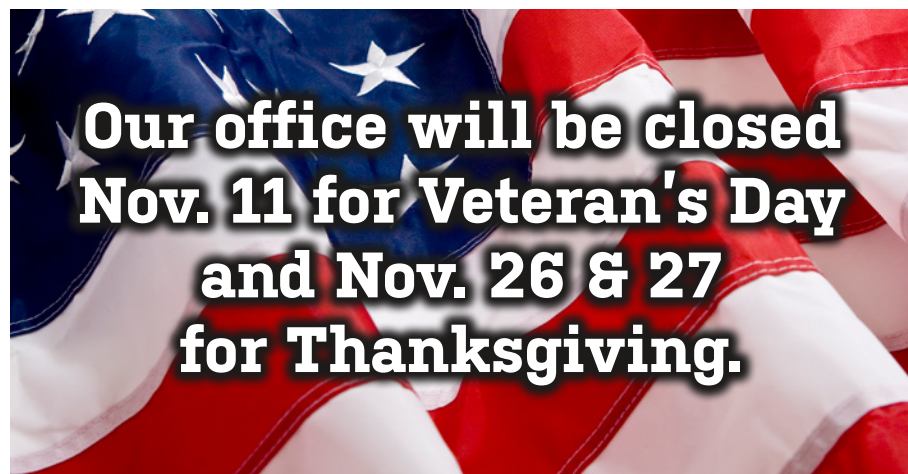
Remember: We do not monitor our Facebook page 24/7. If you are experiencing an outage or have something to report, please contact the cooperative by phone.

2021 Washington Youth Tour Cancelled

Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA) has been working closely with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Youth Tour Directors regarding the 2021 Youth Tour. The Montana cooperatives have made the decision to cancel the 2021 Washington Youth Tour amid concerns over COVID-19. MECA and North Dakota Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NDAREC) take over 30 high school students from Montana and North Dakota to Washington, D.C. each

summer to learn about history, leadership and public policy.

"We are saddened to make this announcement, but the health, safety and well-being of our delegates are our primary concern," says Jami Propp, Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative Member Service Manager. "Youth Tour includes over 1500 students from across the United States. With large crowds common at the most historically significant places in the nation, it is a risk we are simply not willing to take." ■



Operating report

Year to date:	August 2019	August 2020
Total miles energized	2,103	2,104
Total number of meters	6,154	6,210
Kilowatt-hours sold	180,606,277	174,108,925
Revenue	\$18,884,571	\$18,451,009
Total expenses	\$18,139,853	\$17,857,170
Operating margins	\$3,253,073	\$1,152,670

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 Journeyman Lineman
- 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
- 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