

Sheridan Electric Cooperative

LiveWire

Sheridan Electric Cooperative - Medicine Lake, Mont. 406-789-2231

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The power of one voice

BY SCOTT WESTLUND

Have you ever made a stand for what you believe when all odds were against you? Have you ever stood up amongst many with a different opinion and stated your own? Have you ever come up against overwhelming opposition and yet were able to turn the direction by just asking why?

The power of one voice is continually underestimated.

It boils down to putting fear aside to state an objective, and yet still have the capacity to listen when opposition speaks.

One voice can determine a direction, it can determine an election, and it can stimulate the discussion to ask why.

Your cooperative is filled with many “one voice” members who belong to a democratic process. This process is the cornerstone of the cooperative way, and will be far into the future.

It is these voices of the cooperative who assist the board of directors in governing the cooperative and its many levels of operation to make the right decisions when needed.

Your annual meeting is scheduled for October. During this meeting, you are exposed to the board members and the staff, and participate in a business meeting. This meeting is composed of many parts of the cooperative that need your voice to be heard.

Last year was slightly different; we made a change in the program and included K-5 children to sing for the membership. On this particular year, I saw many different faces attending the meeting to see their children perform.

We need these folks to continue to attend the meeting and be involved in the democratic process that depends

on their voices to be heard. These folks are the future of our cooperative.

Again, we will have children sing for the membership. In addition, we will do some new things this year, to stimulate interest in our legacies and hear their voices.

First, we will start to offer bucket truck rides for the membership and children of the cooperative. These folks will go through a complete harnessing as they experience the view from the perspective of a lineworker.

This meeting will offer games and prizes for the membership and children. This idea was brought to me by *continued on page 4*



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Jamie Ator who made the argument that we need to make changes this year.

We will also offer a \$50 bill credit to a long-term member who brings a member guest who has never been to the annual meeting. We would only be able to offer one \$50 credit to that member who brings the guest, even if he or she brings more than one new member.

We will also appoint two couples as hosts and hostesses. These folks will assist with the prizes, games and needs of the annual meeting. This will give them a unique perspective of their cooperative and what it takes to be involved. We will recognize these couples at the meeting and award them with a prize for their efforts.

The goal is clear. We are attempting to blend the voices of the past with the voices of our future, and this includes the age groups of families with children.

This younger generation is an important part of the foundation that will be the future. It would probably surprise most folks that people of the 18 to 25 age group will not even read this article. These folks are social media-driven with devices that keep them in touch with the world, so we have made some changes in this area as

well. These changes include the addition of Facebook and a new, fresher website; we have started to turn the corner on stimulating involvement, and with fantastic results.

This 69th 2016 annual meeting will be a reboot of the past history of the cooperative. We will revisit the past files to see what they looked like in the 1950s, and structure what we can to emulate that. We will target the “voices” of the past, blended with the future, to help us define the path going forward. The value of inviting our legacies into the fold will give our long-term members a chance to talk about where the cooperative came from.

The power of the one voice is still realized in the members who saw the lights come on. The voices we look to now are the power of the generation to come.

If you are a long-term member who knows the past, talk to a new member about the possibilities of the future. Invite them to the meeting this fall, show them what you have done in the past 69 years by exposing them to the inner workings of their cooperative. Stimulate the interest, and talk about the democratic process that supports the power of “one voice” that has built this cooperative to what you see today.

We look forward to seeing what transpires this fall and hope for the best. ■

Nominating Committees to meet in July

VOTE

Each year, Sheridan Electric Cooperative holds Nominating Committee meetings in three alternating districts. This year, the seats up for election are in Districts 2, 3 and 5.

It is the membership’s responsibility to contact the committee members if they have a nomination they would like to see on the ballot.

The current director for District 2 is Warren Overgaard. This district includes the area in and around Westby. The committee members for District 2 are Terry Ruggles (406-385-2327) and Russell Samuelson (406-385-2636).

The current director for District 3 is Robert Rust. This

district serves the areas in North Dakota. The committee members for District 3 are Ron Dahle (701-834-2426) and Roger Bloom (701-834-2404).

The current director for District 5 is Rick Hansen. This district covers the area from Culbertson to Bainville, north to the Sheridan County line. The committee members for District 5 are Rick Davidson (406-963-2582) and Dave Clark (406-963-2523).

If you have questions pertaining to the district in which you or a possible candidate might live, please contact Sheridan Electric at 406-789-2231.

Being nominated by the committee is one of two ways to get on the printed ballot. If the committees have already met and you would like to get on the printed ballot, then you will have to go through the petition process. A petition must be signed by at least 15 members, and delivered to the co-op five days before the annual meeting. Nominations will also be taken from the floor during the meeting. Please contact Sheridan Electric if you need more information or need assistance with a nomination. ■

Friendly reminder about grain drying



Crops are in the ground and soon we will be up against grain drying. If you see a need that will require work installing new grain drying, please get hold of us now versus later. During the grain drying season, we get multiple requests and have trouble getting to them all. Again, if you see a need, call now and get on the list for completion. ■

Home Energy Audit

Simple things that your customers can do around the home to save energy.



QUICK TIPS

- 1 Check for air leaks
- 2 Use less heated water
- 3 Use energy efficient lighting
- 4 Program the thermostats

Outlet and Switches
Air can escape from behind your customers' outlets and light switches causing up to a 5% heat loss in homes. Add foam draft stoppers behind the outlets and switch covers to reduce heat loss through these areas.

Lighting
Replace old incandescent bulbs with energy efficient CFLs or LED bulbs.

Programmable Thermostats
Customers can save 2% of their energy use per degree that they drop their thermostat. Program the thermostat 10° lower when leaving the house or while sleeping.

Door Weatherstripping
If your customers see daylight coming from under the exterior doors they're losing heating and cooling. Install a threshold or use a door draft snake to block the air from escaping.

Attic Ducts
Customers can lose up to 40% of their heating and cooling through improperly insulated ductwork. Insulate with special insulation with at least an R-6 rating. Use metal-foil-faced tape or mastic-based duct sealant.

Windows
Customers should insulate around their windows or install a window film insulating kit to prevent heat loss.

Faucets
Washing a sink full of dishes with a standard 2.2 GPM (gallons per minute) faucet aerator can use about 20 gallons of water. By switching to a more efficient 1.5 GPM aerator your customers can reduce the amount of heated water used while rinsing dishes. Always use cold water whenever possible.

Showerheads
Some showerheads use up to 50 gallons of hot water per 10 minute shower. Switching to a more efficient showerhead (2.5 GPM or less) can save your customers at least half of the amount of energy required to heat the water used for their shower.

Furnace Filter
Your customers should remember to change their furnace filter every 4-6 weeks during the colder seasons to keep the furnace running as clean and efficient as possible.

Recently, Jamie Ator ran across this interesting information that was mailed with the bills. It includes many helpful tips on how to save a few dollars.



Lighting to be given away

In the spirit of efficiency, Sheridan Electric Cooperative is giving away compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) each month. Each month's winner will receive 24 new CFL bulbs. A CFL produces the same amount of light for less than half the cost. The bulbs also produce about 75 percent less heat, so they are safer to operate. They can also last up to 10 times longer than the standard incandescent bulb. You could save \$80 a year by switching to CFLs throughout your home!

So this month, take a moment to complete and mail the coupon. Maybe you'll be this month's lucky winner and save on your energy costs. Good luck! ■

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Account number: _____

*Congratulations to **Gary and Loren McKinnon** for winning this month's light giveaway.*



Sheridan Electric Cooperative STATISTICAL REPORT

	April 2015	April 2016
Total miles of line	2,849	2,833
Consumers billed	3,902	3,908
Kilowatt-hours purchased	10,446,127	9,457,010
Kilowatt-hours sold	9,540,503	8,795,716
Average KWH per residential consumer	984	949
Average bill per residential consumer	\$87.87	\$95.84
Cost of purchased power	\$434,119	\$433,332
Margins year to date	\$1,646,612	\$1,812,443

LINE DEPARTMENT STATS

	April 2015	April 2016
Weather	2	15
Age or deterioration	0	0
Animals and public	3	2
Power supplier	0	0
Equipment	3	4

SUMMARY OF WORK COMPLETED

	April 2015	April 2016	Year to date
Pole installations	10	13	65
New construction	18,936 ft.	8,274 ft.	30,420 ft.
Miles driven	29,472	22,184	89,812
New accounts	9	7	22
Accounts retired	0	4	14

SHERIDAN ELECTRIC CO-OP

Medicine Lake, Mont. 59247
406-789-2231

TRUSTEES

- Wayne Deubner, President..... Brockton, Mont.
- Rod Smith, V. President..... Dagmar, Mont.
- Rob Rust, Sec. Alkabo, N.D.
- Kerrey Heppner, Treas. Plentywood, Mont
- Alan Danelson, Trustee Scobey, Mont.
- Andrew Dethman, Trustee Brockton, Mont.
- Rick A. Hansen, Trustee Froid, Mont.
- Warren Overgaard, Trustee Westby, Mont.
- Harlan Skillingberg, Trustee..... Plentywood, Mont.

EMPLOYEES

- Rick Knick Manager
- Riley Tommerup Office Mgr./Accountant
- Scott Westlund Marketing/Member Service Manager
- Pam Lund Billing Supervisor
- Doris Wivholm Bookkeeper/Billing Specialist
- Jamie Ator Accountant
- Lisa Salvevold Office Assistant
- Torie Waller Work Order Clerk
- Max Beach Line Superintendent
- Kory Opp Staking Engineer
- Nick Oelkers Staking Tech
- Tim Ereth Operator/Utilityman
- Josh Johnson Electrical General Foreman
- Tom Hinds Electrical Foreman
- Travis Benton Journeyman Electrician
- Tristan Ereth Apprentice Electrician
- Ronnie Gillett Journeyman Lineman
- Dan Roeder Journeyman Lineman
- Shawn Sansaver Journeyman Lineman
- Josh Marottek Apprentice Lineman
- Bill Baillie Apprentice Lineman
- Josh Ming Apprentice Lineman
- Jim Bakken Material Specialist
- Vicky Haddix Custodian

OUTAGES • CALL 24 HOURS A DAY

406-789-2231

OFFICE HOURS: 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Monday through Friday

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative