

Sheridan Electric Cooperative

# LiveWire

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

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## Alena's story

BY SCOTT WESTLUND

I received a call from a member who described a bonding moment with her granddaughter as a moment in time she will never forget.

It started with a visit to Grandma's house, where they decided to spend some time in the camper rather than in the house. You see, Alena loved the sound of the wind and the weather through the thin walls of the camper while

visiting with her grandma.


On this blustery day, Grandma asked what was wrong with Alena, as she was very quiet. Alena's response was quick and to the point. She said she was bored, but relished just relaxing with Grandma.

Grandma said there are times when your mind just needs to rest, so let's write a poem about this. This is the poem Alena and her

grandma wrote.

Stories like this really bring us back to ground level with all that is going on in the world. This bonding of a grandma and grandchild produced a poem about something as simple as resting our minds. The poem tells me that quiet time is just as important as busy time.

Busy times do not always produce the bonding that we see in this story, and it dispels big city illusions in favor of the quiet of the high plains.

Well done, Alena. 



### Alena's Poem

*Now and then  
We need time  
To stop and rest  
And clear our mind*

*We take:  
Time to eat  
Time to play  
Time for school  
And chores every day*

*So take some time  
Give your mind a rest  
Then now and then  
You'll feel blessed*

## LED lighting, the wave of the future

It looks as if LED lighting is the new wave of lighting for the future. LEDs are a product that your cooperative has started to give away at the monthly drawings, and will shortly begin selling to anyone interested.

For years, a display sat at the front of the cooperative, promoting CFLs (compact fluorescent lamps),

comparing them to incandescent bulbs of the past and sharing information about annual savings.

We will be investing in the same sort of display that will make the comparisons and describe the dollars spent/saved by converting to LEDs.

Where will we be in another 10 years or so? What will lighting look like then, and what will the display



look like with another product to compare to LEDs?

Come see the display in February and let us show you how to save with LEDs. ■

## The value of creating relationships

BY SCOTT WESTLUND

To have a smooth-flowing cooperative model, one must create relationships at all levels of the organization. A relationship is defined as dialogue between two parties to form one common direction.

When the cooperative was started, the original foundation was an "idea." This idea blossomed into what you see today, but not without forming relationships, with rural Montana, to bring it to life.

Today is no different from that beginning. Every day, relationships are built between the cooperative team, membership, vendors, and outside organizations. These are all based on communication between all entities, to form a direction.

We thrive in the exchange of information between staff and the membership to build a better cooperative. Since you are the owners, we want to know what we can do to improve by soliciting ideas to put into action. In the past few years, I have seen some great

advances in performance due to the input of the membership and new employees.

Relationships with vendors are a cost-savings and top service relationship. In most cases, good communication can save money, and even in some cases we may spend a little more, but the top service is what we desire.

Relationships with the membership are a nonstop activity that we employ. We are out there talking to the membership, we visit with them, we assist in solving any problems they may have (even when they are not related to electric service), we help them save money on their electric bills, and, yes, we ask the tough questions. I have found that by asking the tough questions, you can glean the solvable problem from the conversation. By confronting topics of controversy, we have found that, if addressed quickly, the outcomes are normally better than not addressed at all. Even the issues that are volatile will

have a better outcome if confronted promptly.

This last statement is the core of the cooperative values. It is the membership that drives the cooperative through the board of directors. We only react to the direction given, based on the relationships we have built. I have said it before and will say again: Sheridan Electric is not a poles and wires company, but rather, it is a customer service company that just happens to use poles and wires.

We have formed many relationships through the years, and most are good ones, with the communication lines always open to form new ones.

Take the time to build a relationship with your cooperative. We would love to hear from all of you, show you the headquarters, see you at the annual meetings, and become involved in the future. ■

# Unclaimed capital credits

Following are former Sheridan Electric Cooperative members with unclaimed capital credits. Checks were mailed to the last known address for an account based on information provided by the members, but may have been returned as undeliverable by the post office.

If you know the address or location of any of the following individuals or businesses, please contact Sheridan Electric Cooperative at 406-789-2231. Thanks for your help.

Abrahamson, Randy	Equilon Pipeline Co. LLC	Jarvis, Patricia	Pfliger, William
Arion, Connie	Farley, Dave C.	Jennifer, Lee and Douglas, Ross	Picard, Patricia
AWR Home Dem. Club, Attn: J. Walikonis	Ferrellgas	Johanson, Tracy and Betty	Poplar River Days Celebration
Blackstone Cable LLC	Fisher, Janis and Gary	Kirk, Lee	Prairie Energy Inc., Attn: RIMCO
Boyd, Rose A.	Flying J Oil & Gas	Klaus, Kenneth and Lillian	Richards, Travis and Patricia
Bryla, E.S.	Francis Rattling Thunder & Freda Christian	Laurie, Paula	Round Face, Vickie
Buck Elk, Robert	Frederick, David	Levad, Steve and Barbara	Round Face Jr., Martin
Burlington Resources	Furst Eng. Inc.	Link Energy LLP	Ruth Walking Eagle & Clarence Walking Eagle
Bushman, Ron	Germany Oper. Co.	LycO Opr. Company	Schmidt, Kris
Carter, Sue	Ginn, W. and Nancy	MCII Gen. Partnership	Shanks Farms Inc.
Cartwright Corp.	Gulf Canada (GCRL Energy)	McCall, Thomas	Smith, Jodie L.
Columbus Energy LLC	Hagberg Farm	Miller, Hilda	Smith, Becky
Craig, Ronald and Jackolyn	Hagen, Mavis	Miller, Dana	Tyrrell, Dennis and Christa
Cromwell, Chad	Halland, James and Tanya	Mrs. R.W. Christianson	Wascana Pipeline Inc.
Daarud, La D.	Halvorson, Boyd	Murphy Exploration & Production	White, Ron
Dahl, Merle	Harshbarger, Ralph	Murphy Oil USA Inc.	Wittkpp, John
Damm, Bert A.	Headington Resources Inc.	Northstar Gas Co.	WJW Operating ■
Dept. of Natural Resources	Hopkins Stevens, Shannon	Ordahl Farms Inc., Attn: Gene Ordahl	
Dodge, Bill	Hosko, William L.	Panther Creek Res. LLC	
Dominion Exploration & Production Inc.	Hughes, James and Pamela		

## Verbal de-escalation and active shooter training

In October, Sheridan Electric sponsored the second round of verbal de-escalation and active shooter training on the western side of the service territory.

Involved in this round were the Scobey school, Scobey law enforcement, border patrol and a school outside of the territory, Hindsdale.

Chad Sheehan, the founder of the program, did another fantastic job helping people understand how they can survive an event of this nature.

I saw Chad in Great Falls in early

2017 during a training we had there through the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association.

I was so impressed at the content, the way Chad engaged his class, and his straight-forward demeanor that we had to bring him to our service territory for the schools. It was apparent that not only the schools needed this type of training, but also local businesses, banks, law enforcement and schools outside of our service territory.

It was good content that we were glad made such an impression to our

local service territory.

I made a comment during the last meeting in Scobey that this is a project to teach people to protect our young folks. Chad informed the class that he has a segment that trains children this content as well, only taught at their level.

It is my hope that we can bring back Chad's program to teach our kids what to do in the event of a problem like the one we are talking about. ■

# Lighting to be given away

In the spirit of efficiency, Sheridan Electric Cooperative is giving away light-emitting diodes (LEDs) each month. Each month's winner will receive 12 new LED bulbs.

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 **Anita Bjorgen** for winning this month's light giveaway.*



## Sheridan Electric Cooperative STATISTICAL REPORT

	October 2016	October 2017
Total miles of line	2,833	2,831
Consumers billed	3,086	3,103
Kilowatt-hours purchased	10,420,574	10,244,523
Kilowatt-hours sold	9,579,716	9,272,023
Average KWH per residential consumer	984	855
Average bill per residential consumer	\$99.09	\$90
Cost of purchased power	\$569,677	\$589,517
Margins year to date	\$2,867,412	\$3,428,879

### LINE DEPARTMENT STATS

	October 2016	October 2017
Weather	8	13
Age or deterioration	5	3
Animals and public	1	1
Power supplier	0	0
Equipment	1	0

### SUMMARY OF WORK COMPLETED

	October 2016	October 2017	Year to date
Pole installations	2	9	102
New construction	7,178ft	382ft	72,156ft
Miles driven	22,837	23,708	261,003
New accounts	11	5	46
Accounts retired	4	0	9

### 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.  
 Harlan Skillingberg, Trustee ..... Plentywood, Mont.

#### EMPLOYEES

Rick Knick .....Manager  
 Riley Tommerup..... Office Mgr./Accountant  
 Scott Westlund.....Marketing/Member Service Manager  
 Pam Lund ..... Billing Supervisor  
 Jamie Ator ..... Accountant  
 Lisa Salvevold .....Office Assistant  
 Tasha Ronnes..... Customer Service Representative  
 Torie Waller ..... Work Order Clerk  
 Kory Opp .....Line Superintendent  
 Bryan Lenz ..... Line Foreman  
 Nick Oelkers.....Staking Tech  
 Tim Ereth..... Operator/Utilityman  
 Josh Johnson .....Electrical General Foreman  
 Tom Hinds ..... Electrical Foreman  
 Steve Augustine ..... Line Sub Foreman  
 Tristan Ereth .....Apprentice Electrician  
 Ronnie Gillett ..... Journeyman Lineman  
 Dan Roeder ..... Journeyman Lineman  
 Shawn Sansaver..... Journeyman Lineman  
 Josh Marottek ..... Journeyman 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