

Sheridan Electric Cooperative

LiveWire

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

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The equation of a team

BY SCOTT WESTLUND

The internal workings of teamwork are somewhat missed in the large scheme of everyday business. Your cooperative has exceptional members of a team who conduct themselves in a manner that is equal to none.

From the hardest job to fill, the janitor, to the CEO of the cooperative, this team runs as efficiently as anyone can expect. They lean on each other to offset weaknesses they may have and also strengthen their teammates.

It is apparent that we have reached the pinnacle that we have been striving to reach for some time.

We have an excellent group of people who assist with every level of the cooperative model.

Recently, we received a comment from another cooperative commending me on a project that I had been working on.

“Scott, this is awesome – doing something about the problem versus talking about it! Very cool and hats off for your excellent work!”

Now, as flattering and appreciated as this is, I quickly responded by saying that the project was conceived and brought to life by the team at Sheridan Electric Cooperative. Yes, I conducted the

work, but the ideas and input toward the idea made the outcome easy to put into words, create a program and deliver it.

The team created the program. I was just the messenger who delivered it.

These types of things are going on every day at this site. From billing to accounting to the janitor, the team interacts and performs. The support I see at the table every Monday morning at the safety and job discussion meeting shows me what I personally need to know about how the team is performing. These are teammates helping teammates with open, honest discussion about the coming events for the week, and topics from the past week.

Teams of this nature do not come together with the snap of fingers. These things come together through time and a never-ending scenario of accountability. With these components and the correct leadership, you have components to an equation that gives you the outcomes desired.

Much like the team project for which I was praised, it took time and a whole lot of input from everyone to make it come to life. If you look at the couple of examples I have given, you will see the same equation, but with a different topic.

I hope you see the correlation as I do. The equation works.

Change the equation, and havoc reigns. ■

Winter, planning and execution

BY SCOTT WESTLUND

On Valentine's Day, the thermometer read 29 below zero, with another five inches of fresh snow added to the ground. The wind blew all night, obliterating the contours of the long driveway and hiding the depths of the ditches.

This winter was unlike any other year I have experienced in northeastern Montana. October through January were mild, giving the cooperative opportunities to continue work well into normal freeze-up times. Line retirement, line installation, maintenance and full-bore contractor work made up the bulk of well-used work time.

Then February hit, when we saw temperatures as low as 48 below without wind chill.

These are the times when we get inside work done and prepare for construction season all over

again. Ground wires and equipment are tested for safety, trucks are inventoried and cleaned, and inventory ordered, all in preparation for the thaw.

In fact, we spend this slower time to take parts inventories of the two departments (electrician and utility) to continue to have control over your assets. The processes of watching your inventory is critical to any business. Any business that takes this lightly is destined for failure.

This type of brutal winter gives us opportunities that are never wasted, always identified for a task and always capitalized upon.

As a safety standpoint, we are always quick to correct heating problems our service region may face. We receive calls from schools, residents and businesses that run into these problems. Our electrician

team is always ready to stave off the periodic breakdowns of central heat within these entities.

With the temperature 18 below zero, the team was diligently working on projects and were looking forward to at least a few degrees above zero, and then on to spring.

The next few weeks will have us in front of the board, describing our goals for 2019. These goals describe a strategic planning session, as each department describes what accomplishments they hope to reach for the year. Some of these goals are education projects for the schools, construction work plans or internal conversions for the office personnel to use or enhance security.

This is a time for planning. Springtime is a time for implementation. Fall is a time for measuring results. ■

LED conversion work on the rise

BY SCOTT WESTLUND

This past year has seen a substantial increase in LED conversions. Street lights, security lights, schools and school gymnasiums have either been converted or are in the process of conversion.

LEDs (light emitting diodes) are the next evolution in light bulbs. LED is a highly energy-efficient lighting technology, and has the potential to fundamentally change the future of lighting in the United States. Residential LEDs – especially Energy Star-rated products – use at least 75 percent less energy, and last 25 times longer, than incandescent lighting.

If you have any questions about LEDs, give us a call. We have people on staff who can help you. ■

Annual meeting survey results

Recently, Sheridan Electric Cooperative had a request to look into moving the annual meeting date to a summer event. This request was taken to a survey to the membership through a written return ballot, and a Facebook survey.

It was overwhelming to see how many of these came back to leave the annual meeting where it has always been in October.

In regards to the paper ballots, we had 124 people voicing their intent to leave it where it is, and 49 letting us know to move it.

In regards to the Facebook posts for the survey, we saw the same types of results, and at almost the same percentage rates as the paper returns.

It is always our intent to glean what we can from the membership to make these types of events fit what you want.

Thanks to all for your participation.



A changing look at your cooperative

Last spring, while cleaning out the gutters and drains, Rick Knick and Scott Westlund noticed that the large trees that grow in back of the cooperative were leaning, and damaging the roof. They also noticed that several trees were not growing due to the excessive shade from the larger ones.

In January, it was decided to remove these large trees to preserve the roof and to cancel the chance that a high wind would bring these trees down on top of the cooperative.

On a very cold and wintery day in January, the line crew went to work.

Pictured above, the line crew is making this happen.

Great job, fellas. ■



Member search

Every year, Sheridan Electric makes an exhaustive journey to identify members we can no longer locate to return their capital credit checks. These checks were mailed to the last known address, but were returned. If any of these names are familiar, please contact Jamie at (406) 789-2231 so we can get these to the correct people. Thanks for all of your help.

LAST NAME

Boyd, Rose
 Campbell, Heather
 Christianson, Mrs. R.W.
 Clement, Rich and Shirley
 Collins, Billie
 Dahl, Merle
 Damm, Bert A.
 Farley, Dave C.
 First, Kevin
 Fish, Dennis and Patricia
 Garrett, Dale T.
 Hellickson, Albert
 Hohman, Daniel
 Laurie, Paula
 Loans Arrow, Albert F. Jr.
 MacDonald, Alice
 Pence, Daniel
 Richards, Travis and Patricia
 Shields, Caleb
 Young Bear, Dorine
 Zeis, Marty

BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME

Furst Eng. Inc.

Apex Energy LLC
 Blackstone Cable LLC
 Burlington Resources
 Columbus Energy LLC
 Dominion Exp. & Prod. Inc, assigned from Dominion
 Equilon Pipeline Co. LLC
 Ferrellgas
 Germany Oper. Co.
 Hagberg Farm
 Holly Sugar Corp.
 Jacobs Facilities Inc.
 Journey Operating LLC
 Lamar Hunt Trust Estate
 Link Energy LLP
 Lyco Opr. Co.
 Mallard Cablevision LLC
 MCII Gen. Partnership-DBA
 Western Wireless
 Murphy Exp. & Prod. Co.
 Murphy Oil USA Inc.
 Oil Quest Resources Inc.
 Poplar YMCA
 Tipperary Oil & Gas Corp.
 Upton Resources Inc.
 Wascana Pipeline Inc.

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 **Loren Henke** for winning this month's light bulb giveaway.*



Sheridan Electric Cooperative STATISTICAL REPORT

	January 2018	January 2019
Total miles of line	2,831	2,836
Consumers billed	3,098	3,090
Kilowatt-hours purchased	14,647,585	15,758,839
Kilowatt-hours sold	13,872,234	14,793,823
Average KWH per residential consumer	1,974	1,805
Average bill per residential consumer	\$156.23	\$145
Cost of purchased power	\$654,316	\$779,573
Margins year to date	\$252,203	\$281,607

LINE DEPARTMENT STATS

	January 2018	January 2019
Weather	5	5
Age or deterioration	7	3
Animals and public	0	3
Power supplier	1	0
Equipment	0	0

SUMMARY OF WORK COMPLETED

	January 2018	January 2019	Year to date
Pole installations	1	3	3
New construction	0	0	0
Miles driven	20,160	20,350	20,350
New accounts	0	2	2
Accounts retired	0	1	1

SHERIDAN ELECTRIC CO-OP

Medicine Lake, Mont. 59247
406-789-2231

TRUSTEES

Rod Smith, President Dagmar, Mont.
 Rick A. Hansen, V. President Froid, Mont.
 Rob Rust, Sec. Alkabo, N.D.
 Kerrey Heppner, Treas. Plentywood, Mont.
 Alan Danelson, Trustee Scobey, Mont.
 Andrew Dethman, Trustee Brockton, Mont.
 Harlan Skillingberg, Trustee Plentywood, Mont.
 Jody Lagerquist, Trustee Westby, Mont.
 Sherl Shanks, Trustee Brockton, Mont.

EMPLOYEES

Rick Knick Manager
 Riley Tommerup Office Mgr./Accountant
 Scott Westlund Marketing/Member Service Manager
 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
 Dan Roeder Journeyman Lineman
 Shawn Sansaver Journeyman Lineman
 Josh Marottek Journeyman Lineman
 Josh Ming Journeyman Lineman
 Bill Baillie Apprentice Lineman
 Nolen Drury Apprentice Lineman
 Tristan Ereth Apprentice Electrician
 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