

Sheridan Electric Cooperative

LiveWire

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

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Annual meeting highlights

BY SCOTT WESTLUND

The 2019 Sheridan Electric Cooperative annual meeting can be summed up in one word – wow! Oct. 12 brought the membership of Sheridan Electric together in a meeting that had an abundance of changes designed by the employees.

From the layout to the cooperative education to the bill credit, we had more than double the voting members at the meeting than last year, at 222.

Miss Montana Mo Shea, Rocky Erickson, the Washington, D.C., Youth Tour winners (Kali Edge and Ashtyn Ator), and our first Youth Leadership Council recipient (Walker Ator) graced our meeting with uplifting and memorable speeches that commemorated the

changes and goals of the employees of the cooperative.

Jamie Ator exclaimed that we should continue this trend and target 300 voting members for next year's meeting.

So, the wheels are turning to enhance the meeting to hit even higher levels, with the employees setting the goals.

This was a memorable meeting for me, as I saw all of the moving parts come together into one fluid meeting. Yes, there were a few issues that were unplanned, but when they came up, the employee group and board members rolled with the issue, and gracefully made it the best they could.

They did a wonderful job. ■



Our commitment to community

BY SCOTT WESTLUND

The key to any community is the school within its limits. These schools drive the legacies we put into their care to continue to support the community into the future. With this thought and by focusing on one of our guiding principles, “concern for the community,” Sheridan Electric Cooperative strives to make a difference when these institutions are in need.

The majority of my time, 70 percent, is spent on the road within the service territory. Of that 70 percent, 75 percent is spent at the schools within the same territory.

So, what does Sheridan Electric do at the schools?

About five years ago, the board of directors took a significant change in direction and decided to invest more heavily than in the past into the youth of our region. This investment

was designed to build leaders, and a solid workforce, for the future.

Now, this last statement sounds easy, but it takes many years of one-on-one dialogue with the administrations to build the right relationships. These relationships culminate into helping each other attain each other’s goals.

To further define the goals, let’s look at each entity, the cooperative and the school district.

The school district has resources from the cooperative that it can call on at any time. These resources can be in the form of monetary donations, teaching interview skills, visiting classrooms to teach life skills, teaching the history of cooperatives and so on. Sometimes, we spend time with administrations just talking about challenges that each have with situations that we both share.

In other words, we

build relationships.

The cooperative realizes future leaders and workforce development. We find this as a unique opportunity to get our eyes on future board members, CEO’s, office managers, accountants, lineworkers and electricians. And if you are really focused on this goal, you are looking at a lot of potential leadership and workforce for the future within the 10 schools.

With this intense work within our schools for the past four or five years, we are starting to see the fruits of our efforts.

Scholarship-supported young people are starting to come back and teach in our schools. Apprentice lineworkers and electricians are starting to come to work for us or other entities, and young employees are starting to look toward the future as future leadership for

this cooperative.

As we spend the time teaching our history and story, we are building future members of Sheridan Electric Cooperative, and we are also making an impact/impression on young folks in this region.

The relationships built with our schools are fragile unless they are built on solid ground and through time.

Trust and respect are the foundation. I trust and respect all of the administration in all of the 10 schools within our area.

While I write this, I am reminded of our Bainville relationship. I can almost bet a dinner that I will get the same welcoming response from that administrator every time. When I call and ask for the superintendent, Renee Rasmussen answers the phone with, "Hello, Scott, what can we do for Sheridan Electric today?"

This is one of many examples of the great relationships with

our schools and the talent within its walls.

Our primary focus is seeing and identifying future leaders within our service territory. These young folks are within organizations like BPA, FFA, student councils or candidates for the Washington, D.C., Youth Tour. They are the

scholarship winners, and they are the lineworker and electrician selections for secondary education to possibly work in our region. They are our future for this area. And it cannot be done without the experienced people who operate our schools. These are the warriors and front-line teachers who make it all happen. ■



Sheridan Electric teaches youth about cooperatives

BY SCOTT WESTLUND

The month of September saw Sheridan Electric teach a class about the history of cooperatives, what they represent to northeastern Montana, and how they will be a part of the future. We have found that the co-op story has faded through time and is in need of some extensive time to reinvigorate it.

The lack of knowledge of this business model in the region prompted the employees of Sheridan Electric to take education to the next level. Seeing the need to teach co-op history – past, present and future – prompted two

employees to get in front of sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders to teach.

Based on a 10-year plan, this age group will be the next membership of the co-op in 10 years. So, if you are a sixth-grader today, by the time you are an eight-grader, you will have seen the program three times. When you graduate, you should have a good working knowledge about co-ops and what they represent to the region.

These are the future members.

In addition to the time with these folks, they learn how to introduce themselves in a professional manner.

They also learn how to address a group with the findings of their active group during this time with them.

Not only are we looking for future members, we are also looking for future leaders, and we are looking for future employees. Sheridan Electric Cooperative is committed to our young folks in the region, as well as the communities. We see the opportunity to do more than scholarships for graduating seniors and have taken an even deeper step in teaching younger folks about this special business model. ■

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. ■

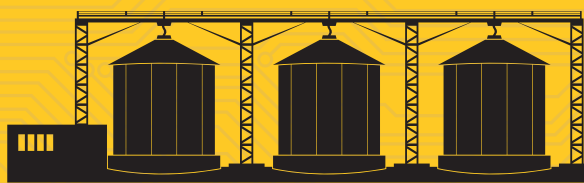
Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Account number: _____

*Congratulations to **Lowell and Cindy Young** for winning this month's light bulb giveaway.*



Sheridan Electric Cooperative STATISTICAL REPORT

	September 2018	September 2019
Total miles of line	2,836	2,835
Consumers billed	3,082	3,131
Kilowatt-hours purchased	9,916,369	9,823,966
Kilowatt-hours sold	9,107,253	9,078,182
Average KWH per residential consumer	985	863
Average bill per residential consumer	\$100	\$104.61
Cost of purchased power	\$511,294	\$513,844
Margins year to date	\$2,831,895	\$3,310,537

LINE DEPARTMENT STATS

	September 2018	September 2019
Weather	7	23
Age or deterioration	3	3
Animals and public	8	9
Power supplier	0	0
Equipment	0	0

SUMMARY OF WORK COMPLETED

	September 2018	September 2019	Year to date
Pole installations	18	5	90
New construction	2,013 ft.	772 ft.	48,269 ft.
Miles driven	23,113	21,625	193,977
New accounts	5	0	0
Accounts retired	0	0	0

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.
Sheri Shanks, Trustee Brockton, Mont.

EMPLOYEES

Rick Knick Manager
Riley Tommerup Office Mgr./Accountant
Scott Westlund Marketing/Member Service Manager
Jamie Ator Accountant
Lisa Salveold Office Assistant
Tasha Roness 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
Rod Luft Warehouse/Utility
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