

Nominating Committee to meet in March



Franzen



Schmierer

The Nominating Committee will meet Wednesday, March 2, at Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative's (LYREC) office. The purpose of the Nominating Committee is to select candidates for the board of trustees.

The Nominating Committee will consist of two members from District 3 and District 4. The committee will nominate one or more candidates for District 3 and District 4. The present trustees holding seats in these districts are Tim Franzen, District 3, and Dennis Schmierer, District 4.

Nominating Committee members are:

- Representing District 3 – Joy Buxbaum and Scott Sult
- Representing District 4 – Trey Bloesser and Matt Ler

If you are a member of LYREC, reside in District 3 or 4 and are interested in becoming a candidate for the board of trustees, contact one of the Nominating Committee members and ask to be considered for nomination.

If you have a joint membership, either member on the account can run for the board of trustees seat. A joint membership is entitled to one vote at any meeting of the cooperative. ■



Nelson

Youth Tour essay winner named

Drae Nelson, a student at Bainville High School and the son of Dennis and Tami Nelson, has been selected to represent Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative on the Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., in June. Drae is actively involved through extracurricular activities, such as FFA, cross-country, basketball, track, honor society and as student council treasurer. Drae is also an active volunteer in his community.

The Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., is more than a trip to the nation's capital to sightsee. It is a prominent event in which thousands of high school students from across the United States join to gain an understanding of our nation's history and the freedoms we enjoy, and the many costs of those freedoms.

The tour is designed to provide an opportunity for outstanding rural young people to better understand the value of rural electrification. It familiarizes youth with the historic and political environment of our nation's capital through firsthand looks at monuments, historically significant national sites and government buildings.

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative believes in investing in today's youth. We are investing in our - and your - future. We know we have the brightest students right here in our state, and we want to give them the opportunity to experience the past, present and future of our country.

Congratulations, Drae! ■



Scholarship offered by co-op

Basin Electric Power Cooperative (BEPC) is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to a Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) member's dependent. The applicant must be a student who is enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time graduate or undergraduate course of study at an accredited, two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school.

Scholarship recipients are selected based on academic record; leadership and participation in school and community activities; honors; work experience; a statement of education and career goals; and an outside appraisal. To apply, complete the required criteria and the scholarship application, which can be obtained at www.lyrec.coop.

The BEPC applications are due Feb. 11. Please send the application to LYREC, Attn: Jami Propp, P.O. Box 1047, Sidney MT 59270. ■



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Five reasons we love serving our members

by **Anne Prince**

February may be the shortest month, but it's packed with special observances like Presidents Day, Black History Month and Valentine's Day, in addition to a host of unofficial "national" days you've probably never heard about, like "National Tater Tot Day." But they all have something in common. They were created to draw attention to a particular issue or theme.

Valentine's Day may seem like an observance originally created by a greeting card company, but over time, it's become a widely celebrated day generating millions of dollars spent on flowers, candy and greeting cards professing our love. But Valentine's Day isn't just for the lovebirds. It's also the perfect time to let our friends, family, co-workers and other special people in our lives know we care about them - with or without a store-bought greeting card.

So, in that vein, we've created our list of top five reasons why we love serving you, the members of Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC).

1. **We love serving our members, because without you, the co-op wouldn't exist.** Our purpose is to provide you with reliable, responsible and safe electricity. Simply put, LYREC exists to serve you. That's why we were formed in 1937 - to bring power to our local area when for-profit utilities would not.
2. **You enable us to complete our mission by supporting our efforts to give back.** A major part of our mission is to serve our community and look after the greater good. With your assistance, we're able to help the most vulnerable members of our community through food and coat drives and other programs, like Operation Round Up, that help nonprofit and community organizations thrive in our community.
3. **Members of our co-op also serve on the board of directors.** They provide guidance for setting co-op priorities and helping make big decisions. Because our board members live in the area, they're able to serve as the pulse of the larger community and identify immediate and long-term needs. The broader co-op membership provides helpful input through their vote on director elections and by weighing in on co-op and community issues.
4. **You help us get it right. LYREC members are great about keeping us in the know.** We do our best to avoid power outages, but Mother Nature can occasionally throw us a curveball;

our members are quick to report any power disruptions and are patient as our crews work to safely restore power. We know outages are frustrating, and your support, as we work through storms, means so much to our employees. We also appreciate your feedback. Your opinions are critical for the co-op's success, and we thank you for that.

5. **You and other LYREC members make up the community we serve.** And for us, it's all about community. Our employees live and work here, too, and care about our community the same way you do. We're invested and work to help it thrive. That's why LYREC donates to local charities, schools and groups. It's also why we invest in economic development, and why you'll see our employees volunteering at local schools and other charitable and community endeavors.

As a co-op, our mission is to enhance the quality of life in our community and look after its long-term interests. We love serving our members and our local community, and just like you, want to see it continue to thrive. ■

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

About 30% of a home's heating energy is lost through inefficient windows. Caulk and weatherstrip all windows to seal air leaks.

When running your home heating system, lock all operable windows to ensure the tightest seal possible.

Source: Dept. of Energy



Shut the Door on Energy Waste.



Did you know **25% to 40%** of energy used to heat and cool your home is wasted through air leaks? Seal all exterior doors with weatherstripping to minimize energy waste.

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Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer. ■

Operating report

Year to date:	November 2020	November 2021
Total miles energized	2,104	2,127
Total number of meters	6,225	6,221
Kilowatt-hours sold	233,310,003	254,246,844
Revenue	\$24,881,193	\$26,684,662
Total expenses	\$24,128,661	\$25,468,019
Operating margins	\$1,408,905	\$2,265,946

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TRUSTEES

Allen Thiessen	President
Greg Rauschendorfer	Vice President
Dennis Schmierer	Secretary/Treasurer
Colin Gartner	Trustee
Tim Franzen	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	Customer Service Representative
Chris Hillesland	Chief Operations Officer
Rich Gorde	Journeyman Lineman
Eric McPherson	System Controller
Kevin Goff	Operations Assistant
Kelly Keyser	Operations Manager
Aaron Eide	Journeyman Lineman
Bryan Franck	Journeyman Lineman
Jesse Obergfell	Journeyman Lineman
Blade Jankovsky	Journeyman Lineman
Tanner Roth	Journeyman Lineman
Ryder Peterson	Journeyman Lineman
Cole Jankovsky	Journeyman Lineman
Lee Delp	Journeyman Lineman
Preston Long	Apprentice Lineman
Brandon Mueller	Master Electrician
Mike Eberling	Mechanic
Dan Gieser	EMS
Lee Alvstad	Mechanic/EMS
Richard Tremblay	EMS
Bo Kindopp	GIS/Easement Technician
Corey Candee	Chief Information Officer
Jeremy Reese	Information Technology Technician
Edwin Gatzke	Line Locator/Groundsman
Justin King	Warehouse Supervisor

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