

Cooperative halves bills for members in conflicts

Missoula Electric Cooperative (MEC) has found a way to thank their members who are in the armed forces and are serving in Iraq or Afghanistan. Since last July, families of deployed service people serving in hostile environments have been able to have their electricity bills cut in half.

“We didn’t come up with the idea,” said Missoula Electric Trustee Harry La Friniere. “I saw where other electric cooperatives in other parts of the country were giving the discounts so I brought the proposition to the board.”

The discount is only for MEC

members and those seeking it must apply for it and offer evidence of the deployment.

“Those people are putting their lives on the line for us,” La Friniere said. “This is the least we can do for them. Not too many people have taken advantage of the opportunity yet but those who have are very appreciative.”

One military wife wrote to the co-op saying, “Thank you so much for the military discount on our electric bill while my husband was serving in Iraq. That was so thoughtful of you all. We appreciate your support tremendously!”