

Big Skylights



An internal newsletter of the STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

A report from your Chief Executive Officer Dave Wheelihan

July 28, 2005

Statewide managers cover key issues

I recently joined statewide electric cooperative association managers from across the nation to discuss how a wide range of issues may impact electric cooperatives. Among the topics raised in these roundtable discussions by the Rural Electric Statewide Managers Association (RESMA) was renewable energy, the federal energy bill and defined benefit plans. NRECA CEO **Glenn English** and CFC Gov. **Sheldon Peterson** addressed the group. RESMA managers also elected new officers for the coming year. They are: **Mike Williams** of Texas, president; **Dave Wheelihan**, Montana, vice president; and **Fred Braswell**, Alabama, secretary-treasurer.

Flathead Electric hosts NRECA training course

Flathead Electric Cooperative is inviting electric cooperative directors from other Montana co-ops to an NRECA two-day directors training course in Kalispell, September 12 and 13. The training course is titled "Developing Effective Boardroom Decision Making." The 951.2 course, which provides two credits in the director leadership curriculum offered by NRECA, will be offered at one-half of the NRECA rate. The cost is \$350 per participant. It will be held at Flathead Electric Cooperative, 2510 US Highway 2 East, in Kalispell.

Space is limited and registration should be made by Friday, August 19. Registration can be made by contacting **Bev McGuire** at Flathead Electric Cooperative. Her phone number is 751-4444. She can be reached via-e-mail. Her e-mail address is: bev.mcguire@flatheadelectric.com.

Operations Conference draws line personnel

About 65 Montana co-op line superintendents, foremen and other line personnel will gather in Missoula Aug. 29-Sept. 1 for MECA's annual Operations Conference. Missoula Electric Cooperative and Ravalli County Electric will host this year's conference, which will be held at the Holiday Inn Parkside Hotel. **Dave Lopez**, operations manager at Missoula Electric, and **Chet McWhorter**, field engineer at Ravalli County Electric, are the lead organizers of the conference.

At least 50 vendors, a record number, have signed up to display their wares. A total of 24 different courses on a wide variety of line operations topics will be covered at the conference. For more information, contact MECA's **Niki Schultz** at 406-761-8333.

2005 CALENDAR**August**

8 – 10	Office Managers Conference	Dillon, MT
16	Renewable Portfolio Working Group	Great Falls, MT
17	Territorial Integrity Working Group	Great Falls, MT
29 – Sept 1	Operations Conference	Missoula, MT

September

24	Beartooth Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Red Lodge, MT
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October

3 – 6	MECA 44 th Annual Meeting of Members	Great Falls, MT
15	Big Flat Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Malta, MT
15	Sheridan Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Medicine Lake, MT
18-19	Governor's Energy Symposium	Bozeman, MT
19	Valley Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Glasgow, MT
27	Goldenwest Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Wibaux, MT
28	Park Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Livingston, MT

November

2-3	Basin Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Bismarck, ND
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