

# Big Skylights



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

A report from your Chief Executive Officer Dave Wheelihan

May 12, 2005

## Energy audit workshop draws good turnout

Fourteen Montanans from 11 Montana electric co-ops, two North Dakotans, two people from Wyoming, two from Alaska and one Washingtonian attended MECA's Small Business Energy Audit workshop this week in Fort Benton. The 2 1/2 – day workshop was conducted by NRECA's **Jim Heritage**. Costs of the workshop for Montana co-op employees were partially subsidized by MECA through its education and training program budget.

## Flathead Electric members reelect four directors

All four incumbents have been reelected to the board of trustees for Flathead Electric Cooperative. Incumbents reelected were **Karl Schrade, George Taylor, Paul Holland** and **Earl Messick**. The election results were announced April 27 after the April 22 deadline for submitting mail-in ballots. Sixteen percent of the 44,500 mailed ballots mailed to the membership were cast. The elected trustees will hold office for three-year terms with the exception of **George Taylor** who will complete the two-year balance of **Bruce Measure's** three-year term. Mr. Measure had resigned to accept a position as a Montana delegate on the Northwest Power and Conservation Council.

Immediately following the announcement of trustee election results, Flathead Electric trustees nominated and elected board officers. **Jay Downen** was elected to serve as president. **Alan Ruby** was elected vice president and **Paul Holland** was elected secretary/treasurer.

## Job Market

McCone Electric Co-op., Inc. is currently seeking a qualified applicant for a lineman position. The co-op prefers a certified journeyman lineman or an applicant with line work experience. Applicants should be familiar with overhead and underground construction, be able to operate diggers and bucket trucks, hot sticking, rubber gloving, transmission and substations. The successful applicant must possess a valid MT CDL license (or be able to obtain one within 90 days of the hiring date), join the local I.B.E.W. and reside in Circle, MT.

Applicants must be able to deal with co-workers and consumers in a courteous and professional manner. Excellent benefits package. A McCone Electric Co-op., Inc. job application is required and may be obtained from McCone Electric at PO Box 368, Circle, MT 59215. The application deadline is Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. Call for applications at (406) 485-3430 or e-mail **Larry Schmidt**. ([lschmidt@mcconeelectric.coop](mailto:lschmidt@mcconeelectric.coop)).

## 2005 CALENDAR

### May

14 Hill County Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting Havre, MT

### June

1 Lower Yellowstone REA Annual Meeting Sidney, MT  
 3 McCone Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting Circle, MT  
 3 Southeast Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting Ekalaka, MT  
 9 Fergus Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting Lewistown, MT  
 11 Ravalli County Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting Corvallis, MT  
 18 Fall River Rural Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting Ashton, ID  
 18 – 23 NRECA Youth Tour Washington, D.C.  
 20 – 22 Manager's Group Meeting East Glacier, MT  
 22 Northern Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting Opheim, MT

### July

7 MECA Summer Board Meeting Missoula, MT  
 8 New Employee & Director Training Missoula, MT  
 16 Tongue River Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting Ashland, MT

### August

8 – 10 Office Managers Conference Dillon, MT  
 29 – Sept 1 Operations Conference Missoula, MT