

Big Skylights



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

A report from your Chief Executive Officer Dave Wheelihan

December 28, 2006

Electric co-ops spotlighted at state capitol

Please mark your calendars for Monday, Jan. 8. That is the day of MECA's Electric Cooperative Day in the Capitol Rotunda. Free lunches will be available to all legislators, other key elected officials and capitol staff. Your statewide association and other electric cooperatives will have various displays in the rotunda. It's a great opportunity to tell our story and your attendance can only help in that effort.

Also, MECA will open its legislative office in Helena next week when the Montana Legislature convenes on Jan. 3 for the start of its 90-day legislative session. Our office is located at 633 N. Ewing St.

Gov. Schweitzer to speak at co-op technology event

Montana Gov. **Brian Schweitzer** has accepted our invitation to speak at a Touchstone Energy Cooperatives *New and Emerging Technologies Conference* Feb. 5-8, 2007 in Orlando, Fla. The governor is expected to talk about his vision for development of coal-to-liquids energy resources. To register or obtain more information about the conference, visit Touchstone Energy's website, www.touchstoneenergy.coop.

Condolences

Wilbur Leland Anderson, 74, died Wednesday, December 6, 2006, at the Montana Veterans Home in Columbia Falls. He was born Feb. 8, 1932. Wilbur worked over 30 years in the public power field. He worked for Park Electric Cooperative in Livingston and Hill County Electric and Triangle Telephone Cooperatives in Havre. He was a division manager for Okanogan PUD in Brewster, Wash. for six years. He then returned to Montana to serve 20 years as the general manager of Vigilante Electric Cooperative in Dillon. He retired in 1995. During his years he served as president of the Northwest Public Power Association, secretary of the Western Montana Managers Association, general manager of Western Montana G&T and many, many committees and boards.

He is survived by his wife, Phyllis, of Bigfork; daughters, Roma Krebs and her daughters, Gemma and Hannah of Tucson, Ariz.; Gina (Tom) Harrah of Fountain Hills, Ariz.; and Gail Anderson and her daughters Angelique and Devin of Midland, Texas.

Funeral services were held December 11, 2006 in Bigfork. (The family address is Phyllis Anderson, 116 Ranchetts Road, Bigfork, MT 59911-6012)

Job Market**Engineering/Operations Manager**

Hill County Electric Cooperative (HCE) has an opening for an engineering and operations manager. A bachelor's degree in electrical engineering or related field or a minimum of 10 years of progressively responsible experience in all aspects of electric line construction and maintenance is required. A four-year college degree is preferred and applicants must have supervisory experience. An excellent benefits package is offered. An application and resume with three (3) references should be submitted to: Job Search, P.O. Box 2330, Havre, MT 59501-2330. Interested persons may call 406-394-7804 or 877-394-7804 to obtain an application and complete job description. The review of applications will begin Jan. 3 and will continue until the position is filled.

Journeyman Lineman

McCone Electric Co-op., Inc., is currently seeking a qualified applicant for a journeyman lineman position. The reporting position is in Jordan, Mont. Jordan is an area rich in hunting and fishing opportunities with access to public lands. Jordan is within easy driving distance to Fort Peck Lake, Hell Creek Marina and the famous Missouri Breaks. Mountains and great skiing are only a three-hour drive from this location. The successful applicant must possess a valid Montana commercial driver's Class A license (or be able to obtain one within 90 days of the hiring date) and join the local IBEW union. Successful candidates must pass a pre-employment drug test and physical. The successful applicants must also be able to deal with co-workers and consumers in a courteous and professional manner. McCone Electric has an excellent benefits program. A McCone Electric Co-op., Inc., job application is required and may be obtained from McCone Electric at PO Box 368, Circle, MT 59215. This position will remain open until filled. Call for applications at (406) 485-3430 or e-mail Larry Schmidt (lschmidt@mcconelectric.coop).

CALENDAR**January**

3	2007 Montana Legislative Session Opens	Helena, MT
8	Cooperative Day at the Rotunda	Helena, MT
16	Council of Cooperatives Legislative Dinner	Helena, MT
26	ERO Workshop	Las Vegas, NV

February

5-8	New & Emerging Technologies Conference	Orlando, FL
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March

20-22	NRECA Annual Meeting	Las Vegas, NV
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