

Big Skylights



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

A report from your Chief Executive Officer Dave Wheelihan

October 26, 2006

MECA offers board leadership course

The Education & Training Committee of Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association is pleased to sponsor the NRECA Board Leadership course *Advanced Rate Decisions for Experienced Directors*. It will be taught Monday, Dec. 4, in Great Falls in conjunction with the MECA board's winter board meeting. The course will begin at 8:30 p.m., ending at 4 p.m. The course is one of several designed to be "challenger" workshops on key current issues and are part of The Board Leadership Certificate curriculum. The Board Leadership Certificate can be attained after earning the CCD Certificate and then completing a total of 10 credits from the 900-level course series.

The fee for the course is \$250 per person and includes lunch. A minimum of 20 directors must be registered by the early registration deadline of November 17, 2006 or the course may be cancelled.

This course is designed to enable directors to discuss and understand the complex issues that must be balanced when the board considers equity management and alternative rate philosophies and strategies. Through a set of case studies and problem situations, attendees will analyze and discuss such issues as equity goals, long-range revenue requirements, achieving fairness for multiple rate classes and dealing with proposed rate increases.

Northern Electric hires Midwest co-op leader

A long-time veteran of rural electrification has accepted the position of general manager of Northern Electric Cooperative in Opheim. The newly named manager, **David Reschke**, will assume his duties on Nov. 6. Mr. Reschke has managed electric co-ops in Minnesota and Wisconsin. He is currently self-employed as a management consultant; living in La Crosse, Wis. Mr. Reschke will replace **Larry Tade**, who resigned the position to devote more time to his duties as manager of Valley Electric Cooperative in Glasgow.

Big Flat celebrates 60th anniversary

I enjoyed the opportunity to attend Big Flat Electric Cooperative's annual meeting Oct. 14 in Malta. This year's annual meeting was a special one for Big Flat, which celebrated 60 years of service to its members. Re-elected at the annual meeting were trustees **Tom Depuydt, Duane Klindworth** and **Terri Sims**.

Sheridan Electric
re-elects trustees

Sheridan Electric Cooperative re-elected trustees **William Bakken, Frank Edwards** and **Wayne Deubner** at the co-op's annual meeting Oct. 14 in Medicine Lake. Nearly 300 people attend the annual meeting. MECA's Gary Wiens updated the membership on key legislative issues facing Montana's electric cooperatives in the 2007 session of the Montana Legislature.

Goldenwest
Electric
re-elects trustees

I enjoyed attending Goldenwest Electric Cooperatives' annual meeting on Oct. 26 and updating the members on the key issues we will be facing in the upcoming legislative session in 2007. Trustees **Ray Clouse** and **Robert Makelky** were re-elected.

CALENDAR

October 2006

26	Goldenwest Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	St. Philips, MT
27	Park Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Livingston, MT
31-Nov 1	NRECA Retirement Seminar	Great Falls, MT

December 2006

4	NRECA's Director Course 968.1	
	Advanced Rate Decisions for Experienced Directors	Great Falls, MT
5	CFC Cash Flow Seminar	Great Falls, MT
5-6	MECA Committee Meetings	Great Falls, MT
6	MECA Winter Board Meeting	Great Falls, MT
6	MECA's Annual Holiday Banquet	Great Falls, MT