

Big Skylights



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

A report from your Chief Executive Officer Dave Wheelihan

September 14, 2006

Course provides insight on co-op role in politics

Openings are still available for the NRECA Director's Course, No. 917.05, "*Creating a Political Action Plan: The Board's Role*," to be held Oct. 2 in conjunction with MECA's annual meeting. The course will be presented at the Heritage Inn, Great Falls. The course fee is \$200. The four-hour course (8 a.m. – 12 noon) is part of the NRECA Board Leadership program. The course will include a special presentation regarding political grassroots action by MECA at the Montana Legislature in Helena. This course is titled, "*Principles and Pitfalls for Co-ops in Helena*" is open to everyone, at no cost, and will be presented at 1 p.m. on Oct. 2 at the Heritage Inn. Contact MECA's **Sharon McDonald** at sharonm@sofast.net or (406) 761-8333 to sign up.

Schedule for MECA meetings

Following is the schedule for the MECA board and committee meetings at the Heritage Inn in Great Falls in conjunction with the MECA annual meeting in October:

Monday, October 2, 2006		Tuesday, October 3, 2006	
8:00 am	S/LC Committee Breakfast Meeting	7:00 am	Tribal & Cooperative Issues Committee Breakfast Meeting
9:05 am	Managers Group Meeting	8:05 am	Audit Committee
10:00 am	Communications Committee	9:10 am	Enabling/Restructuring Legislative Subcommittee
11:10 am	Power Supply Committee	10:15 am	Resolutions Committee
		11:20 am	Legislative Committee
12 noon	Lunch	12:15 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm	Nuts & Bolts of MECA's Grassroots' Efforts in Helena - 2007	1:30 pm	MECA Board meeting
2:05 pm	Tax Legislative Subcommittee		
2:05 pm	Education & Training Committee		
2:25 pm	Territorial Integrity Act Legislative Subcommittee		
3:10 pm	Member Services Committee		
3:35 pm	USBP Legislative Subcommittee		
4:25 pm	Renewable Energy & PURPA Standards Legislative Subcommittee		

Director rate-making actions covered in class

Flathead Electric Cooperative is offering to MECA member cooperatives a class on “Advanced Rate Decisions for Experienced Directors.” The class will be held Sept. 25, beginning at 9 a.m. at Flathead Electric, 2510 Highway 2 East, Kalispell. A continental breakfast and lunch will be served. Cost is \$200. Flathead Electric’s **Bev McGuire** will make hotel room reservations for anyone who needs them. For further information or to register for the class, call Bev at (406) 751-4444 email her at bev.mcguire@flatheadelectric.com

**Retirement
seminar
planned**

MECA will host an NRECA Retirement Seminar Oct. 31-Nov. 1 at the statewide building in Great Falls. This two-day course helps co-op employees evaluate distribution options from their retirement plans, estimate retirement income and expenses and understand the need for continued investment during retirement years. Employees and their spouses within 10 years of retirement should attend this informative seminar. The seminar is presented by NRECA’s experienced investment advisers, field services representatives and local Social Security and estate planning professionals. Attendees are encouraged to participate with questions, comments and class exercises. Details on this seminar, including registration information, were recently mailed. Contact MECA’s Sharon McDonald at sharonm@sofast.net or (406) 761-8333 to register.

CALENDAR

September 2006

16	Beartooth Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Roberts, MT
18-19	NWPPA Conference on BPA Power Allocation	Portland, OR
20-22	NRECA Region IX Meeting	Fairbanks, AK

October 2006

2-5	MECA Annual Meeting	Great Falls, MT
14	Big Flat Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Malta, MT
14	Sheridan Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Medicine Lake, MT
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 Director’s Course 968.1 – Advanced Rate Decisions for Experienced Directors	Great Falls, MT
5	2006 CFC Cash Flow Seminar	Great Falls, MT
5	MECA Committee Meetings	Great Falls, MT
6	MECA Winter Board Meeting	Great Falls, MT
6	MECA Annual Holiday Banquet	Great Falls, MT