

Big Skylights



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

A report from your Chief Executive Officer Dave Wheelihan

April 20, 2007

Glacier Electric hears update on legislation

I enjoyed being able to update Glacier Electric Cooperative members at their annual meeting April 14 on key legislation issues. Also at the annual meeting, co-op trustees **Jim Newman, Brian Elliot** and **Bruce Bradley** were all re-elected.

Flathead members re-elect trustees, charge bylaws

Flathead Electric Cooperative trustees **Chris Byrd, Doug Grob** and **George Taylor** were all re-elected through the co-op's election process that uses mail-in ballots due about a month after the co-op's March 10 annual meeting.

The election results also had two proposed bylaw changes easily gaining membership approval. One change disallows former co-op employees from running for the co-op board for the first seven years after separation from employment by the co-op. The second change allows the co-op to offer early retirement of capital credits at the discounted rate if financially feasible. Close to 5,000 of the co-op's members voted in this year's election.

NRECA course on power supply offered for directors

Montana co-op directors have the opportunity in July to get more up to speed on how to make better power supply decisions. The opportunity is an NRECA course being hosted by Flathead Electric Cooperative at its headquarters building, 2510 U.S. Highway 2 East in Kalispell. NRECA Course No. 969.1 is titled "Advanced Energy Risk Management for Directors Making Power-Supply Decisions. It will be taught July 7. Cost is \$250 per participant. To register for the course, call Bev McGuire at Flathead Electric. Her phone number is 406-751-4444. Her e-mail address is bev.mcguire@flatheadelectric.com

Job Market

McCone Electric-

Journeyman Lineman

McCone Electric Co-op., Inc., is currently seeking a qualified applicant for a journeyman lineman position. The reporting position is in Circle, Mont. Circle 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: mail to: lschmidt@mcconeelectric.coop.

CALENDAR

April

24	Worker's Compensation 101 Workshop	Missoula, MT
27	Marias River Electric Cooperatives Annual Meeting	Shelby, MT

May

6-9	NRECA Legislative Conference	Washington, D.C.
9-10	Accounting for Non-Accountants Workshop	Great Falls, MT
9-10	Superintendents Meeting	Lewistown, MT
12	Northern Lights Annual Meeting	Sagle, ID
16	Western Montana Electric G & T Annual Meeting	Missoula, MT

June

1	McCone Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Circle, MT
2	Hill County Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Havre, MT
6	Lower Yellowstone REA Annual Meeting	Sidney, MT
7	Fergus Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Lewistown, MT
8	Southeast Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Ekalaka, MT
9	Ravalli County Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Corvallis, MT
9-15	Youth to Washington Tour	Washington, D.C.
20	Northern Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Opheim, MT
23	Fall River Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Ashton, ID
25-27	Managers Group Summer Meeting	Whitefish, MT