

# Big Skylights



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

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A report from your Chief Executive Officer Dave Wheelihan

July 26, 2007

## MECA annual meeting plans taking shape

“*The Climate of Change: Powering the Future*” is the theme for MECA’s 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting set for Oct. 1-4 at the Best Western Heritage Inn in Great Falls. Speakers and experts on climate change, renewable energy and other energy industry issues affecting electric cooperatives will highlight this year’s annual meeting.

MECA’s annual meeting will again conclude with an awards ceremony Thursday morning, Oct. 4. Legislators instrumental in passage of key legislation supported by MECA during the 2007 legislative session will be honored at the ceremony. In addition, MECA’s traditional awards for top communications and exceptional service to cooperatives will be presented. Nominations for the Hog-Tied, Hard Ridin’, Cooperative Spirit and Lifesaver awards are due at the MECA office by Aug. 31.

Registration information was mailed out last week. However, complete registration details are available on-line at the MECA website: [www.mtco-ops.com](http://www.mtco-ops.com) Participants may also register online.

## Foreman training highlights MECA ops event

The 2007 MECA Operations Conference will be held in Great Falls at the Heritage Inn Nov. 6 – 8. The event kicks off with a Foreman Leadership Skills Program course on Monday, Nov. 5. This year’s conference is being hosted by Sheridan Electric and Lower Yellowstone REA. For more information, contact Lea Upshaw at the statewide office.

## Tongue River elects new trustee

Tongue River Electric Cooperative members elected a new trustee at their annual meeting Saturday, July 14, in Ashland. **DeeDee Isaacs** was elected to replace **K.P. Stevens**, who had decided not to seek re-election. Re-elected to the board without opposition were **Charles Patten** and **Gerhard Helm**.

Also at the annual meeting, the membership heard an update on the proposed Highwood Generating Plant from **Tim Gregori**, general manager of Southern Montana Electric Generation and Transmission Cooperative. MECA’s **Gary Wiens** updated the members on legislative issues. He emphasized the crucial role played by the MECA Grassroots Action Network in the co-ops’ success in the 2007 session of the Montana Legislature. Looking

ahead, he urged members to stay informed and stay involved on ongoing legislative issues – both state and federal – facing the co-op, citing *Rural Montana* magazine as a vital tool in staying abreast of key issues.

## CALENDAR

### August

6-8	Office Managers & Accountants Conference	Great Falls, MT
27-29	CoBank Energy Management Conference	Aspen, CO
30	MECA Fitness Challenge Ends	

### September

6-7	Energy & Telecommunications Interim Committee Meeting	Colstrip, MT
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### October

1	METSPool Annual Board Meeting	Great Falls, MT
2-4	MECA Annual Meeting	Great Falls, MT
13	Big Flat Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Malta, MT
17-19	NRECA Region IX Meeting	Coeur d'Alene, ID
20	Sheridan Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Medicine Lake, MT
25	Goldenwest Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Wibaux, MT
26	Park Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Livingston, MT
29 – Nov 2	NRECA's Credentialed Directors Fast Track Series	Great Falls, MT