

Nominating Committee to meet in March



Franzen



Schmierer

The Nominating Committee will meet Tuesday, March 4, at the Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) office. The purpose of the Nominating Committee is to select candidates for the board of trustees.

The Nominating Committee will consist of two members each from District 3 and District 4. The committee will nominate one or more candidates for District 3 and District 4. The present trustees holding seats in these districts are Tim Franzen in District 3 and Dennis Schmierer in District 4.

Nominating Committee members are:

- Representing District 3 - Rowdy Cvancara and Kenny Iversen
- Representing District 4 - Trey Bloesser and Mark Tombre

If you are a member of LYREC, reside in District 3 or 4 and are interested in becoming a candidate for the board of trustees, contact one of the Nominating Committee members and ask to be considered for nomination.

If you have a joint membership, either member on the account can run for the board of trustees seat. A joint membership is entitled to one vote at any meeting of the cooperative. ■

Operation Round Up boosts local education



ORU Trustee **Angie Olson** presents **Riley Hagler** with a check for \$1,250 to assist in the cost of purchasing a floor lift for the Savage Public School shop.

Local schools, nonprofits and community organizations are benefiting in big ways, thanks to the generosity of community members participating in Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative's (LYREC) Operation Round Up (ORU) program. By rounding up their monthly utility bills to the nearest dollar, members are helping fund educational initiatives that make a difference for students and teachers alike.

Savage Public School recently received a grant for \$1,250 to assist in the cost of purchasing a floor lift for the school shop. The administration expressed gratitude, noting the shop equipment will be an incredible asset to the school.

A member contributes an average of \$6 a year through Operation Round Up. While the individual cost is small, the combined effort generates thousands of dollars to reinvest in the community. During the first three quarters of 2024, the LYREC ORU program donated \$7,250 throughout LYREC's service territory. ■



The future of reliable electricity

Data centers, new manufacturing facilities and our daily lives are requiring more electricity. U.S. power consumption is expected to rise to record highs during the next two years, and the demand for electricity in the United States is expected to at least double by 2050.

As our country's economy continues to grow, so does the demand for reliable electricity. Data centers, new manufacturing facilities and our daily lives are requiring more and more electricity. In fact, U.S. power consumption is expected to rise to record highs during the next two years, and the demand for electricity in the United States is expected to at least double by 2050.

Meanwhile, our supply of electricity is already decreasing, as always available power plants are being prematurely closed. The North American Electric Reliability Corporation has warned that 19 states could see rolling blackouts during times of high electrical usage over the next five years. We all know what happens when supply can't meet demand - prices go up and the lights go off.

As we prepare for this rising demand, Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) is planning ahead to ensure local families and businesses have access to an affordable, reliable supply of electricity.

Meeting the challenge

To meet these challenges, LYREC is utilizing a balanced mix of always available energy sources as a

safeguard to maintain a reliable energy supply. We're also investing in innovative technologies to bolster grid resilience and enhance data management to improve operational efficiency, expedite outage response times and minimize service disruptions.

As electricity demand in the United States continues to rise, upgrading and building new infrastructure will be critical. That's why LYREC is collaborating with other electric co-ops by pooling resources and expertise on projects that advance technology, security, infrastructure and innovative energy sources to meet the increasing needs of our communities.

As a co-op, this collaborative approach is a core strength of LYREC and enables us to deliver affordable energy to local families and businesses. Our priority is ensuring energy solutions tailored to the unique needs of our communities to help them thrive now and in the future.

LYREC was built by the communities it serves, providing essential services that drive growth and pave the way for an energy future that prioritizes reliable electricity at a cost local families and businesses can afford. ■



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LYREC announces rate increase to address rising costs

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative's (LYREC) rates increased Jan. 1 to address rising costs of materials and power generation. The key factors driving the adjustment are global supply chain disruptions and higher fuel prices.

The facility charge for residential members will increase by \$5 per meter and the rate per kilowatt-hour (kWh) will rise by 0.003 cents. For example, a residential member using 2,000 kWh monthly will see a total bill increase from \$162 to \$173.

As a not-for-profit organization, LYREC aims to provide reliable and affordable electricity while covering the operational costs necessary to maintain and upgrade its infrastructure. The co-op has faced significant cost increases for essential materials, such as copper and steel, equipment and regulatory compliance tied to carbon emissions reduction. Investments in grid modernization and aging infrastructure upgrades have also contributed to rising expenses.

“We understand the impact of this adjustment, but

remain committed to transparency and maintaining reliable service,” LYREC General Manager Jason Brothen says.

For more details or rates, visit www.lyrec.com. ■





Scholarship opportunities available

Basin Electric Power Cooperative is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to a Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) member's dependent. The applicant must be a student enrolled in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school in the fall of 2025.

Scholarship recipients are selected based on academic record, leadership and participation in school and community activities, honors, work experience, a statement of education and career goals, and an outside appraisal. To apply, complete the required criteria, which can be obtained at www.lyrec.com. The applications are due Feb. 17.

MECA scholarship

The Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA)

is offering a \$500 scholarship to one eligible student from the northeast district of Montana. The applicant's parent(s)/guardian(s) must be LYREC members and the applicant must be attending college in the fall of 2025. Applications are judged based on academic strength, school and community activities, employment, volunteerism, community service and a personal statement.

A committee comprised of LYREC staff will choose one application to advance to MECA for a chance to win a \$500 scholarship. In addition, LYREC will award a \$500 scholarship to the chosen applicant it sends to MECA. This will give the selected applicant a chance to earn a total of \$1,000. To apply, complete the required criteria and submit on or before Jan. 24.

Please send applications to LYREC, Attn: Jami Propp, P.O. Box 1047, Sidney, MT 59270. ■



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Website: www.lyrec.com

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