



Nominating Committee names candidates

A Nominating Committee consisting of Bob Albin, Mike Kjos, Ben Larson and Scott Greenwood met at Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative's (LYREC) office March 5 to nominate candidates for the election of directors in District 1 and 2.

The committee nominated Jim Vitt for District 1 and Colin Gartner for District 2. With no other nominations, the election of trustees will be by acclamation. Vitt will be reelected to represent



Jim Vitt



Colin Gartner

District 1 and Gartner will be reelected to represent District 2.

Both directors thank the Nominating Committee members for the time they put into the nominating process.

"I would also like to thank the membership for the support of the board of directors and LYREC as a whole. I'm proud of the fact that we always put safety, reliability and affordability as our top priorities. The co-op is doing well because of the work of our great employees," Gartner says.

"I've enjoyed working for the members of LYREC. The employees of LYREC are a phenomenal group! They do a great job and are always looking for ways to improve the co-op. Reliability is an objective they are always concerned about. I look forward to the times ahead," Vitt says. ■

SUPERHERO SCHOLARSHIP

LYREC will be awarding several \$1,000 scholarships at its **June 5** annual meeting

To be eligible for a scholarship:

- The applicant's parent/legal guardian must be a LYREC member.
- The applicant must be enrolled as a full-time college student in the fall of 2024.

To apply:

- Make a short video answering the following questions: If you could have any superpower, what would it be? What would you do with the power? Would there be any disadvantages with your superpower?
- You can sketch a picture of your superhero or superheroine or dress how you envision him or her to look. If you chose a sketch, include it in the video, otherwise shoot your video wearing your costume. Most importantly, be creative and have fun!
- Download an application from www.lyrec.coop and email the completed application to scholarships@lyrec.coop. Once your application is received, you will be emailed a link to upload your video.

Deadline:
May 29 at 5 p.m.

Scholarship winners will be announced at LYREC's June 5 annual meeting. Applicants are encouraged to attend.

LYREC annual meeting June 5

The annual meeting of the members of Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) will be held at the Richland County Event Center at 6 p.m. Wednesday, June 5. Members will be able to join virtually or in person. Information on how to register for the virtual meeting will be shared via social media and at www.lyrec.coop in May. Each member account

joining either in person or virtually who stays through the business meeting will receive a \$50 bill credit.

The annual meeting notice and reports will be mailed in mid-May. Registration and dinner will begin at 5 p.m., with the business meeting starting at 6 p.m. Scholarship applicants are encouraged to attend the annual meeting. We hope to see you June 5. ■

Power up your lawn care with electric equipment

by Anne Prince

The landscape of lawn and garden care is evolving, and electric equipment is at the forefront of this change. While electric lawn tools aren't new, advancements in technology and more options mean prices have become more competitive, making electric equipment an accessible option for many consumers.

Benefits of electric equipment

Electric lawnmowers have come a long way since the days of extension cords tethering you to an outlet. Battery-powered mowers offer the same freedom of movement as gas-powered models, but with reduced noise and maintenance.

Battery life was once a major drawback to making the switch to electric lawn tools. But today's growing demand for electric equipment has resulted in major advancements for lithium-ion batteries, making them more reliable, cost-effective and efficient. For most consumers, electric lawn tools can get the job done just as well as gas-powered models.

Many electric mowers offer push-button starts, and they are easier to maneuver around tight turns because they are lighter. Improved batteries provide longer run times to tackle larger spaces. Like their gas-powered counterparts, electric mowers are available in push, self-propelled/walk-behind and riding models. And there's no need to refill gas cans or change oil and air filters, resulting in less hassle and maintenance.

Like mowers, electric blowers, string trimmers and chainsaws have fewer moving parts, require minimal maintenance and are quieter. Because electric tools are generally lighter in weight, they're also more ergonomic and easier to maneuver. This feature is especially handy for projects that require tools, such as chainsaws, for precise work.


Choose electric equipment

Electric lawn tools have some limitations, so the size and terrain of your outdoor space are important

Source: Consumer Reports

Making the Switch to ELECTRIC LAWN EQUIPMENT

Considering electric equipment to maintain your outdoor space? Check out the benefits of electric and considerations before making the switch.



Benefits of Electric Equipment	Considerations Before Going Electric
• Battery-powered equipment produces zero emissions	• Purchasing from a single brand can streamline charging
• No hassle and mess from gasoline and oil	• Consider the size of your property and battery run time
• Quieter and more reliable than gas-powered equipment	• Backup batteries may be needed for larger properties
• Require less energy to do the same amount of work as gas-powered tools	• Electric equipment is pricier up front

considerations when purchasing new equipment. When comparing gas-powered and electric mowers, consider the torque rating, which is the driving force behind a blade's rotation. On average, electric lawnmowers generate less torque than gas mowers. If you have a challenging outdoor space that includes overgrown brush, tall grass or hills and dips, torque is a key factor.

Choosing the right type and size mower is particularly important for spaces larger than half an acre. If you have a large property, consider purchasing an extra battery to ensure uninterrupted workflow.

Many manufacturers offer interchangeable batteries and chargers, providing flexibility and convenience. Choosing a single brand can ensure charging compatibility across your lawn tools and streamline charging.

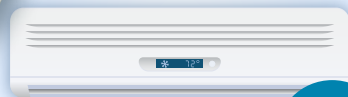
While both gas and electric lawn tools can get the job done, electric equipment generally requires less maintenance, is less expensive to operate and is kinder to the environment. ■

CONNECTED to SAFETY

Making your Home Safe and Efficient

Whether you're **working** from home, **learning** from home or just **spending more time** at home, it is important to make sure your home is electrically safe, secure and efficient. Learn how the **internet of things** and **smart devices** can improve your quality of life and **make your home safer**.

Home Energy Use



AIR CONDITIONING

17%



SPACE HEATING

15%



WATER HEATING

14%



LIGHTING

10%

AVERAGE YEARLY ENERGY USE BY ITEM *source: U.S. Energy Information Administration



Smart refrigerators to **optimize temperature**



Optimize wash/dry times for **lowest energy costs**



Automated HVAC controls



Automated lighting



Remote / automated outlet controls

Energy Efficiency Through Smart Devices

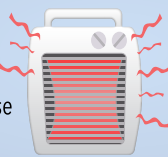
Prepare your Home for Safe and Efficient Energy Use



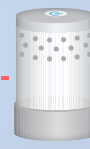
Use a **smart plug** or **power strip** to turn off power when devices are not in use



LED light bulbs last longer than traditional bulbs and use 25-80% less energy



Heat only the area you're in with **energy-efficient** space heaters



Utilize **home automation** to control HVAC and lighting systems while not at home



Have an electrician **inspect your electrical system** every 10 years to avoid overloads

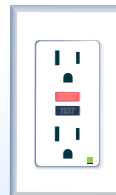
Home Electrical Safety Devices



AFCI breakers and outlets protect against arc-faults, which could lead to fires



Grounded outlets protect against electric shocks



GFCI outlets and breakers are required where water and electricity may come in contact and protect against ground-faults



Surge protectors protect against damaging power surges that can destroy electrical equipment

ESFi.org

Understanding budget billing

Budget billing, also known as leveled billing, is a service offered by Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) to help members manage their energy expenses more effectively. Rather than experiencing large monthly fluctuations in their bills due to seasonal changes in energy usage, budget billing provides members with a more consistent monthly payment amount, making it easier

to budget for electricity costs throughout the year.

This service is available to all residential members who are current, have an “A” credit rating and have established a 12-month history with LYREC. You must enroll in budget billing between April and August. For a budget billing form, visit www.lyrec.coop or call our office at 406-488-1602. ■



Discounts offered for Medora vacation

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative is able to offer its members a discount by being a Touchstone Energy® member. Simply call 1-800-MEDORA-1 and give the discount code of “TOUCH2024” for a 15% discount on all of the following during any night of the season.

THINGS TO DO:

- Medora Musical
- Pitchfork steak fondue
- Bully Pulpit Golf Course
- Gospel Bruch tickets
- Old Town Theater shows

LODGING AT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Elkhorn Quarters
- Badlands Motel
- Rough Riders Hotel
- Medora Campground

*The code is good for reservations over the phone, website or in person.
A green fees discount will be applied at check-in
for a tee time at the golf course.*

3200 W. Holly - Sidney, MT 59270

Phone: 406-488-1602

Fax: 406-488-6524

Website: www.lyrec.com

TRUSTEES

Allen Thiessen	President
Greg Rauschendorfer	Vice President
Dennis Schmierer	Secretary/Treasurer
Colin Gartner	Trustee
Tim Franzen	Trustee
Dennis Nelson	Trustee
Jim Vitt	Trustee

EMPLOYEES

Jason Brothen	General Manager
Jami Propp	Member Service Manager
Pam Wilcoxon	Chief Financial Officer
Melissa Buckley	Plant Accountant
Kyle Kavanagh	IT Director
Margo Zadow	Billing Coordinator
Tiffani Hentges	Customer Service Representative
Chris Hillesland	Chief Operations Officer
Rich Gorde	Journeyman Lineman
Eric McPherson	System Controller
Kevin Goff	Operations Assistant
Kelly Keysor	Operations Manager
Aaron Eide	Journeyman Lineman
Bryan Franck	Journeyman Lineman
Jesse Obergfell	Journeyman Lineman
Tanner Roth	Journeyman Lineman
Ryder Peterson	Journeyman Lineman
Cole Jankovsky	Journeyman Lineman
Lee Delp	Apprentice Lineman
Preston Long	Apprentice Lineman
Trey Schepens	Apprentice Lineman
Jory Bell	Apprentice Lineman
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Mike Eberling	Mechanic
Dan Gieser	EMS
Lee Alvstad	Mechanic/EMS
Richard Tremblay	EMS
Bo Kindopp	GIS/Easement Technician
Tom Hall	GIS Specialist
Corey Candee	Chief Information Officer
Jeremy Reese	Information Technology Technician
Braden Kindopp	Information Technology Technician
Edwin Gatzke	Line Locator/Groundsman
Justin King	Warehouse Supervisor
Dennis Fine	Summer Help

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 