

ANNUAL MEETING 2020

CANCELLED

The Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) board of trustees voted unanimously to cancel the 2020 annual meeting of members scheduled for June 3 at the Richland County Event Center. This is in response to Gov. Steve Bullock declaring a state of emergency in Montana and President Trump declaring a state of emergency in the nation due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, LYREC will strive to keep our membership informed. The 84th annual meeting program will be distributed to all members in late May. The program will contain the 2019 annual meeting minutes and financials, board of trustee candidate biographies, scholarship information, and a cooperative update from LYREC's CEO and board president. We are committed to maintaining open communication and will be utilizing social media and our website to send important information to our members regarding business. LYREC is also exploring alternative options for a meeting with members.

The Nominating Committee met on March 3. Following the committee's work, they nominated only one candidate per district; accordingly, the election of trustees will be by acclamation. Dennis Nelson will be re-elected to represent District 5, Greg Rauschendorfer will be re-elected for District 6, and Allen Thiessen will be re-elected for District 7.

"We are truly saddened to have to cancel the annual meeting for the first time in our cooperative history. It's a tradition we value and cherish," said Jason Brothen, LYREC CEO/general manager. The decision to cancel was not made lightly, but LYREC board and management felt it was in the best interest for the health and safety of our members, employees and communities. We appreciate your support and understanding as we navigate this unique and unprecedented time together.



Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) 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 "Touch 2020" for a 15 percent discount on any of the following during any night of the season:

Things to do:

- Medora Musical
- Pitchfork steak fondue
- Bully Pulpit Golf Course

Lodging at any of the following:

- Elkhorn Quarters
- Badlands Motel
- Rough Riders Hotel



Dennis Nelson



Greg Rauschendorfer



Allen Thiessen

Nominating Committee names candidates

A Nominating Committee consisting of Cynthia Gardner, Wagner Harmon, Tammi Bidegaray, Jennifer Vaira, Mark Pust and Susan Torgerson met at Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative's (LYREC) office March 3. The purpose of the meeting was to nominate candidates from the election of directors in District 5, 6 and 7.

The committee selected Dennis Nelson for District 5, Greg Rauschendorfer for District 6, and Allen Thiessen for District 7. Per the bylaw change that the members approved during the June 2019 annual meeting, there will be no nominations made from the floor at the annual meeting.

District 5

Dennis Nelson is a farmer and rancher from Bainville, Mont. He and his wife, Tami, have three children, Lindsey, Drue and Drae. Drae is a freshman at Bainville School, and Drue is studying chemical engineering at Montana State University. Lindsey and her husband, Chantz Buxbaum, have two children, Aubrey and Carter.

Prior to his election to the LYREC board, Dennis served on previous boards and community organizations, including the Bainville

fire board, Bainville school board and Bainville Dollars for Scholars.

Dennis is completing his second term on the LYREC board. He has attended numerous training and educational workshops. At the state level, he serves on the Audit Committee and the Legislative Committee. He also represents LYREC on the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association board of directors.

Dennis states, "I have enjoyed representing LYREC and I will continue to serve our members and our cooperative to the best of my abilities."

District 6

Greg Rauschendorfer is a native Montanan with European roots. He was educated in Richland County and later attended Montana State University-Bozeman. The knowledge he received from both his schooling and mentoring prepared him for his family ranching operation.

"You, the membership of LYREC, have given me the privilege to serve you since 1993 as director and currently as vice president. After hours of National Rural Electric Cooperative Association educational seminars and hands-on experience, I have learned my full

responsibilities as director and how complex the electric grid is. As a director, I must be knowledgeable in all aspects of the industry, including, but not limited to, the generation of electricity, all the way to how the electricity is distributed to your homes and businesses,” he said.

Greg added, “As electric consumers and members of this cooperative, we all have an individual footprint of how we use our electric energy, which is reflected in our cost of power. I, along with the rest of the board and staff, work hard to keep the system stable and reliable so that we can ensure fairness in pricing of the products we consume.”

District 7

Allen Thiessen was born in Sidney, Mont., and raised on a farm south of Lambert, Mont. He graduated from Lambert High School, attended

Montana State for two years, and worked in Manhattan, Mont., for a year before returning to Lambert to start his own business. He and his wife, Sue, have two children, Anthony Thiessen and Angela Olson, and are blessed with six grandchildren.

Al’s civic involvements include past president of the Lambert Sewer and Water Association, former member of the Lambert Volunteer Fire Department, founding board member of the Lion’s Den (teen center), and former board member of the Foundation for Community Care.

Al is serving his 33rd year as an LYREC board member and is currently serving as president. He served 10 years on the board of the Montana Electric Cooperatives’ Association in Great Falls, Mont., with six years as president. He also

served on the board of the Mid-West Electric Consumers Association in Denver, Colo., for 11 years. For the past 19 years, Al has represented LYREC on the board of Upper Missouri Power Cooperative. In 2012, he was elected to the board of Basin Electric Power Cooperative in Bismarck, N.D., representing the 11 cooperatives in Upper Missouri Power Cooperative. He also represents Basin Electric on the boards of the Dakota Gas Company and Dakota Coal Company.

Al said, “It is a real honor to represent the members of Lower Yellowstone on the board of directors, as well as on the power supply sector of the industry. I really appreciate everyone’s support and input as we work together in dealing with the changing world we are all experiencing.” ■

Prepay metering available

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) will be offering members with a standard single-phase service a new way to pay for their electricity. Prepay metering does not use the traditional billing process, where you pay for the electricity after you use it. Instead, you pay for your electricity before you use it. It’s like filling your car with gasoline. You monitor the fuel level and decide when you should refill.

To establish a new account with the prepay metering option, the member must sign a prepay service agreement and make a minimum payment of \$25. For existing members, the balance up to the current reading must be paid in full and a \$25 credit must be applied to the account prior to switching to prepay metering.

The prepay meter is read daily and your account balance is

reduced by the previous day’s usage. The member is responsible for monitoring his or her account balance and will not be receiving a monthly bill. Once the account balance is \$25 or less, the member will receive alerts by email and/or text message. If the account balance reaches zero, power is automatically disconnected until payment on the account is received. Once the account has a credit balance of \$25, the meter will automatically be reconnected.

There are several benefits to the prepay metering program. As a new member, the member may choose prepay metering in lieu of paying a security deposit. A member may make several payments throughout the month rather than one lump sum. However, the minimum payment must be at least \$25. If an existing member opts to switch to prepay, any deposit fee previously



paid by the member will be applied to the member’s outstanding balance. There are no extra fees associated with prepay metering or disconnect/connect fees.

Due to the way the disconnect meters work, not all meters are eligible for the prepay metering service. If you would like more information on prepay metering, please call our office at 406-488-1602. ■



MEMORIAL DAY

In observance of Memorial Day, our office will be closed
MONDAY, MAY 25

SAVE THE DATE
FAIRVIEW OLD-TIMERS FESTIVAL
JULY 17 & 18

Operating report

Year to date:	February 2019	February 2020
Total miles energized	2,103	2,104
Total number of meters	6,162	6,185
Kilowatt-hours sold	49,627,444	51,935,904
Revenue	\$4,855,877	\$5,126,165
Total expenses	\$4,227,356	\$5,193,123
Operating margins	\$2,870,662	(\$51,056)

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Fax: 406-488-6524

Website: www.lyrec.com

TRUSTEES

- Allen Thiessen President
- Greg Rauschendorfer Vice President
- John Redman Secretary/Treasurer
- Colin Gartner Trustee
- Dennis Schmierer Trustee
- Dennis Nelson Trustee
- Jim Vitt Trustee

EMPLOYEES

- Jason Brothen General Manager
- Brenda Bond Chief Financial Officer
- Jami Propp Member Service Manager
- Kyle Kavanagh IT Coordinator
- Margo Zadow Billing Coordinator
- Pam Wilcoxon Plant Accountant
- Tiffani Hentges Customer Service Representative
- Melissa Buckley CSR/Staff Assistant
- Chris Hillesland Chief Operations Officer
- Rich Gorde Foreman
- Eric McPherson System Controller
- Kevin Goff Operations Assistant
- Kelly Keysor Operations Manager
- Lee Alvstad Journeyman Lineman
- Aaron Eide Journeyman Lineman
- Bryan Franck Journeyman Lineman
- Jesse Obergfell Journeyman Lineman
- Blade Jankovsky Journeyman Lineman
- Tanner Roth Journeyman Lineman
- Ryder Peterson Journeyman Lineman
- Lee Delp Apprentice Lineman
- Cole Jankovsky Apprentice Lineman
- Brandon Mueller Master Electrician
- Dan Gieser Energy Management Supervisor
- Mike Eberling Mechanic
- Richard Tremblay Service Technician
- Bo Kindopp GIS/Easement Technician
- Corey Candee Chief Information Officer
- Jeremy Reese Information Technology Technician
- Edwin Gatzke Line Locator/Meter Reader
- Justin King Warehouse Supervisor

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative