

Unclaimed capital credits

One of the benefits of being a member is patronage capital credits. Patronage capital credits come from margins, or money leftover at the end of the year after all operating costs and expenses have been paid. These margins are allocated to each member's capital credit account based on how much electricity the member purchased that year. The allocated margins are retained and used by Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative for operating capital. This reduces the amount the cooperative must borrow.

Each year, the board of directors determines if the cooperative is financially able to pay prior years' capital credits back to the members. When so approved, the cooperative refunds designated prior years' capital credits to the members who use electricity during the designated years.

In June, Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) completed a capital credit retirement based on the amount of electricity purchased in part or all of 2001, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009 and 2017. The June bills were credited for active members, and checks were mailed to former members. However, we have many former members who have checks awaiting them, but are unable to mail those checks because of insufficient mailing addresses.

Please help LYREC locate these members, so we can return their money. If you recognize any of these former members, and can provide us with their addresses, please call our office at 406-488-1602. ■

1804 Country Store (c/o Jim Bergh),
Williston, N.D.
Advanced Media Blasting,
Sidney, Mont.
Ames, Michael, Glendive, Mont.
Anderson, Tanya Gohl,
Williston, N.D.
Baker, Richard, Billings, Mont.
Barnes, James & Chresta,
Fruita, Colo.
Cayko, Frances, Sidney, Mont.
Ceynar, Marie, Mandan, N.D.
Chamberlain, Beau & April,
Sidney, Mont.
Choctaw II Oil & Gas,
Houston, Texas
DJ Agency c/o Daniel Williamson,
Kalispell, Mont.
Daly, Mike & Lynn, San
Antonio, Texas
Fettig, Ray, Killdeer, N.D.
Hardy, Charles, Dickinson, N.D.

Henderson, Terry S., Billings, Mont.
Herz, Clarence, Killdeer, N.D.
Haflich, Bartholomew, Fort
Benton, Mont.
Holler, William, Williston, N.D.
Hovland, Kathleen, Fargo, N.D.
Hunt, Denise, Glendive, Mont.
Iverson, Travis, Bainville, Mont.
Judd, Derek, Sidney, Mont.
Kallevig, Leonard, Montrose, Colo.
Kaske, Arthur P., Clinton, Mont.
Kehr, Josh, Williston, N.D.
Ketcham, Bret & Marilyn,
Sidney, Mont.
Larsen, John, Melba, Idaho
Larsen, Kenneth, Melba, Idaho
Lindgren, Eric, Colorado
Springs, Colo.
McGaughey, Troy, Vernal, Utah
Mavity, Curtis, Forsyth, Mont.
Micheletto, Brandon, Sidney, Mont.
Monagram, Kathy, Trenton, N.D.

Nordlund, Keith & Brittney,
Poplar, Mont.
Olson, Aspen, Watford City, N.D.
Pacific Tank & Pipeline Inc.,
Sidney, Mont.
Radillo, Rogelio, Crane, Mont.
Reimann, Wanda, Billings, Mont.
Sago, Kentucky & Greta,
Fairview, Mont.
Samson Resources Company,
Tulsa, Okla.
Schmidt, Russ, Stevensville, Mont.
Thomas, Ron & Sheila, Topeka, Kan.
Tornabeni, Tiffany, Fairview, Mont.
Turner, Patrick, Glendive, Mont.
Vincent, Corey, Sidney, Mont.
Vos, Nicholas, Watford City, N.D.
Wheeler, Robert, Tioga, N.D.
Wick, Kelly, Sidney, Mont.
Wright, Donnie, Sidney, Mont.



Operation Round Up Trustee **Crystal Wyman** presents a check for \$1,000 to **Corey Wheeler** for the Fairview Volunteer Fire Department. The funds will assist with the purchase of a new tanker truck.



Vonnie Van Hook presents **Janelle Leintz** and **Stacey McNally**, from Rau School, with a check for \$750 to help with the cost of handicapped swing sets.



Vonnie Van Hook presents **Dawn Rehbein** with a check for \$1,000 to assist with the cost of a water fountain for the Richland Youth Hockey Building.



Eastern Montana Bible Camp receives a check for \$750 to help with the cost of replacing the lighting in the ARC with LED bulbs. Left to right: Connie Unruh, Ann Bouchard, Darren Green, Larry Albertson, Kelly Bergstedt, Erin Switzer, Janet Fatzinger and Dee Jorgensen



Jan Bloesser presents **Serenity Kuntz** with a check for \$250 to help with the travel expenses to attend nationals for Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCCLA).

Operation Round Up keeps giving

Operation Round Up (ORU) is one way Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) members work together to make a difference. By rounding up your monthly electric bill to the nearest whole dollar, the extra change goes into

the Operation Round Up Trust fund and is used to assist nonprofit and community organizations in the general service area of LYREC. The maximum any member can donate through ORU is \$11.88 a year.

Through the generosity of LYREC members, ORU was able to

grant five organizations a total of \$3,750 this past June. Thank you to all our members for making our communities a better place.

To download an application or for more information on ORU, go to www.lyrec.com. The next applications are due Sept. 15. ■

Don't wait. Be prepared before the storm.



It's your worst-case scenario. A major storm was predicted and this time, the predictions were right. Many power lines are down, and your electricity may be out for several days. You are low on everything – food, pet supplies, toilet paper, batteries, diapers and your medication.

Imagine how you would feel in this situation. While you can't predict which weather forecast will come true, you can plan so when a severe weather event strikes, you have the tools and resources to effectively weather the storm. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security offers several resources to help you prepare for major weather events and natural disasters. Visit www.ready.gov/make-a-plan.

Preparedness actions and items

- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of nonperishable food, such as canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water and other essentials (such as diapers and toiletries).
- Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies, including towelettes, soap and

hand sanitizer.

- Ensure your first-aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current.
- Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener and portable, battery-powered radio or TV.
- Organize emergency supplies so they are together in an easily accessible location.

With advance warning

If a severe storm is predicted, take extra steps to prepare. Fully charge all cellphones, laptops and devices, so you have maximum power in the event of a power outage. If you plan to use a small generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

During a prolonged outage

In the event of an outage, turn off appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from a power surge, and will also help prevent overloading the circuits during power restoration. That said, do leave one light on so you will know when power is restored. If utilizing a small household generator, consider using LED holiday lights to illuminate a living area. A strand of 100 white lights draws little energy, yet produces considerable light.

Solar lights also work, if they can receive some sunlight during the day for charging.

During thunderstorms, the American Red Cross recommends avoiding electrical equipment and land-based telephones. Use battery-powered TVs and radios instead. Keep away from windows. Listen to local news for emergency updates, or check Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative's social media pages for restoration updates.

After the storm, avoid downed power lines and walking through flooded areas where power lines could be submerged. Allow ample room for utility crews to safely perform their jobs – including on your property.

Power in planning

Advance planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and can lessen the impact of the storm's effects. Follow Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative's Facebook page to stay abreast of restoration efforts and other important co-op news and information. Act today, because there is power in planning. ■

IN CASE OF AN OUTAGE

FIRST: Check the fuses or breakers in the building in which the electricity is off.

SECOND: Check the breaker below the meter.

THIRD: If electricity is still out, call a neighbor to see if they have electricity.

FOURTH: Call 406-488-1602 24/7 with your meter number.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram.



Kelly Keysor, operations manager, checks out the new drone.

Plans for unmanned aerial vehicles

Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) – better known as drones – have been around for decades and were solely used for military purposes. Today, the popularity of drones for commercial use is increasing. Amazon is preparing to use drones to deliver packages for faster turnaround. Walmart is hoping to use drones to carry items around the store to reduce customer travel to various departments within the store. Farmers and ranchers are using drones for checking crops,

spraying and monitoring livestock, to name a few examples. Drones are being effectively deployed in many commercial applications across an array of industries.

After the flood in late March, Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative made the decision to purchase a drone. Using drones will offer the co-op efficient and cost-effective ways to perform line patrol, to troubleshoot areas, for maintenance and for mapping purposes. ■

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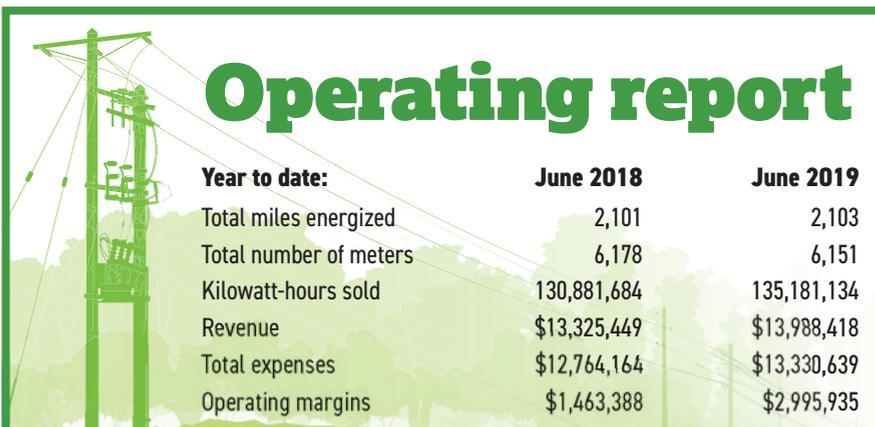
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 Greg Rauschendorfer Vice President
 John Redman Secretary/Treasurer
 Colin Gartner Trustee
 Dennis Schmierer Trustee
 Dennis Nelson Trustee
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 Brenda Bond Chief Financial Officer
 Jami Propp Member 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
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 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
 Edwin Gatzke Line Locator/Meter Reader
 Justin King Warehouse Supervisor

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Operating report

Year to date:	June 2018	June 2019
Total miles energized	2,101	2,103
Total number of meters	6,178	6,151
Kilowatt-hours sold	130,881,684	135,181,134
Revenue	\$13,325,449	\$13,988,418
Total expenses	\$12,764,164	\$13,330,639
Operating margins	\$1,463,388	\$2,995,935