



Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative Sub-Foreman **Eric McPherson** and Vice President **Greg Rauschendorfer** ride in the bucket truck.



Hosts and hostesses were (left to right): **Maxine and Dave Haverkamp**, **Wade and Hanna Whiteman**, **Dusty and Jessica Berwick, S.J.** and **Pam Cayer, Sara and Coy Martin, Brent and Leslie Hagler**, and **Jeff and Mary Sundheim**.



Don Prevost receives an award after 45 years with LYREC.



Mason Swisse is all geared up and ready for a ride!

Annual meeting highlights

Some 271 members attended Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative's (LYREC) 79th annual meeting June 3. Members, their families, LYREC employees and special guests enjoyed a fantastic dinner prepared by Judge Greg Mohr.

New this year, LYREC displayed two bucket trucks and a digger truck. The bucket truck rides were the big hit of the evening. The kids, and even some adventuresome adults, enjoyed the bucket truck rides with the LYREC line crew.

LYREC would like to say thank you to the great hosts and hostesses who volunteered their time. Each year, LYREC invites one couple

from each of the seven districts in LYREC's service territory to assist with the annual meeting. It gets the members involved and gives them an opportunity to meet the LYREC staff and board.

Scholarships awarded

This year, 39 students signed up for the luck-of-the-draw scholarships. Twenty, \$1,000 scholarships were awarded. That means students who signed up for the luck-of-the-draw scholarship had a 51 percent chance of winning a \$1,000 scholarship.

To sign up, the student must attend the annual meeting with a parent/guardian who is an LYREC member

continued on page 4



Scholarship winners included: (back row) **Keevan Edam, Colin Moran, Brady Johnson, Alec Johnson, Paul Brannan, Sean Ganje, Christoffer Sommerfeld, Tanner Hagler,** (middle row) **Faith Vitt, Megan Greenwood, Ethan Graves, Tудie Crosby, Jalyssa Gorder, Eathan Carda, Koby Edam,** (front row) **Emily Vitt, Caitlyn Moran, Reanna Peterson, Clara Jepsen and Jaycee Searer.**

continued from page 3

and must be present to win. If you did not win a scholarship this year, please join us again next year for a chance to win a \$1,000 scholarship. If this was the first luck-of-the-draw scholarship you were awarded, you can sign up again next year. A maximum of two luck-of-the-draw scholarships are awarded to any one student.

The luck-of-the-draw scholarship winners must submit a copy of their

class schedule, registration or school confirmation letter that includes the student's name and the school they are attending. The \$1,000 will go directly to the student to use toward his or her education. Please have your paperwork submitted by Aug. 1.

Other winners named

During the business meeting, the children enjoyed playing in the obstacle course. Deion Taylor and



Bike winners were **Kylie Schoepp** and **Deion Taylor**.

Kylie Schoepp were the bike winners this year.

The names of Rodney Evenson, Russell Thornton and Tim Vaira were drawn for the \$1,000 progressive jackpot. They were not present, so the progressive jackpot will remain at \$1,000 for the 2016 annual meeting. A.J. and Elaine Barone won the grand prize drawing – they traveled to Fort Peck where they spent the night at the Fort Peck Hotel, enjoyed a nice dinner and attended the musical.

During the meeting, prizes were awarded, but each member also received an LED flashlight and LED nightlight. (Meter 21538)

Co-op news

Jason Brothen gave the manager's report in which he noted that LYREC has a new logo. Brothen informed the members about the collaborative efforts LYREC and the National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC) to update the billing and accounting side of the cooperative. Brothen also reminded members

continued on page 6



Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative has a new sign with a new logo!

AFCI vs GFCI

Arc Fault Circuit Interrupter

Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter

Though both provide enhanced electrical safety and have similar acronyms, AFCIs and GFCIs protect against very different things. Use this table to learn the differences and values of these safety technologies.



AFCI

• Motto •

"The best fire protection is prevention."

GFCI



"Protecting people from the path to harm."

• Protects Against •

Arc faults – a dangerous electrical problem caused by damaged, overheated, or stressed electrical wiring or devices that may result in a fire.

Ground faults - an unintentional electrical path between a power source and a grounded surface. A person who becomes part of a path for leakage current will be severely shocked or electrocuted.

• Maintenance •

Test AFCIs each month. If the device does not trip when tested, it should be replaced.

Test GFCIs each month. If the device does not trip when tested, it should be replaced.



AFCI

• How they Work •

AFCIs detect hazardous arcing conditions and shut down the electricity before a fire can start.

GFCI



GFCIs prevent deadly shock by quickly shutting off power to the circuit if the electricity flowing into the circuit differs by even a slight amount from that returning, indicating a leakage current.

• Need •

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that AFCIs could prevent roughly 50% of the electrical fires that occur every year.

A U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission study found 47% of the electrocutions could have been addressed with the inclusion of GFCI protection in homes.

• Typical Cost •

Approximately \$35 for Branch/feeder AFCIs.

As little as \$15 for GFCI outlets.

As codes and standards evolve, AFCI receptacles were introduced in 2013 to offer added protection from arc faults.



AFCI and GFCI technologies can coexist with each other to provide the most complete protection that can be provided on a circuit.





Current board members and manager (left to right): **Colin Gartner, Dennis Schmierer, Allen Thiessen, Jason Brothen, Dennis Nelson, Greg Rauschendorfer, John Redman and Jim Vitt.**

continued from page 4



A.J. and **Elaine Barone** were the winners of the grand prize, a Fort Peck theater package. A.J. is not pictured.

that they can pay their bill online with the e-bill system and encouraged members to use the system.

Brothen used a PowerPoint presentation to help explain the expansion and upgrades LYREC has completed. He invited members to access LYREC's Facebook page and reported that the social media side of LYREC will be expanding.

President Allen Thiessen acknowledged Don Prevost's retirement. Prevost retired April 1, 2015, after 45 years of being employed with LYREC.

Thiessen reported that LYREC authorized the payment of \$750,000 in capital credits to be allocated in 2015. President Thiessen also noted the efforts made by the rural electric cooperatives regarding environmental issues.

Directors elected

The nominated incumbents for District 1 were Jim Vitt and Jeff Bieber. Bieber later withdrew his name from the nomination for District 1. Colin Gartner was nominated for District 2. After no floor nominations were made, President Allen Thiessen announced that Jim Vitt had been elected for District 1 and Colin Gartner had been re-elected for District 2.

Join LYREC for its next annual meeting, which will be held Wednesday, June 1, 2016. ■

HIDDEN NUMBERS

If you find your meter number hidden in this issue, it is worth a \$25 credit on your next statement. The meter number will appear within the four Lower Yellowstone Electric pages. Give us a call during the month your meter is listed, and claim your \$25 bill credit.



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
John Redman.....	Secretary/Treasurer
Colin Gartner.....	Trustee
Dennis Schmierer.....	Trustee
Dennis Nelson	Trustee
Jim Vitt.....	Trustee

EMPLOYEES

Jason Brothen.....	General Manager
Brenda Bond	Office Manager
Jami Propp	Member Services Coordinator
Kyle Kavanagh.....	Technology Coordinator
Margo Zadow.....	Billing Administrator
Pam Wilcoxon.....	Cashier/Receptionist
Chris Hillesland.....	Operations Manager
Doug K. Hettich	Asst. Mgr. of Operations
Rich Gorde.....	Foreman
Eric McPherson.....	Sub-Foreman
Kevin Goff.....	Engineer Assistant/Materials Mgr.
Kelly Keysor	Engineering Staking Technician
Lee Alvstad.....	Journeyman Lineman
Richard Tremblay.....	Journeyman Lineman
Aaron Eide.....	Journeyman Lineman
Bryan Franck.....	Journeyman Lineman
Jesse Obergfell.....	Journeyman Lineman
Dan Gieser.....	Journeyman Lineman/Meter Tech.
Blade Jankovsky.....	Apprentice Lineman
Ryder Peterson	Apprentice Lineman
Tanner Roth.....	Apprentice Lineman
Mike Eberling	Mechanic
Bodrey Kindopp	Staking Technician
Corey Candee.....	Electrical/IT Tech.
Edwin Gatzke.....	Line Locator/Meter Reader
Justin King	Warehouse Worker



Facebook

If you would like to stay updated on what is happening at YOUR co-op, join us on Facebook. Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative will notify members on planned power outages, update members on power outages, give energy efficiency tips, and much more.

Co-op Day at the Fair Aug. 6

Don't forget to stop by the co-op booth Thursday, Aug. 6, for a FREE root beer float! We will begin serving floats at 4 p.m. and we will serve them until they are gone or until 6 p.m.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative