

Nominating Committee to meet in March



Jim Vitt



Colin Gartner

The Nominating Committee will meet Tuesday, March 3, at Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative's (LYREC) office. The purpose of the Nominating Committee is to select candidates for the board of trustees positions. The cooperative members will have an opportunity to vote for the candidates during the June 3 annual meeting.

The Nominating Committee will consist of two members from District 1 and two members from District 2. The committee will nominate one or more candidates for District 1 and 2. The present trustees holding seats in these districts are Jim Vitt, District 1, and Colin Gartner, District 2.

The 2015 Nominating Committee consists of:

- Representing District 1, Jim Hunter and Pam Kilen
- Representing District 2, Dean Falkner and Ted Reitz

If you are a LYREC member residing in District 1 or 2 and are interested in running for the board of trustees, contact one of the Nominating Committee members and ask to be considered for nomination.


Remember, only the person named on the membership is eligible for nomination. Joint memberships (memberships in more than one name) are available and do allow any of the joint members to run for the board of trustees. The joint membership, however, is only entitled to one vote at any meeting of the cooperative.

Please contact Lower Yellowstone Electric's office at 406-488-1602 if you have any questions. (Meter 7757) ■

Generate Safely
Safe Generator Operation

Keep this card in your home's emergency kit or with your generator.

- Never connect a standby generator into your home's electrical system. There are only two safe ways to connect a standby generator to your equipment:
 - Stationary Generator:** An approved generator transfer switch, which keeps your house circuits separate from the electric co-op, should be installed by a professional.
 - Portable Generator:** Plug appliances directly into the outlet provided on the generator.
- Set up and run your generator in a well-ventilated area outside the home. Make sure it's out and away from your garage, doors, windows, and vents. The carbon monoxide generated is **DEADLY**.
 - Use a heavy-duty extension cord to connect electric appliances to the outlet on the generator.
 - Start the generator first **BEFORE** connecting appliances.



Source: SafeElectricity.org
Developed jointly by the Energy Education Council & Rural Electricity Resource Council



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SAFELECTRICITY.ORG

Staying safe and warm during a winter storm

Last year showed us how the polar vortex can bring high winds, sub-zero temperatures and ice to many parts of the country. This dangerous winter weather can cause hazardous road conditions, downed power lines and extended power outages. Be sure to stay safe before, during, and after a winter storm hits.

If power lines go down because of a winter storm and the electricity goes out, you may be in for a prolonged power outage as utility crews work to get the lights back on.

The National Weather Service tells us that winter storms are deceptive killers because most deaths are indirectly related to storms. Many hazards can remain after a winter storm is gone.

Safe Electricity offers tips on how to stay warm during a winter power outage:

- Stay inside, and dress warm.
- Close off unneeded rooms and place draft blocks at the bottom of doors to minimize cold air

entering the house.

- Cover windows at night.
- Be aware of the temperature in your home. Infants and elderly people are more susceptible to the cold. You may want to stay with friends or relatives or go to a shelter if you cannot keep your home warm.
- When the power is restored, there will be a power surge. To protect your circuits and appliances, switch off lights and unplug appliances. Leave one light switched on as a quick reminder that the power is restored.

Apart from the cold, there are other dangers winter storms can bring. Downed power lines could be submerged in snow and ice, making them difficult to see. Therefore, stay indoors if possible. If you must go outside, use caution and treat all downed and hanging lines as if they are energized. Stay away, warn others to stay away, and immediately contact Lower Yellowstone Electric Cooperative.

Be sure to have a storm preparedness kit ready before a storm strikes to help get you and your family through a power outage. This kit includes: bottled water, nonperishable food, blankets, warm clothing, first aid kit/medicine, flashlight, radio, extra batteries and toiletries.

If you are using an alternative heating source during a power outage, be sure to know how to use it safely and that you have all supplies for it gathered. You should have enough supplies in your preparedness kit to last three to seven days. ■





LEARN TO USE FIRE EXTINGUISHER PROPERLY

A fire extinguisher used by a trained adult can be a life-saving tool. However, a majority of adults have not had fire extinguisher training and may not know how and when to use one. Fire extinguisher use requires a sound decision-making process and training on the proper use and maintenance.

Portable fire extinguishers are valuable for immediate use on small fires. Use a fire extinguisher only if:

- You have alerted other occupants and someone has called the fire department;
- The fire is small and contained to a single object, such as a

wastebasket;

- You are safe from the toxic smoke produced by the fire;
- You have a means of escape identified and the fire is not between you and the escape route; and
- Your instincts tell you that it is safe to use an extinguisher.

If all of these conditions are not present, you should NOT try to use a fire extinguisher. Alert other occupants, leave the building following your home escape plan and call the fire department from a cell phone or a neighbor's home.

MAINTENANCE

Fire extinguishers need to be regularly checked to ensure that:

- The extinguisher is not blocked by furniture, doorways or anything that might limit access in an emergency.
- The pressure is at the recommended level. Some extinguishers have gauges that indicate when the pressure is too high or too low.
- All parts are operable and not damaged or restricted in any way. Make sure hoses and nozzles are free of insects or debris. There should not be any signs of damage or abuse, such as dents or rust, on the extinguisher.
- The outside of the extinguisher is clean. Remove any oil or grease that might accumulate on the exterior.

STEPS FOR USE

To use a fire extinguisher, follow the PASS steps:

- **PULL** the pin at the top of the extinguisher. The pin releases a locking mechanism and will allow you to discharge the extinguisher.
- **AIM** at the base of the fire, not the flames. This is important. To put out the fire, you must extinguish the fuel.
- **SQUEEZE** the lever slowly. This will release the extinguishing agent in the extinguisher. If the handle is released, the discharge will stop.
- **SWEEP** from side to side. Using a sweeping motion, move the fire extinguisher back and forth until the fire is completely out. Operate the extinguisher from a safe distance, several feet away, and then move toward the fire once it starts to diminish. Be sure to read the instructions on your fire extinguisher – different fire extinguishers recommend operating them from different distances. ■



Help is available

If you or someone you know needs help this heating season, funds are available. If you reside in Montana, you can contact Energy Share at 800-227-0703. If you reside in North Dakota, contact Community Action at 701-572-8191. Montana residents may pick up an application at Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

Once you submit your application, it can take up to two months before receiving assistance. If you are finding yourself in a financial bind, please pick up an application today. Below is the income eligibility criteria for 2014-2015.

Number in household	Annual Income
1	\$21,702
2	\$28,379
3	\$35,057
4	\$41,734
5	\$48,412
6	\$55,089

For your application to be processed, you will need a copy of your most recent fuel bill, 12 months of income verification for all persons in the household (wages, Social Security/SSI, VA, child support or unemployment), proof of current resources (bank statements), a photo ID for all household members 18 years and older, and a birth certificate for children 17 and under. If you are receiving Supplemental Security Income, you will need your SSI award letter.

Failure to provide all requested information and verification will delay the eligibility determination and may result in application denial.

If you submit your application in January 2015, provide verification of income for January 2014 through December 2014. April 30 is the deadline for all applications. ■

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. ■



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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

Donald J. Prevost	.....	General Manager
Jason Brothen	.....	Assistant Manager
Scott D. Johnson	.....	Mgr. of Office Services
Jami Propp	.....	Member Services Coordinator
Brenda Bond	.....	Staff Accountant
Margo Zadow	.....	Billing Administrator
Pam Wilcoxon	.....	Cashier/Receptionist
Chris Hillesland	.....	Operations Manager
Doug K. Hettich	.....	Asst. Mgr. of Operations
Rich Gorde	.....	Sub-Foreman
Kevin Goff	.....	Engineer Assistant/Materials Mgr.
Kelly Keysor	.....	Engineering Staking Technician
Eric McPherson	.....	Journeyman Lineman
Lee Alvstad	.....	Journeyman Lineman
Richard Tremblay	.....	Journeyman Lineman
Aaron Eide	.....	Journeyman Lineman
Bryan Franck	.....	Journeyman Lineman
Dan Gieser	.....	Journeyman Lineman
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

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 