

MAY 2014

- 20 \$1,000 “Luck of the Draw” scholarships awarded
- Progressive Jackpot drawing \$1,000 (must be present)
- Child care will be provided during the meeting
- Each member account that attends the business meeting will receive a \$25 bill credit
- Elections of three directors



Join Lower Yellowstone Electric for the 78th annual meeting

Richland County Fairgrounds Event Center, Sidney, Mont.

June 4

Registration/Dinner 5:30 p.m.

Registration ends/meeting begins at 6:15 p.m.



Calvin Vannett
District 5



Dennis Nelson
District 5



Marty Bearce
District 5



Greg Rauschendorfer
District 6



Allen Thiessen
District 7

Nominating Committee meeting results

A Nominating Committee consisting of Roger Bearce, Wagner Harmon, Mike Fisher, Eugene Fisher, Don Diede and Brian Ligon met at Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Association's office March 17. The purpose of the meeting was to submit candidates for the election of directors for District 5, 6 and 7, which will be held during the June 4 annual meeting.

The committee selected Calvin Vannett, Dennis Nelson and Marty Bearce for District 5, Greg Rauschendorfer for District 6 and Allen Thiessen for District 7. Candidates may also be nominated by petition or from the floor at the June 4 annual meeting.

DISTRICT 5 **Calvin Vannett**

Calvin Vannett spent his early years on the Larson family farm in Buford/Trenton Valley. He joined the National Guard during his senior year in high school, leaving for basic training upon graduation. He later attended North Dakota State College of Science, majoring in auto mechanics. During this experience, he was elected to the Student Cabinet, serving as a representative for the Trade & Technical Division. In addition, he was active in several campus clubs. Calvin later attended Lutheran Bible Institute of Seattle where he met his wife, Barbara-Anne. They have five sons.

Calvin joined the U.S. Army in 1987 and the family moved to Germany, where he served as a company training NCO. In 1990, he deployed to Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm, serving as a chaplain's assistant, ammunition inventory assistant and bivouac site maintenance.

Upon discharge from the Army, he returned to North Dakota, living in Fargo. There, Calvin worked for various trucking companies before beginning his own over-the-road trucking enterprise. Calvin enjoys participating in the church community and was instrumental in starting a men's ministry at his church in Fargo.

During 2011, Calvin decided to return to his roots in "the valley," moving his family onto the family farmstead. Since returning to this area, he expanded his carpentry skills, forming Prairie Custom Contracting. He also works for Fort Worth Pipe (a division of Savage Services), a logistics company.

"I believe my responsibility as a trustee is to cooperatively work with the other trustees to maintain economical and reliable electrical power, remembering at all times I am here to be a servant to the consumer," he said.

Dennis Nelson

Dennis Nelson is a third-generation farmer and rancher from Bainville. He and his wife, Tami,

have three children, Lindsey, a senior at Minot State University, Drue, a freshman at Montana State University-Billings, and Drae, a third-grader at Bainville School. Dennis has been involved in various community organizations. His previous board experience includes 12 years on the Bainville Fire Board. He also served nine years on the Bainville School Board, of which he served four years as the board chairman and two years as chairman of the Legislative Committee.

When asked what he can contribute to the Lower Yellowstone board, he replied, "I appreciate the importance of communicating with our elected officials, especially during this time of rapid change and growth. I have traveled to Helena numerous times during the past two legislative sessions. I am comfortable visiting with legislators and lobbyists and testifying before legislative committees."

Dennis enjoyed serving on previous boards, and he knows from those experiences the commitment it takes to be an effective trustee.

Marty Bearce

Marty Bearce was born in Williston and raised on a farm near Buford. He graduated from Trenton High School in 2003. He then attended Dickinson State University, majoring in agriculture business and marketing and

graduating in 2007. After college, he returned to Williston and accepted a position for Horizon Resources as an agronomist. He is now a certified crop advisor managing the Culbertson, Mont., location. Marty also works on his farm and has started a trucking company hauling frac sand.

DISTRICT 6 Greg Rauschendorfer

Greg Rauschendorfer was born in Sidney and grew up on a farm/ranch in northwestern Richland County. He attended the Armstrong school through the eighth grade. He graduated from Lambert High School and attended Montana State University. In 1980, he returned to manage the family operation where he presently resides with his wife, Donna. Greg has four children, Lynn (Ty Cole), David (Tara), Dustin (Shelby) and Gregory. Greg has six grandchildren, Caitlin, Avery, Tegen, Ashley, Quinton and Connor.

He has always been community-minded and looking for ways to better his community, county and state. Greg's involvements include charter member of the Charley Creek JCs, past president of the Lower Missouri River Coordinated Resource Management Council

and serving on the Lambert School Board. Greg has served on the Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Association board of trustees since 1993 and currently serves as the vice president.

Greg says, "Rural living and along with it, the pleasures, rewards, challenges and accountability must be preserved. It is when we become challenged that we see our greatest period of growth. I believe in a continued vigilance in providing all LYREA members with affordable, high-quality electrical energy at the least possible cost. I believe this plays a key role in achieving a quality rural living for our families."

DISTRICT 7 Allen Thiessen

Allen Thiessen was born in Sidney and raised on a farm south of Lambert. 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 and six grandchildren, all of whom reside in Sidney.

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 27th year as a Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Association board member and is currently serving as president. Al spent 10 years on the board and served six years as president of the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association in Great Falls. He also served on the board of the Mid-West Electric Consumers Association in Denver for 11 years. For the past 13 years, Al has represented LYREA on the board of Upper Missouri G&T Electric Cooperative in Sidney. In November 2012, Al was elected to the board of Basin Electric Power Cooperative in Bismarck, representing the 10 cooperatives in Upper Missouri G&T.

"It is a real honor to represent the members of Lower Yellowstone on the board of directors. It has been challenging and rewarding to address the growth in our area. The board has worked diligently at planning and keeping Lower Yellowstone financially sound with the benefit being stable rates for all of our members," he said. ■

SRS dispatch here to help

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Association (LYREA) continues to strive to serve its members in the best way possible. In doing this, LYREA has changed the after-hours dispatch procedure and is now currently using Basin Electric Power Cooperative's Security and Response Services (SRS).

There are many reasons LYREA has altered the dispatch system that has been in place for many years. One main reason is better response during widespread outages.

When an after-hours outage occurs that affects multiple consumers, the consumers frequently get pushed to voicemail, do to the LYREA dispatcher being on the phone with other consumers. Often, one of the callers has pertinent information that can assist the line crews in finding the problem area and getting the power restored quicker.

The SRS system includes many incoming lines. Callers may also choose the automated system, but

if you would like to speak to a dispatcher, simply press 0.

Another vital reason the SRS dispatch is key is for safety issues. The SRS dispatchers have the capability to monitor our line crew's movements the entire time they are on a job.

SRS will answer calls after-hours, holidays and weekends. Please have your meter number available for the dispatchers when you call for an outage. During business hours, you will still reach the local office. ■



Savage Substation construction

In the early 1940s, when the original Savage Substation was built, life got a bit easier for the rural residents of Savage. Although the original substation has served its purpose for the past 70-plus years, it was time to upgrade the substation.

The new Savage Substation is unique among all of the other Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Association (LYREA) substations. A pad-mount substation was installed rather than LYREA's traditional open-bus substation. The main reason LYREA chose the pad-mount substation over the open-bus substation is that the

pad-mount substation takes less space, and space was limited when the initial planning began for the substation.

With the new growth and added load in this area, a new substation was needed to ensure LYREA is able to provide reliable service to its consumers. During the 2012 and 2013 irrigation season, the Savage Substation was at its peak capacity. The 2,000-KVA transformer was replaced with a 5,000-KVA transformer to ensure this substation has the capacity needed to serve the members in this area. (Meter 21533) ■



Scholarships to be awarded

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Association will award 20, \$1,000 scholarships at the co-op's annual meeting Wednesday, June 4.

To be eligible:

- The parent/guardian of the applicant must be a member who is currently receiving electric service from Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Association.
- The applicant must be a student who is enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-

time undergraduate course of study at an accredited two- or four-year college/university or vocational school for the upcoming fall term.

- The applicant must be accompanied by a parent/guardian and both must be present to win.
- An individual applicant can receive a maximum of two luck of the draw scholarships.
- The scholarship registration will close at 6:15 p.m.

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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TRUSTEES

Allen Thiessen..... President
 Greg Rauschendorfer Vice President
 John Redman..... Secretary/Treasurer
 Colin Gartner Trustee
 Marvin Kilen Trustee
 Lester Larson Jr. Trustee
 Dennis Schmierer..... Trustee

EMPLOYEES

Donald J. Prevost General Manager
 Scott D. Johnson Mgr. of Office Services
 Jami Propp Member Services Coordinator
 Brenda Bond Staff Accountant
 Margo Zadow Billing Clerk
 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 Apprentice Lineman
 James Pihl Apprentice Lineman
 Blade Jankovsky Apprentice Lineman
 Mike Eberling Mechanic
 Bodrey Kindopp Staking Technician
 Alan MacDonald Meter Reader/Shop Asst.
 Jason Brothen Special Project/IT Manager
 Corey Candee Electrical/IT Tech.
 Kevin Van Dusen Warehouse Worker

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