

## Prevost retires after 45 years

**L**ower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) announces the retirement of Don Prevost. Don began his career at Lower Yellowstone as the office manager in 1970. After 27 years of fulfilling his role as office manager, Don was promoted to general manager/CEO in 1997.

Throughout Don's years with LYREC, he has donated time to numerous cooperative affiliates such as the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, and Basin Electric Power Cooperative, to name a few. Don also filled in as the interim manager at Upper Missouri Power Cooperative for several months, in addition to his duties as general manager of LYREC.

Don has not only been a dedicated employee, but he has also been involved in several community groups, including the school board, the Sidney swim team board, the Sidney Jaycees, Sidney Lions Club, St. Matthew's Parish council, Knights of Columbus, Moose Lodge, Sidney girls softball coach, and Richland County economic development.

"Don has gained the respect of his peers, not only in the co-op world, but also in the community," Operations Manager Chris Hillesland remarks.

"I have valued the opportunity to get to work with Don the past 10 years. He genuinely cares about



**Prevost**

those he works with, and I am saddened to be losing him as a member of our work family," says Member Services Coordinator Jami Propp. Although Don will be missed by his cooperative family, the employees of LYREC feel fortunate that Don will get to spend more time with his wife, Julie, their four daughters, Andrea, Rachelle, Deedra and Stephanie and, of course, their four adorable grandchildren. Don plans to spend his retirement years fishing, helping his nephew on the farm, traveling, spoiling his grandkids and just enjoying life.

Throughout his 45 years at the cooperative, Don has faced a variety of challenges in his career, and has had to make some difficult decisions.

"Don has always put everything into doing what he has felt is the best for Lower Yellowstone and the co-op in general," Hillesland says. Don has been innovative in dealing with the problems that arise in a co-op, whether it be rising power costs, a downturn in the economy or the growth experienced in the last 10 years.

"Don has been a mentor to me, and numerous others, showing us

how to be exceptional cooperative employees," says Assistant Manager Jason Brothen.

Board Chairman Allen Thiessen notes, "Some of the things that stand out when I think about Don retiring are congratulations and thank you. First, congratulations on completing a very fine career at Lower Yellowstone. Forty-five years is a remarkable achievement. Second, thank you ever so much for everything you've done along the way and for having our cooperative in top shape as we make the transition to new management. Speaking on behalf of the current and former board members, I can say that it has been a real pleasure to work with Don as we tackled our ever-changing environment. Don was always ready to deal with new challenges and took them on as readily in the later years as he did when he first began as manager. Lower Yellowstone will benefit from many of Don's actions for years to come."

"Don has always been very fair and a pleasure to work with all of these years, says Mechanic Mike Eberling.

"We certainly are going to miss Don and we wish him a wonderful, relaxing retirement. In the meantime, I would encourage as many as can to stop by the office before April 1 to thank him and wish him the best," Thiessen adds. ■

## Wilcoxon wins trip to D.C.



*Wilcoxon*

In June, Washington, D.C., will be invaded by the youth of America for the annual Youth Tour. Chantel Wilcoxon, the daughter of Jeremy and Pam Wilcoxon of Sidney, will be one of the 20-plus Youth Tour winners from across the state of Montana.

Chantel is currently a sophomore at Sidney High School. She is a dedicated Sidney Eaglette participating in cheer and dance. Chantel is a member of Pella Lutheran Church, the Lutheran Youth Organization and Business Professionals of America.

The Youth Tour is more than a trip to the nation's capital to sightsee.

It is a prominent event in which thousands of high school juniors and seniors from across the nation join in Washington, D.C. This trip will help the youth understand our nation's history and the freedoms we enjoy, as well as the many costs of those freedoms.

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative believes in investing in today's youth. We are investing in our – and your – future. We know we have some of the brightest students right here in Montana and North Dakota, and we want to give them the opportunity to experience the past, present and future of our country. ■

## 2015 Mondak Ag Days & Trade Show



The Mondak Ag Day and Trade Show took place at the Richland County Event Center in Sidney Jan. 16-17.

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative had a light display at its booth. The display included three CFLs and one LED light compared to an incandescent bulb. The display metered the kilowatt-hours used for the three CFL bulbs and the LED bulb versus a 60-watt incandescent bulb. The four bulbs together (three

CFLs and one LED) used less kilowatt-hours than the one 60-watt incandescent bulb.

Another big hit, especially for the kids and kids at heart, was the plasma ball. When touching the plasma ball, the plasma streams moved toward their fingers or for the brave souls – their noses. If you were unable to attend this year, we hope you can join us next year at the Mondak Ag Days and Trade Show. ■

## Montana co-ops go to Helena

Montana Electric Co-op Day at the Capitol was Jan. 13. Member service representatives from the electric cooperatives all over Montana organized the day and set up co-op displays throughout the rotunda. Sack lunches were put

together for legislators, their staff, lobbyists and anyone else visiting the Capitol that day.

In conjunction with Co-op Day at the Capitol, the Council of Cooperatives also had its annual meeting in Helena. The Council of Cooperatives is not only attended

by electric cooperatives, but all cooperatives. This is a great opportunity for cooperatives to convey to the legislators the important issues facing their cooperative members. In Montana alone, cooperatives employ more than 4,400 individuals. ■

# A lighting comparison for the lighting revolution



When it comes to selecting a light bulb for the lamp on your table, there are many choices. The traditional 60-watt incandescent lamp that produced a warm white glow, got very hot and burned out frequently, is no longer manufactured. You can still find them on some store shelves, but they are fading into the past. Under the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA), a bi-partisan bill signed into law by President George Bush in 2007, manufacturers must make bulbs that produce as much light as the old 60-watt incandescent lamp but use 43 watts of energy or less.

To meet that requirement, lighting manufacturers have developed a broad range of products from “enhanced” incandescent and halogen lamps to compact florescent lamps (CFLs) and light-emitting diode (LED) bulbs. They are more widely available, offer better performance, and have a longer life. Though they are still more expensive than the old-fashioned bulb they replace, the cost is falling and they save money and energy.

To compare light bulbs, it’s useful not only to look at the bulb’s cost and energy use in watts, but also to consider three properties: 1) how much light it produces (measured in lumens); 2) its color (measured by color temperature in degrees K); and 3) how long it lasts (measured in hours or years).

A traditional 60-watt incandescent “A lamp” produced

around 860 lumens of light, had a warm-white color temperature of 2,700 K and had an average life of 1,000 hours. While shopping for replacement bulbs that offered the same light output and color temperature, we found the following:

- 43-watt enhanced incandescent, cost \$1 each and had a life of 1,000 hours = 0.91 years if you use it three hours a day.
- 14-watt CFL “A-lamp” looks like a traditional light bulb, cost \$4.49 each and has a life of 8,000 hours or 7.3 years
- 9.5-watt LED “A-lamp” cost \$9.47 each and has a rated life of 25,000 hours or 22.8 years.

The LED uses less electricity and lasts a lot longer, but is it really worth spending nearly \$10 on a light bulb? The answer depends on time. If you were to buy all three bulbs in January, by December, considering the cost of the bulb plus the cost of the energy it uses, you would have spent \$6.84 for the incandescent, \$6.39 for the CFL and \$10.76 for the LED. So the CFL costs less to own and operate. (Based on the national average cost of energy at 12.4 cents per kilowatt-hour.)

Doing the same calculations for five years and 10 years, taking into account how many bulbs you will have to replace and assuming the cost of the bulbs and energy doesn’t change, the numbers look like this:

Bulb type	1 year	5 years	10 years
Incandescent	\$6.84	\$35.19	\$69.39
CFL	\$6.39	\$13.99	\$27.99
LED	\$10.76	\$15.92	\$22.37

As shown in the table, the CFL has the lowest total cost of bulbs plus energy in the short term. After 10 years, the LED becomes the low-cost leader. LEDs offer good performance. Most by reputable manufacturers come with 10-year warranties, and with prices continuing to fall, LEDs are a good investment. Buy a few – especially if you see them on sale and try them out. (Meter 7900)

***Know what to look for by watching the “Lighting Basics” video at [www.togetherwesave.com](http://www.togetherwesave.com). ■***



## 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. ■

## 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.

April 30 is the deadline for all applications. ■

## LYREC

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### TRUSTEES

Allen Thiessen .....	President
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Colin Gartner.....	Trustee
Dennis Schmierer.....	Trustee
Dennis Nelson .....	Trustee
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### 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.....	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
Dan Gieser.....	Journeyman Lineman/Meter Tech.
Blade Jankovskiy .....	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

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