

Big Skylights



An internal newsletter of the STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

A report from your Chief Executive Officer Dave Wheelihan

August 24, 2017

Fall River's Jay Hanson seeks re-election to CFC

One of our member co-op directors, **Jay Hanson** of Fall River Rural Electric Cooperative, is up for re-election this year to CFC's District 9 seat on the CFC board of directors. Also vying for the seat is **Garry Rosman**, director at Inland Power & Light Co., Spokane, Wash. CFC elections will be held in conjunction with the NRECA Region 7 & 9 conference, Oct. 16-18 in Denver.

MECA offers course on strategic planning

MECA will sponsor the NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director Course 2630 — *Strategic Planning* – on Sept. 6 in Lewistown.

The course is one of five courses designed to provide basic knowledge and skills required of cooperative directors. This is a one-day course.

Boards have ultimate responsibility for ensuring and evaluating the long-term health of the organization. They help fulfill the duty through strategic thinking, identifying goals through strategic

planning and authorizing the appropriate allocation of resources through the adoption of financial policies, budget review and approval and monitoring management's progress toward strategic goals. This course teaches directors how to participate effectively in strategic thinking and planning.

The course will cover the following topics: 1) The difference between strategic thinking and strategic planning; 2) Analyzing your cooperative's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats; 3) Recognizing the board's oversight responsibility, and; 4) Using the strategic plan in the annual evaluation of the cooperative's accomplishment and as the foundation of the CEO's performance appraisal.

This course will be held at the Yogo Inn. There is no fee for the course if your co-op is signed up for the prepaid education and training program. The fee is \$550 per person for co-ops not signed up for the prepaid program. Continental breakfast and lunch will be served.

To register please contact **Beckie Frediani** at the statewide office via email at beckie@mtco-ops.com or via phone at 4(06) 761-8333.

Generational connections workshop set for Sept. 19

MECA will hold a one-day "When Generations Connect" workshop, Sept. 19 at the statewide office in Great Falls, featuring a noted, national speaker.

The workshop is predicated on the reality of our society today with four distinct generations, each with a unique set of attitudes and values. This workshop will demonstrate not only why it's important to understand what shaped the generations, but why they behave the way they do. With this information, you learn how to communicate and interact with each generation.

This workshop will be presented by **Phil Gwoke**. Mr. Gwoke's life mission is to help people excel and bring out the best in every generation. He is a passionate generational expert skilled in developing strategies to improve inter-generational communication and collaboration. As an internationally recognized speaker, Mr. Gwoke has presented in 20 different states to over 100,000 people. Before becoming a speaker, he pursued his passion to help people be their best selves as a high school teacher, college admissions professional, marketing coordinator, corporate trainer and even small business owner. He has maintained strong ties to his local community as a mentor and consultant to young entrepreneurs, and brings his diverse background and skill-set to the BridgeWorks team. Mr. Gwoke is one of BridgeWorks' resident Gen Xers, and brings his unique humor, experiences, research and generational expertise to every keynote, workshop and training session he delivers. He is a firm believer that with the proper motivation, training and support

system, members of any generation can become capable of remarkable accomplishments. With his down-to-earth, relatable style and dedication to presenting research in a digestible, entertaining way, Mr. Gwoke has become a fast favorite with audiences around the country.

For those participants needing overnight accommodations, MECA has corporate rates at the Best Western Heritage Inn, (406) 761-1900; the Staybridge Inn & Suites, (406) 761-4903, or; the LaQuinta Inn & Suites (406) 761-2600. When calling, be sure to request the Montana Electric Co-ops' (MECA) corporate rate.

To register please contact Beckie Frediani at the statewide office via email at beckie@mtco-ops.com or via phone at 406-761-8333.

Job Market

Apprentice Lineman

Glacier Electric Cooperative is seeking a full-time apprentice lineman to join the co-op's Browning outpost. Glacier Electric is a member-owned electric cooperative serving 5,100 members in northwestern Montana. The diverse membership base is comprised of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, several Canadian/U.S. border crossings, most of Glacier National Park, several small towns, and significant rural agricultural load.

Required Skills/Qualifications: The successful candidate will possess a great attitude, personality and work ethic, and be committed to safety and service to our members. The apprentice will work under the direct supervision of a journeyman lineman or foreman. Duties include constructing, repairing, and maintaining lines, structures, and equipment involved in the distribution and transmission of electricity. The successful candidate must meet all physical, educational, and regulatory qualifications of an apprenticeship program, and must have and maintain a minimum Class A, Type 2 Commercial Driver's License.

Education/Experience: Minimum of a high-school diploma or GED required. Completion of apprentice line school or equivalent experience preferred. **Lifting Capacity:** Must be able to lift 75 pounds. **Compensation:** based on experience. This is a union position with an excellent benefits package. The successful candidate must pass an initial substance screening and, as an employee, will be subject to random drug/controlled substance screenings.

Interested parties are to direct inquiries to Operations Manager **Mike Pyette** and submit the following: (1) completed application for employment; (2) resume; and (3) three references. Applications for employment are available at the co-op's Browning and Cut Bank offices, and on the co-op's website at www.GlacierElectric.com. Applications must be received by Aug. 31, 2017.

CALENDAR

August

29-30	MECA OCR School	Huntley, MT
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September

6	2630 Certified Credentialed Director's Course	Lewistown, MT
11-14	Annual MECA Operations Conference	Helena, MT
19	When Generations Connect Training Course	Great Falls, MT
23	Beartooth Electric Annual Meeting	Absarokee, MT
29	Legislature's Energy & Telecommunications Interim Committee Meeting	Helena, MT

October

2	943.1 Conversation Skills Outside the Boardroom BLC Course	Great Falls, MT
2-5	MECA Annual Meeting	Great Falls, MT
14	Big Flat Electric Annual Meeting	Malta, MT
14	Sheridan Electric Annual Meeting	Medicine Lake, MT
16-17	Substation Class	Sidney, MT
16-18	NRECA Region 7 & 9 Meetings	Denver, CO
18	NorVal Electric Annual Meeting	Opheim, MT
19-20	Substation Class	Missoula, MT
27	Park Electric Annual Meeting	Livingston, MT