

Big Skylights



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

A report from your Chief Executive Officer Dave Wheelihan

September 7, 2017

Classes set on substations

MECA will host two Substation Classes. The first class will be held in Sidney, Oct 16-17. Class will run from 1 to 5 p.m. on Oct. 16, and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., on Oct. 17. The second class will be held in Missoula on Oct. 19-20. Class will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., on Oct. 19 and from 8 a.m. to noon on Oct. 20.

A full course description was sent out Aug. 31 to line superintendents and/or operations foremen. **Dennis Tester** will provide training. Mr. Tester has been a lineman for 34 years and is employed by Lower Valley Energy in Afton, Wyo. The cost of the course is \$300 for MECA S/LC clients and \$350 for non-MECA S/LC clients. The registration deadline is Friday, Sept. 29.

For more information, please contact **Lea Potoczny** of our office. She can be reached via email or phone. Her email address is meca@mtco-ops.com. The phone number is (406) 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 intergenerational communication and collaboration. As an internationally recognized speaker, Mr. Gwoke has presented in 20 different states to more than 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.

CALENDAR

September

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

November

8	Basin Electric Power Cooperative Annual Meeting	Bismarck, ND
28-29	MECA Winter Meeting	

December

12-14	Midwest Electric Consumers Association Annual Meeting	Denver, CO
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