

# Big Skylights



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

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A report from your Chief Executive Officer Dave Wheelihan

February 2, 2017

## Social media workshop set for February 16

MECA will hold a one-day Social Media Workshop on Feb. 16 at the statewide association office in Great Falls. The workshop will be presented by **Molly McPherson**. Ms. McPherson brings more than 25 years of communications experience helping clients find the right strategy for 21st-century communications, combining the best practices of today with the traditional methods of the past. She is a frequent featured speaker and trainer for several national agencies and associations including FEMA, Homeland Security and NRECA.

The one-day workshop will cover: overview of the top social media networks (as of Feb 2017); basic social cues, etiquette, formatting; social media dashboards; online reputational management; social media exercises; social media best practices for co-ops; generational use and expectations in an online work environment; top communication skills for 21<sup>st</sup> century workplace; overview of social media section of Crisis Communication toolkit on cooperative.com; and co-ops in an online crisis — how to handle and prevent an online hijack or attack.

For co-ops enrolled in the 2017 Prepaid Education & Training Program, there is no charge for this workshop. A \$500 per participant fee will be charged for co-ops not enrolled in the prepaid program.

For information on registration or if you have any questions, please contact **Beckie Frediani** at the statewide office or visit [www.mtco-ops.com](http://www.mtco-ops.com). Ms. Frediani can be reached via email: [beckie@mtco-ops.com](mailto:beckie@mtco-ops.com). The phone number is (406) 761-8333.

## MECA offers course on workplace conflicts

MECA will offer Workplace Protection Training: Verbal De-escalation and S.A.V.E. Yourself at the statewide association office in Great Falls on **Feb. 22**. This course is designed for all cooperative employees, whether it's inside personnel or outside line personnel. The verbal de-escalation portion of the course focuses on conflict resolution and trains employees on how to deal with difficult or non-compliant people. The S.A.V.E. Yourself program teaches employees how to survive if they are ever confronted with an active killer. The instructor, **Chad Sheehan**, has trained electric cooperative employees from Iowa, South Dakota, Missouri and Minnesota. In total, his programs have been taught to more than 35,000 people from different states.

The registration deadline for this course is Friday, Feb. 3. The registration fee is based on the total number of participants in the class. The fee is \$400 per person if there up to 20 participants in the class, \$300 per person for 21-30 participants in the class and \$200 per person if there are 30 participants in the class. The registration fee includes lunch. No refunds for cancellations will be given after Feb. 3. However, participant substitutions are welcome.

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) and the LaQuinta Inn & Suites (406-761-2600). When calling, be sure to request the Montana Electric Co-ops (MECA) corporate rate.

To register or if you have any questions regarding this course, please contact **Lea Potoczny** at the statewide office. She can be reached via email: [meca@mtco-ops.com](mailto:meca@mtco-ops.com). The phone number is (406) 761-8333.

**Job Market****Master Electrician**

McCone Electric Cooperative in Circle, Montana, is seeking a highly motivated master electrician or journeyman electrician who could test for a Master Electrician License. This is a position for a qualified professional. Applicants should have a working knowledge of the National Electrical Code (NEC) and the National Electric Safety Code (NESC). The successful candidate must have the ability to handle a variety of diverse tasks and organize work to meet deadlines; have proficient communications skills, both written and oral, must be organized, a problem solver, and future-oriented; and must be able to climb, lift and operate a variety of equipment. McCone Electric Cooperative offers an excellent wage and benefit package. McCone Electric is committed to having a strong safety program, and safety is the co-op's first priority. McCone Electric Cooperative delivers electric power to more than 5,000 meters in 14,400 square miles of eastern Montana. McCone Electric's member-owners have relied on low-cost, reliable electric service for 70 years. McCone Electric employs 24 dedicated team members and has annual revenues in excess of \$7 million.

Applications can be downloaded at [www.mcconeelectric.coop](http://www.mcconeelectric.coop) or picked up in the Circle office. All inquiries or email applications can be sent to **Scot Brown** at [sbrown@mcconeelectric.coop](mailto:sbrown@mcconeelectric.coop) or mailed to: McCone Electric, PO Box 368, Circle, MT 59215. Applications will be accepted until position is filled.

**Consumer/Accounting Clerk**

Vigilante Electric Cooperative is searching for a dedicated and outgoing individual to provide courteous and efficient customer service. Candidates must have excellent oral and written communication skills, demonstrate teamwork and flexibility, and must be able to use business software packages, including Microsoft Office Suite. An equivalent combination of education and experience is desirable.

This is a career job with progressive pay and an outstanding benefit package. The work schedule is full-time, 40 hrs/wk. The deadline for application is Feb. 15, 2017. Applicants should submit a cover letter and resume directly to Vigilante Electric Cooperative, PO Box 1049, Dillon, MT 59725 or contact **Raquel Reno-Morast**, (406) 683-2327 for more information.

## CALENDAR

### February

7-9	Lineman Basics Training Course	Great Falls, MT
16	Social Media Training Course	Great Falls, MT
22	Workplace Protection Course	
23-26	Director Education Programs, Pre-NRECA Annual Meeting	San Diego, CA
26-March 1	NRECA Annual Meeting	San Diego, CA
26-March 1	NRECA Tech Advantage Conference	San Diego, CA

### March

3	Vigilante Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Dillon, MT
8-9	NRECA Training Courses: 2600 Director Duties & Liabilities and Understanding the Electric Business	Great Falls, MT
14	Big Horn County Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Hardin, MT
14-17	New Co-op Communicator Orientation	Arlington, VA
18	Flathead Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Kalispell, MT
18	Missoula Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Missoula, MT
18	Ravalli County Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Corvallis, MT
21	DOT Compliance Training	Great Falls, MT
21	Mid-Yellowstone Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Hysham, MT
23	Yellowstone Valley Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Billings, MT
25	Lincoln Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Eureka, MT
30	Central MT Electric Power Cooperative Annual Meeting	Great Falls, MT
31	Sun River Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Fairfield, MT

### April

1-4	Directors Conference	Tampa, FL
3	Directors Course 921.1 – Board Leadership Certification	Great Falls, MT
4-5	MECA Spring Committee & Board Meetings	Great Falls, MT
6	Upper Missouri Power Cooperative Annual Meeting	Sidney, MT
11-13	New CEO Orientation	Arlington, VA
12	Glacier Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Cut Bank, MT
14	Marias River Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Shelby, MT
23-25	NRECA Legislative Conference	Washington, D.C.