

# 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 18, 2016

## Credentialed Cooperative Director series offered

MECA and the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives will cosponsor Part 1 of NRECA's Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) Fast Track course series in Minot, N.D., March 10-12. The courses offered for Part 1 are: 2600, "Director Duties and Liabilities"; 2610, "Understanding the Electric Business," and 2630, "Strategic Planning."

The courses will be held at the Sleep Inn & Suites, 2400 10<sup>th</sup> St. SW in Minot.

Part 2 of the CCD Fast Track will be held Oct.12-14 in Billings. The final two courses of the Fast Track series offered under Part 2 are: 2620, "Board Operations and Process," and 2640, "Financial Decision-making." The 2640 class is a 1-½ day class.

The pre-registration deadline is Feb 26. Please contact Beckie Frediani at the statewide office at (406) 761-8333 or [beckie@mtco-ops.com](mailto:beckie@mtco-ops.com) for registration information.

Registration fees for the series are as follows:

- \$2,495 for the entire Fast Track, which includes all five required courses and the cost of meals and refreshment breaks;
- \$2,295 discounted registration fee for the entire Fast Track if your cooperative registers three or more board members for all five courses;
- \$500 per individual course for courses 2600-2630 and \$750 for course 2640, which includes the cost of a continental breakfast, two refreshment breaks and one luncheon.

## Job Market

### Journeyman or Experienced Apprentice

Park Electric Cooperative in Livingston is accepting applications for a journeyman lineman or an experienced apprentice lineman. Applicants must have a valid first aid/CPR card and Montana CDL, or be able to obtain one. Journeymen applicants must have a journeyman lineman certification and be able to perform all aspects of line work. Apprentices must be certified in climbing, as well as pole-top and bucket rescue, and possess the ability to proficiently operate all equipment associated with line work in order to be considered for the position. The successful applicant must live within 30 minutes of our office near Livingston and be able to pass a pre-employment physical and drug and alcohol test. Applications are available online at [www.parkelectric.coop](http://www.parkelectric.coop). Send applications to **Shawn Foss**, Operations Superintendent, Park Electric, P.O. Box 1119, Livingston, MT 59047; email [sfoss@parkelectric.coop](mailto:sfoss@parkelectric.coop); phone: 406-222-3100. This position will remain open until filled.

### Billing Clerk

Lincoln Electric Cooperative, based in Eureka, has an immediate opening for the full-time position of billing clerk. The person in this position is responsible for managing the automated meter readings, performing the billing and collection processes, maintaining the databases that support them, accepting payments and providing customer assistance. A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Two years of post-secondary education in a related field is preferred. Utility experience is recommended but not essential. If you are a highly motivated and organized individual who is customer-oriented and functions well in a team environment, submit a Lincoln Electric employment application, along with a professional resume, to: **Kylie Larson**; Office Supervisor/HR Director; Lincoln Electric Cooperative, PO Box 628; Eureka, MT 59917. Ms. Larson's email address is [klarson@lincolnelectric.coop](mailto:klarson@lincolnelectric.coop). This position will remain open until filled.

**Journeyman Lineman**

Big Horn County Electric Cooperative (BHCEC), based in Hardin, Mont., has an opening for a journeyman lineman.

Applicants must have completed a recognized apprenticeship program, be a team player, be on an “on-call” Rotation, and have or be able to obtain and maintain a Montana CDL. Other requirements are: Having a positive, safety-minded attitude, ability to operate equipment associated with the trade, physically able to perform all the duties involved with being a journeyman lineman, and pass a pre-employment drug screen.

BHCEC is located in southeast Montana in the heart of an outdoor enthusiast’s dream. If you enjoy hunting, fishing, water sports, winter activities and much more, this is a great place to be. The co-op offers a competitive salary and benefit package. For more information, applicants can call the office at (406) 665-2830 to obtain an application. Email resumes to [mrussell@bhcec.com](mailto:mrussell@bhcec.com).

**CALENDAR****February**

23-26 Foreman Leadership Skills Training, Sessions 3 & 4 Billings, MT

**March**

1 MECA-Sponsored Candidate Training School Billings, MT  
 2 MECA-Sponsored Candidate Training School Helena, MT  
 3 MECA-Sponsored Candidate Training School Missoula, MT  
 1-3 OSHA 1910.269 Training Great Falls, MT  
 4 Vigilante Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting Dillon, MT  
 4 Central Montana Electric Power Cooperative Annual Meeting Great Falls, MT  
 8 Big Horn Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting Hardin, MT  
 10-12 Certified Credentialed Directors Fast Track Course – Part 1 Minot, ND  
 15 Mid-Yellowstone Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting Hysham, MT  
 19 Ravalli County Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting Corvallis, MT  
 19 Missoula Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting Missoula, MT  
 19 Lincoln Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting Eureka, MT  
 19 Flathead Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting Kalispell, MT  
 22-25 Foreman Leadership Skills Training, Sessions 3 & 4 Missoula, MT  
 24 Yellowstone Valley Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting Huntley, MT  
 25 Sun River Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting Fairfield, MT  
 30-31 Managing Emotions Under Pressure Workshop Great Falls, MT

**April**

4 957.1 Director’s Course Great Falls, MT  
 5-6 MECA Spring Board and Committees Meetings Great Falls, MT  
 7 Upper Missouri Power Cooperative Annual Meeting Sidney, MT  
 8 Marias River Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting Shelby, MT  
 19-20 MECA-Sponsored Retirement Seminar Great Falls, MT  
 26-27 Disaster Response Plans and Working With FEMA Training Great Falls, MT  
 30 Glacier Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting Cut Bank, MT

**May**

1-3 NRECA Legislative Conference Washington, D.C.  
 7 Northern Lights, Inc. Annual Meeting Sagle, ID