

Big Skylights



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

A report from your Chief Executive Officer Dave Wheelihan

January 21, 2016

Foreman skills sign-up extended due to shortfall in enrollment numbers

Due to low enrollment, the registration deadline for the upcoming Foreman Leadership Skills Certificate Program has been extended. If you have anyone you would like to send who isn't already registered, MECA is taking registrations up until the Thursday before the start date of each session. Note: Sessions 1 & 2 were held Jan. 12-15 in Billings.

Following is the sessions schedule:

- Sessions 1 & 2 in Missoula (Feb. 9-12) – New registration deadline: Thursday, Feb. 4;
- Sessions 3 & 4 in Billings (Feb. 23-26) – New registration deadline: Thursday, Feb. 18;
- Sessions 3 & 4 in Missoula (March 22-25) – New registration deadline: Thursday, March 17.

Also, those individuals unable to attend all four sessions can attend some now and some at a later date, and still receive their certificate once all four sessions are completed. Also, sessions do not have to be taken in order, meaning sessions 3 & 4 could be taken before 1 & 2.

For additional information and to register, please contact **Lea Potoczny** of our staff. The phone number is (406) 761-8333. Her email address is meca@mtco-ops.com.

OSHA 1910.269 training offered March 1-3

MECA will offer OSHA 1910.269 training at our statewide association office in Great Falls, March 1-3.

The course will be taught by MECA's senior safety instructor, **Johnnie Stanton**. He will cover all topics in the OSHA 1910.269 regulation, including electric power generation, transmission and distribution.

The course will begin at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 1 and conclude by noon Thursday, March 3. Lunch will be provided on Tuesday and Wednesday, and a continental breakfast and snacks will be provided each day. Monday, Feb. 15, is the deadline to register.

For overnight accommodations, MECA has corporate room rates at the following hotels in Great Falls: LaQuinta Inn & Suites (Ph: 406-761-2600); Best Western Heritage Inn (Ph: 406-761-1900); and Staybridge Inn & Suites, (Ph: 406-761-4903).

Anyone with questions or needing additional information should contact Lea Potoczny of our staff at (406) 761-8333. Her email address is meca@mtco-ops.com.

Job Market

Marketing/Public Relations Manager

Fall River Rural Electric Cooperative is seeking an energetic, organized and creative marketing/public relations manager. The co-op is located near Grand Teton and Yellowstone National parks.

The person in this position will utilize a multimedia approach, and creatively market products and services for both the electric and propane divisions. In addition, he or she will coordinate and participate in educational and promotional events sponsored by the co-op and community events. This person will also provide concise and interesting internal and external communication.

Key responsibilities include: public relations, focusing on community relationships, promoting brand recognition, and maintaining the positive image of the cooperative; internal/external communications, creating the content and design of a monthly newsletter, maintaining the co-op's website and creating engaging posts on Facebook, Twitter and other social-media platforms; and marketing. Marketing will

require a focus on sales, and the creation of marketing materials and promotion of product sales, conservation programs and propane services, utilizing all forms of traditional and digital media.

Qualifications include: A marketing and/or communications degree, or at least two years of related experience; a self-starter with the ability to think and plan strategically, and this person must work well, both collaboratively and independently; excellent writing and editing skills, with the ability to speak in public with clarity and confidence, and; a valid state driver's license.

In addition to an outstanding career opportunity, Fall River Rural Electric offers a competitive salary, paid sick and vacation days, and comprehensive benefits, including medical, dental, life insurance and retirement plans.

To view the basic job description and learn more about Fall River Rural Electric Cooperative visit www.fallriverelectric.com. Click on "Employment Opportunities" under the "Quick Links" heading. To apply for this position, send resume and salary history by Feb. 5, 2016, to Fall River Rural Electric Cooperative; Attention: Human Resources; P.O. Box 736; Milville, UT 84326. Or, applicants may email their resume and salary history to melanienichols2@gmail.com.

Accountant/Benefit Administrator

Big Horn County Electric Cooperative (BHCEC), based in Hardin, is currently accepting resumes for the position of accountant/benefits administrator. A bachelor's degree in accounting and/or a minimum of five years of experience in federal Rural Utilities Service accounting procedures is recommended.

Accountant responsibilities will include maintaining the general ledger, and preparing the monthly and annual financial statements. Benefit administrator responsibilities will include all duties associated with recordkeeping and reporting of employee benefits/payroll. Salary is commensurate with experience and qualifications. Send resume to: **Karan Uffelman**, Office Manager, Big Horn County Electric Cooperative, Inc., PO Box 410, Hardin MT 59034, or email to kuffelman@bhcec.com. BHCEC is an equal-opportunity employer.

Journeyman Lineman

Sun River Electric Cooperative in Fairfield is accepting applications for the position of journeyman lineman in the Fairfield area. The position requires the ability to perform all responsibilities required of a journeyman lineman, including rubber gloving, and construction and maintenance of electrical transmission, substation and distribution systems. To be considered for the position, applicants must have journeyman lineman certification, valid Montana CDL, and First Aid/CPR Card. They also must have the ability to climb poles and operate bucket trucks, digger derricks, backhoes and other equipment commonly used in the utility business. They must pass a pre-employment physical, and a drug and alcohol test. The person hired for this position will be required to live within 30 minutes response time of the Fairfield shop. Applicants not meeting journeyman criteria may be considered for hire as an apprentice, based on experience and training. Applications are available online at www.sunriverelectric.coop. Send applications to Robert Anderson, Operations Manager, Sun River Electric, PO Box 309, Fairfield MT 59436-0309; email: randerson@sunriverelectric.coop; phone: 406-467-2526. Deadline for application: 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. 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: Have a positive, safety-minded attitude; have the ability to operate equipment associated with the trade; be 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.

CALENDAR**January 2016**

25-27	NRECA New Co-op Director Orientation	Arlington, VA
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February

2-4	Lineman Basics Course	Great Falls, MT
2-4	NRECA New & Emerging Technologies Conference (NET 2016)	Fort Meyers, FL
9-12	Foreman Leadership Skills Training, Sessions 1 & 2	Missoula, MT
11-18	NRECA Annual Meeting	New Orleans, LA
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