



news & views

from Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Lincoln Electric Annual Meeting

Photos Courtesy of Gary Henderson

Lincoln Electric hosted our 67th Annual Meeting of the Members on March 19, 2016. Thank you to all attendees for making your membership count.

For the first time, we used electronic registration to rave reviews. This was made possible through our billing software company, NISC. They first introduced the product right before our Annual Meeting last year.

However, we were reluctant to be one of the guinea pigs so close to the release date. So we waited, researched best practices, talked to other cooperatives about their experiences using it.

And it paid off. By the time the 2016 Annual Meeting rolled around, we were well

versed in the product. Through the use of a QR code printed on member's Annual Report, our employees were able to quickly scan in members registration.

Even without an Annual Report, the search function made it easy to find and register those forgetful members. Feedback about the new process was all positive, from the employees to the Trustees, but most importantly, the attending members.

Employees heard scores of comments like, "That was fast!", "I'm registered already?!" and "That line moved so quickly!" After the Annual Meeting, it continues providing value (especially since it was free) by allowing for reports and contact tracking.

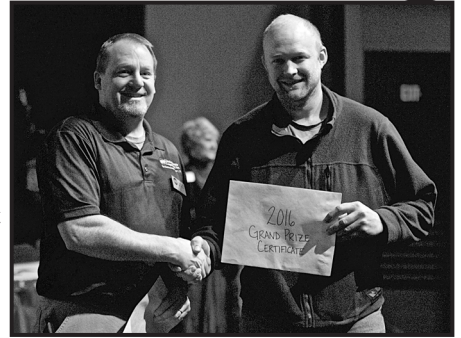
So thank you to all those members who brought their Annual Reports and made the process run more smoothly. The number of you who remembered probably has nothing to do with the additional \$5 in Commerce Bucks.

This was on top of the door prize for all registering memberships of \$10 in Commerce Bucks. We did have a couple of members make comments that they would like to see an actual item being given out as well.

We understand that everyone likes goodies, but one of the biggest factors in choosing to do only do Commerce Bucks is keeping our business local. If we order a logo-ed item, that money is being shipped out of the area to some large company and manufacturer.

With Eureka Area Chamber of Commerce Bucks, all that money is being spent right here in the Tobacco Valley - supporting you and your neighbors. And although we lose out on an opportunity to have our logo in front of you more frequently, we hope that you'll remember that we're a pretty good bunch of people without that reminder.

During the business meeting, General Manager Ray Ellis spoke to the membership,



LEC employee Brent Holder presents Randall Schreiner of Eureka with the Grand Prize drawing certificate.

as did Engineering Manager Jamie Stark. Turn to Ray's article on page 4 to learn more about what they discussed.

In Trustee elections, all three incumbents were elected by acclamation. They were Tom Klyver from District 1 (Flathead), Tina Taurman from District 2 (Trego-Stryker), and Terry Utter from District 4 (Eureka-Tobacco Plains). Congratulations on being given the opportunity to represent your fellow members for another three years.

As always, prizes were given out to registered memberships. These prizes are generously donated by our suppliers, sister companies,



Luck of the Draw scholarship winners from left: Whitney Williams (accepted by Bonnie Williams), Cameron Combs, Jenna Komac, Ryan Holder (Brent Holder), Evynn Anderson (Amanda Anderson), Allissa Hauge (Mike Warren), Hannah Ruble (Darlene Ruble), Lucas Blankers (Vinita Blankers), Samuel Hannay, Ashlen Pacella and Rachael Pacella (John Pacella). Some students were unavailable due to attending school.

Annual Meeting Recap and Community Meetings

If you didn't have the opportunity to attend our Annual Meeting, I'd like to take this time to recap the items we discussed that are important to everyone. During the meeting three major topics were discussed; first the 2015 LEC financials, second was rate design and third was our online SmartHub account management application.

The financial presentation outlined the most important indicators for LEC. Our margins finished strong, equity is improving and our bank tests finished well. All show LEC is in a strong financial position. The biggest news was our completion of the buyout of our RUS (Rural Utility Services) debt with funds from CFC (Cooperative Finance Corporation). This shift away from RUS will save LEC roughly \$420,000 over the life of the loans due to interest savings and gives us more independence in our decision

making.

While the RUS program was essential in establishing the Cooperative electrical network, the time had come to re-evaluate the necessity for the Federal Government to be so involved in LEC's processes. This move will allow for a more streamlined borrowing process, which will save time and money going forward. It also gives us more flexibility if the need arises to change directions within our work plan. All in all, it is an exciting development.

The second item discussed was rate design. In particular was the three part COSA (Cost of Service Analysis) rate. We have had several articles on the topic of the need to change the way LEC allocates its costs so it was not new to those in attendance. The purpose of the presentation was purely educational. The more exposure everyone has to these concepts,

the better the membership will understand the need to migrate to such a design.

We announced at the meeting that LEC will be holding a series of community meetings to discuss rate design and other pertinent issues. These meeting are being scheduled for mid to

late July and will be held in different areas of the LEC service territory. You will receive notification in the mail and the Rural Montana will contain notices of the meetings.

Please keep an eye out as we are looking forward to having this discussion with you. It should prove very informative and provide an opportunity for the membership to gain valuable insight into the world of utility rate design and cost structure.

The last item presented was our SmartHub account management application available to the membership. Jamie Stark, our engineering manager, gave a great live presentation on the SmartHub App and also how to pay your electric bill online.

This application makes paying your bill easy and it also gives you valuable information about your usage patterns.

Such information can help you make



**Manager's Notes
by Ray Ellis**

News & Views

Published monthly by Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Lincoln Electric's Board of Trustees hold regular meetings monthly at the Eureka office. These are typically scheduled on the third Monday of each month at 7 pm. All members are encouraged to attend. If you have any items of interest, please contact the general manager prior to the meeting.

**Next Meeting Date:
Monday, May 18, 2016**

Board of Trustees

- **Mike Workman** - President, Dist. 5, Koocanusa Shores-Pinkham
- **Wesly Loughman** - Vice President, Dist. 4, Eureka-Tobacco Plains
- **Courtney Pluid** - Secretary, Dist. 3, Fortine-Glen Lake
- **Myra Appel** - Dist. 1, Flathead
- **Joel Graves** - Dist. 5, Koocanusa Shores-Pinkham
- **Tom Klyver** - Dist. 1, Flathead
- **Marianne Roose** - Dist. 3 - Fortine-Glen Lake
- **Tina Taurman** - Dist. 2, Trego-Stryker
- **Terry Utter** - Dist. 4 - Eureka-Tobacco Plains
- **Ethel White** - Dist. 4 - Eureka-Tobacco Plains

General Manager Ray Ellis

**In case of power outage:
Always call 406-889-3301**

312 Osloski Road
PO Box 628
Eureka, MT 59917
www.lincolnelectric.coop
info@lincolnelectric.coop

BUSINESS AND BOARDROOM BRIEFS

The regular meeting of the board of trustees was conducted on March 21, 2016. A quorum of trustees was present and the board took the following action:

- Approved Engineering and Operations Assistant.
- Approved a \$225 donation to TV Youth Baseball.
- Appointed Marianne Roose as the InterBel Annual Meeting voting delegate.
- Approved Trustees to attend upcoming conferences and trainings.

	Year to Date 02/29/2016	Year to Date 02/28/2015
Year to Date kWh Sales	24,055,087	24,477,466
Year to Date Revenue	\$ 1,983,169	\$ 1,981,648
Year to Date Cost of Power	\$ 1,055,202	\$ 983,180
Year to Date Operating Exp	\$ 798,789	\$ 714,544
Year to Date Margins	\$ 122,262	\$ 282,420
Number of Members	4,414	4,311
Number of Meters	5,723	5,605
Miles of Line	949	945
Total Utility Plant	\$ 32,698,455	\$ 31,245,132
Member Equity	\$ 8,798,326	\$ 8,986,759
Feb. Average Residential Use (kWh)	1,536	1,549
Feb. Average Residential Billing	\$132.93	\$131.33

Manager's Notes

Continued from page 4
decisions that could help you save money on your bill. Another advantage to SmartHub is that it gives us another way to communicate with the membership. It allows us to inform you of pending and emergency outages, meeting information and even community alerts. It is our hope that you will take advantage of this useful tool to help keep our cooperative strong in the new energy environment.

See you in July,

Ray

Annual Meeting

Continued from page 3
and other organizations we are involved in. Thank you to all those that donated something to make our meeting a little more special.

Another popular item is the drawing for \$1,000 Luck of the Draw scholarships. These are funded by unclaimed capital credits and your Board of Trustees was proud to offer eleven scholarships this year. Please take a look at the photo to learn about the lucky students.

The final item on the agenda was the Grand Prize drawing of Free Electricity for a Year*, won by Randall and Rebecca Schriener of Eureka.

We would like to take the time to say a special thank you to all those that were involved in another successful Annual Meeting. Cafe Jax for the breakfast, the Kootenai Valley Rangers for serving the wonderful food, VFW Post 6786 and Legion Post 74 for both their service to our country and presentation of colors, Chris Moen for his lovely rendition of our National Anthem, the employees, Trustees, and most importantly you, our members. Without active members, a cooperative cannot hope to strive.



Unclaimed Capital Credit List

As part of a cooperative, our members are entitled to a refund of margins for years they had economic participation in the cooperative. These are returned in the form of capital credit checks. However, when members move, they sometimes fail to notify LEC of their address change and the checks are undeliverable. In order to make every effort possible to find those that have capital credit funds due to them, we are asking our current members to lend us a hand. Please look over the unclaimed capital credit list of names that will be published over the next two months. If you have a way to contact any of these folks, please contact LEC at 406-889-3301 or info@lincolnelectric.coop. Thank you for being great members!

—A—

AABERGE, JAY
ADAMS, EDWARD A
ADAMS, THOMAS L
AESTHETIC LOGGING ENTERPRISES
AHL, LARRY
ALAVANA, JACK
ALBA FARO CO. INC.
ALEXANDER, LEWIS G
ALLEN, JAMES F
ALLEN, JONATHAN E
ALLEN, KAREL A
ALLEN, STEVEN D
ALLEN, VERNA G
ALLERS, SOSSITY N
ALPINE CONSTRUCTION INC.
AMBELLAS, KIMBAL
AMBROSE, GARY G
AMELON, PEGGY S
ANDERSON, DEENA A
ANDERSON, LARRY D
ANDERSON, MICHAEL
ANDERSON, NATHAN S
ANDERSON, ROBERT
ANDERSON, STAN
ANDERSON, WENDY L
ANDOR, LAVERTA
ANDREANI, PABLO
ANSORGE, BETTY
AQUINO, DAVID M
ARMBRUST, PAUL
ARMOUR, NORMAN H
ARNOLD, MICHAEL D
ARROE, BEATRICE

—B—

BACHUS, RAY

BAIN, DAN J
BAKER, BARBARA H
BAKER, DAN W
BALMER, JOHN T
BARBER, MARION
BARTLEY, WILLIAM J JR
BATCHELOR, NATHAN
BATES, BARRY A
BEAR, MARVIN L
BECK DRILLING ENVIR. SERV.
BEDNAR, ELIZABETH
BEEMAN, TRACY A
BEICK, SHIRLEY L
BEILER, DAVID B
BELSTAD, REBECCA L
BERGET, CHARLES
BERNEKING, H. F
BERRETH, WILLIAM R
BETHEA, MICHAEL A
BIANCHE, DAVE
BICKEL, NORMAN
BILLOW, JOSEPH D
BLACKBURN, HOWARD E
BLACKBURN, STEVEN B
BLAIR, TERRY A
BLANCHARD, BRIAN G
BLANKERS, KATHRYN E
BLOMQUIST, GUS
BLOOMSTINE, MAURICE H
BLUE, JOHN
BOCK, GERHARD
BOEKE, JOHN
BOGUMIL, JESS W
BONER, PAUL H JR
BONNER, EUGENE S
BOONE, BILL E
BORDER LUMBER CO.
BOREN, DON

BOWDEN, WILLIAM
BOWERS, JAMES W
BOWLAND, ANTHONY
BOWMAN, ARTHUR R
BRAMMER, MARK
BRANSCOME, HERB R
BRAUN, TIM E
BREAKWELL, ROBERT
BRENAN, SEAN M
BRENNEMAN, IRENE
BRITTON, WENDY J
BROADHEAD, JASON
BROCKEL, VICKIE K
BROCKMAN, HANNAH D
BROCKSTEDT, LUTZ
BRONSON-KINCAID, KAREN M
BROUSSEAU, FRANK J
BROWN, THOMAS
BRUNES, DAVID
BRUNS, SHAWNDA R
BRYANT, ALYCE R
BUNT, T J
BURDE, BEN JR
BURGMEIER, STEVE M
BURKE, JOSHUA A
BUSCIGLIO, JOHNNY
BUTLER, D. J
BUTLER, SHARRON L
BUTRICK, DEVERETT
BUZZELL, SUSAN A
BYE, SCOTT
BYLER, JOSEPH
BYRNES, CHANDOLINE

—C—

CABELL, GARY J
CABLK, ROBERT
CAMUS, ALICE

CANFIELD, GRANT
CANFIELD, KEN
CARDANI, LISA A
CARKHUFF, DAVID
CARLOSS, JOHN N
CARVEY, BRANDY
CASMEY, DENNIS E
CASPERSON, DANIEL J
CASTONA, DENNIS
CHALCRAFT, WALTER
CHATMAN, DONNA L
CLAIR, RICHARD D
CLARK, CYNTHIS H
CLARK, DALE R
CLARK, GERALD
CLARK, NORMAN C
CLARK, WM. R
CLARKE, BOB L
CLARKE, DIANNE
CLEMENT, TERESA
CLIFFORD, ALLEN
CLP HOLDINGS INC.
COATS, PAUL B
COCHRAN, JEM R
COE, JOANNE L
COFFMAN, RANDALL A
COHEN, WILLIAM F
COLE, ESTHER W
COLE, LYA
COLE, ROBERT L
COLLINS, ROBERT
COLONNA, LAURA A
COMBS, R. E
COMBS, ROGER D
COMPTON, MITCHELL C
CONAT, RICHARD A
COOK, SALLY M
COUGHLIN, SEAN
COX, CRYSTAL L

Unclaimed List

Continued from page 5

COX, EULA L
 CRAIG, ROGER
 CRANE, TERROL L
 CRAWFORD, CLARA MAE
 CRAWFORD, RUDY
 CRAWFORD, RUDY M
 CRONIN, GARY
 CRUMAL, CHRIS
 CUMMINGS, LESLIE C

-D-

DAGGETT, CHARLES
 DAKOTA, LYTE
 DAVIDOW, CLIFFORD D
 DAVIS, DEBRA
 DAVIS, GEORGIA A
 DAVIS, KEITH
 DAVIS, MONICA L
 DAVIS, RANDAL E
 DEAN, LINDA
 DECKER, NED L
 DICK, M. LILIAN
 DICK, WILLIAM E
 DICKSON, LEIGH A
 DIERMAN, CLARA B
 DIERMAN, DENNIS
 DIERMAN, MARILYN K
 DIERS, WILLIAM
 DODGE, DANIELLE
 DODGE CREEK WATER
 USERS

DODSON, REYES K
 DOHERTY, JOE
 DONALLY, KIRSTEN
 DONSBACH, RONALD A
 DOOLEY, SUSAN K
 DOUGLAS, KIRK
 DOWELL, MABEL
 DRUMMER, ALAN G
 DRURY, BEVERLY J
 DRURY, TRACY
 DULEY, DIANA B
 DUNCAN, JAMES
 DUNN, GARY M
 DUNN, MICHAEL
 DUPONT, JAMES M
 DUSCHKA, PAUL E
 DYKSTRA, DAVID A

-E-

E G & G DYNATREND
 EASTERLY, DAVID
 EBERT, WILLIAM
 ECKLUND, DOUGLAS M
 EDENFIELD, PERRY E
 EDWARDS, DUNCAN W
 EGAN, GARY M
 EHRlich, DONNA I
 EICKHOFF, JAMES D
 ELLERMANN, MATTHEW J
 ELLIS, KENNY L
 ELLIS, WAYNE I SR
 ELOFF, IAN

EMERALD ESTATES INC.
 ENDEMANN, FRED
 ENDEMANN, PYHLLIS M
 ENGLERT, BILL R
 ERBA, ANTHONY
 ERIE, VIOLA
 ESLICK, DONAL R
 ESTES, TIM E
 EVANS, RAY E JR
 EVANS, SCOTT N
 EVERGREEN HOMES

-F-

FENN, ROBIN J
 FENTON, BRIAN S
 FIFIELD, SHERMAN
 FIKSE, JUDITH A
 FINCH, ELIZABETH
 FISCHER, RENEE C
 FITZGERALD, BARRY C
 FLESCH, LEO W
 FLOOD, TERRENCE J
 FOLLENSBEE, PATSY
 FORNALL, MARGARET
 FORSGREN ASSOCIATES,
 P.A.

FOX, CHERYL A
 FRANK, ROBERT J
 FRASER, CARL A
 FREEMAN, RONALD
 FRONTIER WEST
 FUNKE, MARCHITA A

-G-

GALUSZKA, JIM
 GANNON, CLARISSA K
 GARBUTT, GORDON
 GARRISON, BARRETT L
 GARRISON, DAVID L
 GASKIN, DOUGLAS H
 GAUTHIER, GLEN
 GEE, DARRELL W
 GENTRY, CANDACE
 GIFFIN, BONNIE K
 GILES, GLENDA W
 GILL, PENNY
 GLASS, FRANK
 GLAZIER, TODD
 GODKIN, SAM
 GODLEY, LESLIE
 GOLL, ERIC
 GOODELL, CHRIS
 GOODIN, GERALD H
 GOOSEY, ERIN D
 GOTCHER, MITZI
 GRADNIGO, CAROL
 GRAHAM, ROBERT E
 GRANMO, JAY
 GRANNUM, WILLIAM Q
 GRAUE, SUSAN J
 GRAVELLE, JUANITA R
 GRAWUNDER, LEE
 GREAT NORTHERN
 ENTERPRISE INC.
 GREGG, WESLEY

GRILLO, VINCENT
 GROB, MONTE L
 GROB, RUFUS A
 GRONEBERG, JENNIFER
 GROVER, DAVID
 GTE NORTHWEST
 GUYNES, SAMUEL J

-H-

HAACK, LAVERN E
 HADDAD, DENISE D
 HAGGARD, MILLIE
 HAINES DRUG EUREKA
 HALE, PENNY M
 HAMILTON, MARY K
 HAMMOND, WILLIAM H
 HANCE, ANNE
 HANCOCK, LEE
 HANCOCK, TERESA L
 HANSEN, ROBERT W
 HANSON, CAROL
 HANSON, KIP
 HARDING, DICK
 HARMON, CYNTHIA A
 HARPER, LENORA J
 HARRINGTON, JAMES E
 HARRIS, STILES
 HARTMAN, SUSAN
 HARVEY, ROBERT
 HAUGE, KRISTEN
 HAYNES, BRIAN J
 HAYNES, GLEN
 HAYNES, PAUL
 HAYS, LAWRENCE L
 HEATON, ELLSWORTH L
 HEGE, JOHN P
 HEINE, GAIL E
 HEINRICHS, ROBBY D
 HELLER, TINA M
 HELMER, W. L
 HELSTROM, ERIC C
 HENDERSON, ROBERT F
 HENDRICKSON,
 MATTHEW
 HENNING, CHARLENE M
 HERHOLD, DEANNA L
 HERHOLD, EDWARD A
 HERNANDEZ, RUBEN S
 HERRON, JAMES L
 HERRON, JOE
 HERRON, MARY P
 HESS, TINA P
 HIBBITTS, SUE
 HINDMAN, RICHARD
 HINKLE, TED
 HINTON, LINDA M
 HIPSCHMAN, DAVID
 HIRSCH, JOSHUA M
 HIXON, THOMAS E
 HOAGLAND, BRIAN
 HOBART, STAMPER
 HOEKSEMA, EDWARD A
 HOERNER, BRIDGER E
 HOFFMAN, GARY
 HOGGE, LARRY G

HOLDEN, KAY L
 HOLDER, ROBERT W
 HOOD, THOMAS A
 HOULIHAN, ARTHUR
 HOWARD, RHONDA
 HUBBLE, LINDA L
 HUBER, CAREY
 HUD - FHA
 HUDSON, JERREL L
 HULL, DAVID W JR
 HULLVERLY, VALLAIA
 HUMMISTON, ROBERT
 HUMPHREYS, RAMONA C
 HUNNEWELL, IDA M

-J-

JAMES, CAJUN
 JAMES, JESSE
 JAQUISH, JERRY
 JARDIN, JACK
 JENKINS, LINDA K
 JENSEN, KAREN G
 JENSHUS, SVEIN
 JOHNSON, CINDY S
 JOHNSON, CORNELIA S
 JOHNSON, HAROLD
 JOHNSON, KURT S
 JOHNSON, MIKE
 JOHNSON, SCOTT
 JOHNSTON, DALLAS D
 JOHNSTON, DAVID L
 JONES, ARLENE L
 JONES, RONALD W
 JORDAN, BEVERLY
 JORGENSEN, JENNIFER L
 JOSEPHSON, WAYNE L JR
 JUSTUS, MICHAEL C

-K-

KABER, HARVEY N
 KAHRE, BRUCE
 KATELEY, DAN
 KEEGAN, FAITH
 KEIM, DEAN B
 KELLEY, JOHN M
 KELLEY, WARREN J
 KELLY, CASEY E
 KELLY, THOMAS
 KELTNER, PAT H
 KENNEDY, FREADA A
 KIENITZ, LANCE
 KING, DIANA G
 KING, MILDRED L
 KING, STAN D
 KINNEY, GARY
 KITCHENS, WILLIAM
 KLEKER, H. J JR
 KLIMENT, OTTO E
 KLINKE'S CHRISTMAS
 TREES
 KNOLL, LAWRENCE E
 KNOTTS, PATRICIA
 KOPF, LESLIE
 KRAEPLIN, KENNETH J
 KRAMAREVSKY, MIKHAIL