



news & views

from Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc.

75th ANNUAL MEETING

ATTEND IN-PERSON OR LISTEN IN YOUR VEHICLE

PLEASE join us for your 75th Annual Meeting of the Members on April 2. Registration begins at 8 a.m. and the meeting starts at 9 a.m. This year, we'll be hosting a blended attendance meeting where members can choose whether they wish to come inside and mingle or remain in their vehicles.

Members who want to attend the meeting in the traditional manner should come to the Lincoln County High School Auditorium and register as usual. Those who wish to remain in their vehicles and listen to the meeting on 99.9 FM, must park in the Eureka Elementary School parking lot. This is the only parking lot where we will have the ability to register you from your vehicle. The registration station will be set up near Von's.

Since members can listen from their vehicles, the meeting will be broadcast on the radio in the area surrounding LCHS. However, please note that even if you can hear the meeting, you are not counted as

attending the meeting unless you register. Only registered members receive a door prize and are eligible for prize drawings.

All registered members will receive \$10 in Eureka Chamber of Commerce bucks. They will also be entered to win great prizes, including gift certificates, tools, propane, our grand prize of Free Electricity for a Year, and more!


As usual, the meeting will provide update reports on your cooperative and the results of the trustee election. The election of trustees will be conducted via mail-in ballot. The trustee ballot will be included with your Notice of Annual Meeting, which was scheduled to be mailed the end of February. Please complete and return the ballot by April 28. Please see below for more information on the trustee election.

Please bring your Notice of Meeting with you to expedite registration. It can easily be scanned to register you for the meeting. It also contains your voting credentials in the event a voting matter is brought up during

new business. If you do not receive your Notice of Meeting by March 9, please call the office at 406-889-3301 to verify your membership status and mailing address.

If you will be representing the membership of an organization with multiple ownership, please bring the completed Delegate Certificate with you. There are two Delegate Certificates contained in the Notice of Meeting – one to be returned with your mail-in ballot, and one to present during Annual Meeting registration.

We will continue to draw for Luck of the Draw scholarships at the Annual Meeting. If you or your dependent have applied and received your eligibility letter, you must register for the meeting AND at the Luck of the Draw table. Due to logistics, Luck of the Draw participants must register at the in-person meeting; not at the vehicle registration point.

If you have any questions, please contact us at 406-889-3301. We hope to see you April 2! 

VOTE BY MAIL FOR 2022 TRUSTEE NOMINEES

TRUSTEE elections will be conducted via mail-in ballot. This year, there are two trustee seats up for election in District 6 – Upper, and one trustee seat up for election in District 7 – Lower.

To become a nominee, members had to submit a completed nomination petition by January 31. We received three nominations for the two District


6 trustee seats and one nomination for the one District 7 trustee seat.

At least two percent of our membership, about 100 members,

**READ EACH
NOMINEE'S BIO**

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must submit their ballots. Please complete and return your ballot, which is found in your Notice of Meeting. Ballots are due to Lincoln Electric by March 28.

For the trustee election process, all nominees submitted bios of less than 200 words with their nomination petition. Those bios are on page 8. 

LEC's Annual Meeting is April 2

SEVENTY-FIVE years is a long time. I remember when I was Cub Scout and the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) was celebrating its 75th year. Every Cub Scout in our pack and Boy Scout in the troop received a special sticker celebrating the BSA and their "Diamond Jubilee." I had just won the pine-wood derby as a Webelos scout, and I was so proud of my accomplishments, including being a Cub Scout, that I plastered the sticker to my first-place pinewood derby trophy.



**Manager's Notes
by Telly Stanger**

On April 2, LEC will hold its 75th Annual Meeting of the members. While I can't promise a custom sticker for your attendance, I would remind you of some important reasons for attending the LEC Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting is a key component of what differentiates you as a member-owner from other utilities' customers.

As a member, you have the opportunity to participate in the democratic control of the cooperative by being involved in the election process of trustees. With nine trustees currently on the board, LEC has three seats open for election each year. By submitting your mail-in ballot, you can be involved in electing the trustees for these open seats. Ballots are mailed out with your Notice of Meeting, and those elected will be announced at the meeting.

At the annual meeting, LEC will also distribute monies to local youth in the form of Luck of the Draw scholarships. The Luck of the Draw program provides continuing education funds to local students. Scholarship winners are drawn

from all eligible applicants, which is a unique approach as it gives all applicants an equal chance of winning. It's also different from most scholarship programs because it allows the monies to be used not just at traditional colleges and universities, but also at accredited trade and vocational institutions. The details of participation are on the LEC website.

LEC will retire more than \$360,000 in estimated capital credits in 2022. Capital credits were retired from 2004 and 2020, and the checks will be mailed out in the month of April. You can find more information in the capital credits article on the next page.

LEC will conduct a member survey this year to determine interest in future programs. Some of these survey points are electric vehicles, community solar, battery storage and other technologies. The results of this survey will help LEC plan for growth and future programs to offer to the LEC membership. Each member is encouraged to participate in the survey, which is available online now. A paper version is available at the LEC office, and will also be available to take at the annual meeting. When you participate, your name is entered into a drawing for bill credits of \$200, \$300 and \$500. We encourage you to take this survey to help us plan for the future.

LEC had another great year in 2021, and we want to share our successes with you at the 75th Annual Meeting. The meeting will have two options for those who would like attend. You can attend in-person at the LCHS auditorium, or you can listen to the meeting on the radio in the elementary school parking lot. All registered attendees will be eligible for prize drawings throughout the meeting and

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LINCOLN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

CONTACT

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Secure Payments: 1-833-890-6258

ALWAYS REPORT OUTAGES TO:

1-406-889-3301

OFFICE

312 Osloski Road
PO BOX 628
Eureka, Montana 59917

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday
7:00 AM - 5:30 PM

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Tina Taurman
President

Marianne Roose
Vice President

Myra Appel
Secretary-Treasurer

Becky Evins
Michael Garner
Joel Graves
Sandi Mason
Rick Peterson
Ethel White

Telly Stanger
General Manager

Lincoln Electric's Board of Trustees holds regular monthly meetings at the boardroom in the cooperative office. These are typically scheduled on the third Monday of each month at 6 p.m. 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, MARCH 21, 2022



**Lincoln Electric
Cooperative, Inc.**

HAVE A STORY SUGGESTION?
SEND YOUR IDEAS TO:

memberservices@lincolnelectric.coop

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW	YEAR TO DATE DEC. 2021	YEAR TO DATE DEC. 2020
KWh SALES	121,464,964	114,245,272
REVENUE	\$12,143,061	\$11,773,877
COST OF POWER	\$5,420,218	\$5,135,064
OPERATING EXPENSE	\$3,795,380	\$3,541,267
MARGINS	\$1,534,759	\$1,650,714
NUMBER OF MEMBERS	4,968	4,811
NUMBER OF METERS	6,374	6,196
MILES OF LINE	992	981
TOTAL UTILITY PLANT	\$36,328,757	\$34,623,651
MEMBER EQUITY	\$12,059,068	\$10,951,384
DECEMBER AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL USE (KWH)	2,323	1,958
DECEMBER AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL BILLING	\$149.84	\$173.81

BUSINESS AND BOARDROOM BRIEFS

The regular meeting of the board of trustees was conducted on January 17, 2022. A quorum of trustees was present and the board took the following action:

- Approved a Revolving Loan Fund application.
- Authorized a capital credit retirement of 3 percent of the total outstanding patronage capital using a 50/50 LIFO/FIFO blended method.
- Approved a donation of \$2,000 to the Creative Arts Center.
- Authorized various trustees to attend the Boston CFC Forum.

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all registered attendees will receive Eureka Area Chamber of Commerce bucks to support local businesses. Please read the feature article for more information on attending the Annual Meeting.

Seventy-five years is a long time. I hope you will attend the 75th Annual Meeting of the members of Lincoln Electric Cooperative on April 2nd. It's also my hope you will find pride in being a member of an electric cooperative. We plan to make it a great meeting, and look forward to 75 more great years serving you.

Telly

LUCK OF THE DRAW SCHOLARSHIPS

Apply now for a chance to win a scholarship for the Summer or Fall 2022 semester

APPLICATION DEADLINE
MONDAY, MARCH 21

APPLY ONLINE: WWW.LINCOLNELECTRIC.COOP

Drawing held at Lincoln Electric's Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 2, 2022 at the LCHS Auditorium in Eureka

LEC retiring \$361,000 in capital credits

Did you know as a member of Lincoln Electric Cooperative, you get certain benefits? One of the primary benefits of membership is receiving capital credits.

LEC is a cooperative, which is a non-profit organization. Instead of profits, we have margins. Margins are any revenue we have in excess of our expenses each year. The total yearly margins are allocated to all members who were billed during the year.

Allocations are based on the dollar amount each member contributed during the year by paying their electric bill. For example, if you contributed one percent of our total yearly revenue, you would be allocated one percent of the total margins for that year.

For the 42nd consecutive year, your Board of Trustees approved the retirement of capital credits. They authorized for approximately three percent of our total member equity to be retired this year.

This amounts to more than \$361,000* in capital credits returned in 2022 to our current and former members. Capital credit checks will be issued to members who contributed to margins in 2004 and/or 2020.

The board elected to retire capital credits as a 50/50 split between the oldest and newest contributions. This helps to benefit more members and ensure that even newer members better understand the power of cooperatives.

If you were an active LEC member in 2004 and/or 2020, you may have a check mailed in April. Please note that checks are only written for capital credits of \$10 or more. If yours is less than that amount, it will be refunded to you once your retired capital credit balance exceeds \$10.

Since our incorporation in 1948, LEC has returned more than \$13.4 million to members in capital credits. RM

YEAR	CAPITAL CREDIT RETIREMENTS
2000	\$332,867
2001	\$324,761
2002	\$326,021
2003	\$342,046
2004	\$330,967
2005	\$354,314
2006	\$303,888
2007	\$296,597
2008	\$307,955
2009	\$317,322
2010	\$356,790
2011	\$364,785
2012	\$397,931
2013	\$411,498
2014	\$443,809
2015	\$437,149
2016	\$445,839
2017	\$472,687
2018	\$513,070
2019	\$465,666
2020	\$563,523
2021	\$360,508
2022	\$361,772*
<small>*ESTIMATED AMOUNT</small>	
TOTAL SINCE 1975: \$13,467,506	

2022 TRUSTEE NOMINEES

DISTRICT 6 - UPPER

IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

RITA COLLINS

Born in Maryland, moving for school and work, in 1992 I eventually settled in the Tobacco Valley. Over the years, I taught at Trego School and Flathead Community College. Besides volunteer



work with Sunburst Arts and the Tobacco Valley Board of History, I set up GED/HiSET classes in Eureka, and write a monthly column for the newspaper.

After retiring from teaching, I began St. Rita's Traveling

Bookstore, a small business that sets up at farmers markets, the Lincoln County fair, the Yaak music festival, and other places in Montana as well as around the country.

One of the original members of Sunburst, I now volunteer with the organization to bring in concerts, hang art shows at Eureka, Trego and Fortine post offices, take art exhibits into Fortine and Trego schools, and write grants to help fund community programs.

In 2011, I became involved in fundraising for the Historical Village and to do PR. We now have an active website, a quarterly e-newsletter, social media, and an online store.

Having had a variety of experiences and lived in various places, my commitment to the Tobacco Valley is obvious and my willingness to help make this a great place to live.

BECKY EVINS

I am a lifelong Eureka resident and I love our area. I have always believed in community involvement and knew that with retirement and more time, I would want to find other areas to serve my community.



I was appointed to the Lincoln Electric Board after applying for an opening. I have enjoyed learning about the Cooperative and what it involves. I

have served on other Boards and I can say that this Board is really all about the members and what is the best for them and the Cooperative.

I currently serve on the Operations and Safety committee. I am also on the Rural Propane Service Board as a representative for Lincoln Electric. I have enjoyed learning about all of these different areas and what they mean to our Cooperative members. Keeping reliable service and the costs down is a priority to all of us. I promise to continue to keep this first and foremost if reelected.

I would love to continue in a Director position and I am asking for your support and vote Thank you so much for your support and look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting.

SANDI MASON

I am Sandi Mason, a long-time resident of the Tobacco Valley. I was elected to serve on the board of Trustees in 2020. Since that time, I have learned a lot about Lincoln Electric and cooperatives



in general. One of the most important issues facing the cooperatives is keeping our rates at an affordable level for the members of Lincoln Electric. The other is to understand the importance and values of what a membership

owned cooperative provides to the local communities.

I retired from the US Forest Service, after a 38-year career in December of 2018. My position was Forest Lands and Special Use Program Manager. The main aspect of my job was working with utility companies, public, corporations, Federal, State, and local agencies, basically anyone wanting to acquire access or usage of Federal lands.

I serve on the Rural propane board, and a member of the Scraps and Threads Quilters guild.

I believe I have a very diverse skill set and will continue to bring good insight into the board. I would appreciate your vote, as I will continue to work to maintain the affordable rates and continued community service to the membership of Lincoln Electric. Thank you

DISTRICT 7 - LOWER

TINA TAURMAN

I am Tina Taurman and have been member of Lincoln Electric for almost 40 years. During my lifetime I have enjoyed a variety of jobs including working as a timber clerk, Children's Health Advocate, office manager of North Country Medical and office supervisor for Sunburst Mental Health in Kalispell. I currently operate my own business, Provider Management Services, which provides



billing and client intake coordination for mental health therapists. I enjoy community involvement, either through past 4-H leadership, local school board or other community service organizations.

I was appointed to the Board in 2008 and currently serve as board president. It has been my honor to serve the membership of LEC.

The electric cooperative world is

changing rapidly. We are currently gearing up for the 2028 Bonneville Power contract negotiations and there are two important issues facing LEC. Resource adequacy through our renewable hydro system and our current Bonneville Power transmission lines. Both are being discussed and negotiated for this 2028 contract.

Your trustees need to be well educated on the issues and willing to work on the front lines to continue to preserve our low-cost, carbon free energy. I am willing to do that work for our members.