



# news & views

from Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc.

JOIN US AS WE  
CELEBRATE ALL  
OUR MEMBERS  
WITH LUNCH,  
GAMES, PRIZES

**P**LEASE join us on Tuesday, June 27, for our Fourth Annual Member Appreciation Event! It's the official day we celebrate the best part of Lincoln Electric Cooperative – you, our members!

On the menu are hamburgers, hot dogs and all the fixings. Weather permitting, we'll host the event on our north lawn at 312 Osloski Road in Eureka. If the weather doesn't cooperate, the party will be moved into our warehouse at the same location.

Swing in with the whole family between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. for a free lunch, games and the chance to win prizes! We'll be drawing for Lincoln Electric gift certificates, as well as offering competitions for other gifts and prizes. There are even games and prizes for the kids.

This event is an opportunity for us to thank our members for all you do. Since the time of the founding members in 1948, every member has contributed to the success of Lincoln Electric in big and small ways.

You support your cooperative each month just by paying your electric bill. As landowners, you enrich our maintenance efforts by allowing us to perform right-of-way clearing and repairs to our facilities on your property.

See **BARBECUE** on page 7

thank you  
members

4TH ANNUAL  
MEMBER APPRECIATION  
**BARBECUE**

JUNE 27  
11 A.M. TO 2 P.M.

GRILL PARTY  
GRILL PARTY  
GRILL PARTY

# Rural Propane Services update

## PROPANE BUSINESS HAS CONTRIBUTED \$800,000 to LEC

**WHEN** Lincoln Electric Cooperative made the decision to start a propane business several years ago, it was a massive undertaking. Rural Propane Services, LLC (RPS) had a directive and vision to serve LEC members with another form of energy, and provide a vital service to the community. There have been many changes made at RPS over the years. COVID prompted some major changes in the way RPS handled business, and even changed some of the services RPS offered. The main focus on how to utilize those four massive tanks to benefit the company and our customers has even changed.

In the past two years, RPS has contributed almost \$800,000 to the permanent equity of LEC. Because RPS is a for-profit, wholly owned subsidiary of LEC, the net income RPS makes is not included in the LEC patronage capital. In simpler terms, the profits made by RPS come to LEC and stay permanently. This is a benefit to LEC members because it helps strengthen their ownership in the cooperative with less risk to the members. Higher equity puts less pressure on raising rates and stabilizes the overall financial health of LEC.

As you can see later in this edition (page 8), LEC is offering rebates on propane appliances. LEC realizes the benefits of our members using propane in their homes. We can see



**Manager's Notes  
by Telly Stanger**

the savings on our wholesale power bills through demand reductions. Power prices are highly volatile right now, and LEC will continue to be affected by them. If we can reduce or alleviate some of these increases through propane use, it will save everyone money in the longterm. For more information on the propane rebate program, please call LEC.

Even though there have been big changes with RPS since its inception, there has been a constant. From the beginning, Ron Taurman was tasked with making RPS work, and ensuring it's success. Ron spent many years in the propane industry and has been the key to what RPS is today. Ron has made the decision to retire and move on to the next chapter in his life. I wanted to take this opportunity to recognize Ron for his contributions to RPS. He has always had the cooperative spirit in his decision-making concerning RPS. Ron understood that RPS was owned by a member-owned cooperative and wanted what was best for the end-user. I have had the opportunity of working alongside Ron for the past few years and have learned much from him. We wish him the best in retirement.

RPS has experienced new hires and many changes with Ron's retirement. I can assure you that RPS is in good hands and will continue to provide excellent service to its customers and stabilize the LEC bottom line for years to come. Both LEC and RPS appreciate your patronage. 

Telly

### LINCOLN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

#### CONTACT

1-406-889-3301  
info@lincolnelectric.coop  
www.lincolnelectric.coop  
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

**Becky Evins**  
Vice President

**Michael Garner**  
Secretary-Treasurer

**Myra Appel**  
**Joel Graves**  
**Sandi Mason**  
**Rick Peterson**  
**Marianne Roose**  
**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, JUNE 26, 2023**



**Lincoln Electric  
Cooperative, Inc.**

#### HAVE A STORY SUGGESTION?

**SEND YOUR IDEAS TO:**

memberservices@lincolnelectric.coop

## BUSINESS AND BOARDROOM BRIEFS

The regular meeting of the board of trustees was conducted on April 24, 2023. A quorum of trustees was present and the board took the following action:

- Approved April 20, 2024, as the next Annual Meeting date.
- Approved changes to Policy 401 – Purchasing Materials, Supplies and Services.
- Approved a donation of \$2,000 to Kidsville.
- Approved a donation of labor needed to mount a flag pole and flag near the Lincoln County Fairgrounds.
- Authorized any board member who is interested in attending the CFC Forum in Seattle, Washington, be approved.
- Authorized Marianne Roose, Myra Appel, Mike Garner, and Sandi Mason to attend the Director’s Course 951.1 Developing Effective Boardroom Decision Making class in Miles City in July.
- Approved Manager Telly Stanger to distribute discretionary spot bonuses.
- Approved the trustees to receive their trustee fee for their attendance at the LEC Member Appreciation Event in June.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW	YEAR TO DATE MARCH 2023	YEAR TO DATE MARCH 2022
kWh SALES	45,999,829	43,538,894
REVENUE	\$4,034,188	\$3,786,764
COST OF POWER	\$1,857,724	\$2,027,129
OPERATING EXPENSE	\$1,271,870	\$1,076,931
MARGINS	\$509,588	\$284,272
NUMBER OF MEMBERS	5,109	4,976
NUMBER OF METERS	6,443	6,385
MILES OF LINE	1,005	993
TOTAL UTILITY PLANT	\$38,698,290	\$36,464,466
MEMBER EQUITY	\$13,627,405	\$12,359,207
MARCH AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL USE (KWH)	1,970	1,664
MARCH AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL BILLING	\$179.03	\$150.12

# BARBECUE

*Continued from page 5*



Some members have served as trustees on the Lincoln Electric board. These elected trustees spend countless hours learning about the cooperative to make informed decisions on behalf of their cooperative and fellow members. You also get involved with your cooperative each time you vote for trustees, on bylaw changes, or attend the Annual Meeting.


Members continue to support fellow (or soon-to-be) members by signing easements for new electrical lines to be installed to a neighbor. This coopera-

tion toward rural electrification is what enabled your property to have electricity. It’s incredible to see members pay it forward so others can enjoy the same access to electricity.

The patience and understanding of our members during power outages is extraordinary. During outages, we are more likely to receive well wishes for our safety than complaints about not having power. You truly appreciate the work we do, especially when our crews are out there during inclement weather to restore your electricity.

As fellow members of Lincoln Electric, your employees and trustees feel lucky to live here, where people know their neighbors and have concern for their communities.

Throughout the year, we receive many offers of gratitude, from a simple “Thank you” to gifts of homemade baked goods. Now it’s our turn to show you, our members, some appreciation.

We hope to see you at the Member Appreciation Event on Tuesday, June 27! 

ALWAYS CALL | BEFORE YOU DIG



# HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

## SUNDAY, JUNE 18



# PROPANE APPLIANCE REBATE PROGRAM

**I**n October 2023, Lincoln Electric Cooperative will see a large wholesale power increase from Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). This will especially impact the electricity we use above the amount allotted to us in our contract with BPA. One component of the wholesale power bill that continues to rise is demand.

Although Lincoln Electric adds a \$2.50 per kilowatt demand charge on our residential bills, the amount we are charged by BPA far exceeds that amount. The charged amount also increases during the winter months when our demand is at its peak.

To help keep our wholesale power bill in check, we would like to encourage our members to consider propane when choosing new or replacement appliances. Propane is an extremely efficient and readily available fuel. The biggest benefit to Lincoln Electric, however, is how low the demand is for propane appliances.

A transition to more propane appliances could greatly impact the demand Lincoln Electric is charged by BPA. For example, replacing just one electric furnace with a maximum rating of 15 kilowatt can shave nearly \$170 off our wholesale power bill just for the month of December. Annually, we could realize a savings of more than \$800. Multiply that by 100 furnaces and you begin to see the incredible effect demand has on our power costs.

As additional encouragement, we will be offering rebates to members



## APPLIANCE


## REBATE

WHOLE HOME HEATING SYSTEM .....	\$500
ACCESSORY BUILDING UNIT HEATER.....	\$250
TANKLESS WATER HEATER .....	\$800
TANKED WATER HEATER .....	\$150
CLOTHES DRYER .....	\$150
STOVE/OVEN .....	\$100

who install propane appliances. Rebates are applicable only for new residential appliances to either replace an existing electric appliance or install in new construction. The applicant must be an active member of Lincoln Electric and the appliance must be installed in a home or accessory building with an active Lincoln Electric service.

The applicant will need to fill out a rebate application form, provide proof

of appliance purchase within the previous 12 months, and a safety inspection. You can find a copy of the application on our website at [lincolnelectric.coop](http://lincolnelectric.coop) or by stopping by our office at 312 Osloski Road in Eureka.

As always, if you have any questions about the propane rebate program or anything else concerning Lincoln Electric, please give us a call at 406-889-3301. 

## HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY



## CLOSURE

Lincoln Electric Cooperative will be closed Tuesday, July 4

