



# news & views

from Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc.

## POLE ATTACHMENTS A SAFETY CONCERN

**W**E know that utility poles may look like conveniently placed advertisement posts, but they are an integral part of the electrical grid. As such, they should be treated with extreme care and caution.

Many people use utility poles to hang up their garage sale sign or put up a beautiful birdhouse or mount a satellite dish. But these objects create a safety hazard to our linemen. The staples, nails, screws and tacks used to attach objects to our poles can damage a lineman's protective gear or body when they climb the pole. If their gear is compromised, it creates an extreme hazard to their safety, especially if the damage goes unnoticed until it's too late.

Depending on the circumstance, adding things to our poles can also be extremely dangerous to the person making the addition. Our linemen undergo years of initial training, then continuous years of refresher training, to become and stay qualified to work near electrical facilities energized at 14,400 volts.

In the electrical utility world, there is a Minimum Approach Distance (MAD) for power lines. Basically, any space within the MAD has the potential to critically injure or kill a person or animal. To get within the MAD, a person must have specific qualifications and protective gear to be safe. Our linemen have those qualifications, protective gear and training to work within the MAD; the public does not.



We have recently noticed an increase in objects attached to our poles, many of which are approaching encroaching the MAD. As an electrical cooperative, we are first and foremost committed to the safety of our employees, members, communities and the public. These attachments have caused us real concern for those making the attachments.

For our safety and yours, we will be removing objects from our poles as we notice them and have the time. If you have attached anything to our facilities, we ask that you please remove it and all associated fasteners if the object

is 10 or less feet from the ground. If it is higher than 10 feet, please contact us at 406-889-3301 to schedule for our crews to safely remove the object.

In addition to the safety hazards, attaching objects to our poles also costs our members money. It takes our crews extra time to remove the obstructions and associated fasteners before they can perform work on our system.

If you see someone attaching anything to our pole(s), please call us at 406-889-3301. Thank you for your help keeping our employees and communities safe! 

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW	YEAR TO DATE JUNE 2023	YEAR TO DATE JUNE 2022
KWh SALES	70,751,284	69,931,859
REVENUE	\$6,912,450	\$6,621,868
COST OF POWER	\$2,829,512	\$3,271,824
OPERATING EXPENSE	\$2,331,421	\$2,141,856
MARGINS	\$940,266	\$389,779
NUMBER OF MEMBERS	5,151	5,039
NUMBER OF METERS	6,468	6,454
MILES OF LINE	1,007	997
TOTAL UTILITY PLANT	\$38,872,755	\$37,516,426
MEMBER EQUITY	\$14,023,272	\$12,429,875
JUNE AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL USE (KWH)	742	818
JUNE AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL BILLING	\$109.03	\$111.46

## VACANCY ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Lincoln Electric Board of Trustees has a vacancy in District 6 - Upper.\* The board is now seeking candidates to fill this trustee seat. Any eligible member with their principal residence in the district may apply for the position.

**To be considered, interested members must submit a resume prior to the deadline.**

For more information, call 406-889-3301 or visit [www.lincolnelectric.coop](http://www.lincolnelectric.coop).

**DEADLINE: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 12:00 P.M.**



Lincoln Electric  
Cooperative, Inc.

PO Box 628  
312 Osloski Road  
Eureka, MT 59917

\*District 6 is roughly all services north of the Ant Flat Road and Highway 93 intersection. If you are unsure of your district, please contact LEC for verification.

## BUSINESS AND BOARDROOM BRIEFS

**The regular meeting of the board of trustees was conducted on July 17, 2023. A quorum of trustees was present and the board took the following action:**

- Approved the board nominating Gary Bowe as LEC's vote for the Montana seat for Federated Region 9 Director runoff.
- Authorized changing the November regular board meeting from November 20 to November 27.
- Appointed Marianne Roose as the primary and Rick Peterson as the alternate on the MECA Board of Directors.
- Appointed Tina Taurman as the MECA voting delegate and Sandra Mason as the alternate.
- Approved a donation of up to \$12,000 at the 4-H auction at the Lincoln County Fair, and assigned Joel Graves as the representative.
- Approved the review of Policies 406 – Investment of Nonoperating Funds, 410 – Capital Credits, and 415 – Allocation of Non-Operating Margins – Interest.
- Approved changes to Policy 414 – Identity Theft Red Flag Prevention.
- Approved Resolutions 2023-1 through 2023-6 to assign check signers on the LEC checking accounts held at Glacier Bank.
- Approved Resolutions 2023-7 and 2023-8 to assign Manager Telly Stanger as a director of PNGC, and Telly Stanger as the designated membership representative and Tina Taurman as the alternate.
- Authorized advertising to appoint a new trustee to the seat vacated by Mike Garner.
- Appointed Rick Peterson to the Revolving Loan Fund committee.
- Approved Manager Telly Stanger to distribute discretionary spot bonuses.

### 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

Sandi Mason  
Secretary-Treasurer

Myra Appel  
Joel Graves  
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, SEPTEMBER 18, 2023



Lincoln Electric  
Cooperative, Inc.

#### HAVE A STORY SUGGESTION?

SEND YOUR IDEAS TO:

memberservices@lincolnelectric.coop



In emergency situations involving electricity, an additional level of training is required, even for first responders.

# FIRST RESPONDER ELECTRICAL SAFETY CLASS IS SEPTEMBER 18

**A** car hits a utility pole. There's a house fire. You see a power-line across the road. Your first call is to 9-1-1, but what happens from there? Our amazing team of local first responders gets the call and does what they do best: manage the emergency with safety their number one priority.

For most people, an emergency event means calling the professionals to respond and staying out of harm's way until assistance arrives. But for our trained first responders, they take the call and go into the fray to help keep the rest of us safe.

In emergency situations involving electricity, an additional level of training is required. As we all know, electricity is extremely dangerous. Between 2011 and 2021, there was a total of 1,201 workplace fatalities involving electricity reported to OSHA and 1,653 reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Of those deaths, only 31 percent were workers in electrical occupations. The majority, 69 percent, were fatalities of workers in adjacent fields, such



## First Responders Electrical Safety Class

SEPTEMBER 18

LINCOLN ELECTRIC'S WAREHOUSE

INTERESTED? CALL 406-889-3301

as laborers, roofers, truck drivers and appliance mechanics.

To help refresh our first responders on special safety precautions required for emergencies involving Lincoln Electric Cooperative's facilities, we'll be conducting a high-voltage electrical safety class. In partnership with the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association, we'll use a custom electrical safety training trailer to educate first responders on what to do in electrical emergencies.

The class will be held at 6 p.m. on Monday, September 18, 2023, in Lincoln Electric's warehouse. We have contacted our first responder teams directly to arrange for their attendance, but we may have room for a few non-first responders to participate. If you are interested in attending, please contact us at 406-889-3301.

Lincoln Electric's top priority is safety, and it's a responsibility we take seriously. We are proud to hold a record of more than 34 years without a lost-time accident. Our employees are trained often to help ensure we continue to operate safely in a dangerous industry.

We are also committed to helping our communities, members and the public stay safe around electricity. Our members are our best eyes. Please report anything unusual with our facilities to 406-889-3301. In an emergency situation, you should still always call 9-1-1 so first responders can help secure the scene and assist in the emergency. 

# Lincoln Electric Cooperative NIGHT AT THE GAMES

**D**ID you know your Lincoln Electric Cooperative employees and trustees are members of our communities? We live, work, play and have families here. As a cooperative, we are also interested in the education of our members and future members.

To better connect with our members, we're introducing Lincoln Electric Night at the Games. We'll have a table set up at a football game and volleyball game at Lincoln County High School. Please come visit with us to learn more about your cooperative, our programs and services, or just to chat for a minute. And, of course, to cheer on our Lions!

Because we like talking with our members so much, we're even giving you an incentive to see us. Lincoln Electric members, or their children, who come to our table will get a ticket for a free hot dog or hamburger, and drink, from the concession stand.

We especially encourage students

## LION POWER!



**Lincoln Electric  
Cooperative, Inc.**

### LCHS Football Game

Friday, September 8, 2023

### LCHS Volleyball Game

Saturday, September 16, 2023

**We hope to see you there!**

to come talk with us. We'd love the opportunity to let them know about the programs we have available for them. Our table will have information about applying for the FREE Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., trip we sponsor each year, as well as information on our Luck of the Draw scholarships.

We'll also have information available about career opportunities in the energy industry. Energy jobs in the United States are growing faster than any other sector in the overall domestic economy. Working in the energy indus-

try has many benefits, and we'd like to let our students know about the amazing opportunities that exist.

As parents, aunts, uncles, and grandparents of LCHS students, Lincoln Electric employees and trustees have more than just a passing interest in the development of our students. We want to see them succeed and will continue to help with that success through our donations of time and money, scholarships and other wonderful enrichment programs. RM

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know fall is the perfect time to schedule a tune-up for your heating system? Home heating accounts for a large portion of winter energy bills, and no matter what kind of system you have, you can save energy and money by regularly maintaining your equipment.

Combining proper equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings can save about 30% on your energy bills.

Source: Dept. of Energy

