



news & views

from Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc.

We're sending a student to Washington, D.C. for **FREE**

APPLY NOW FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO WIN THE WEEK-LONG TRIP WITH YOUTH TOUR

WIN a FREE trip to Washington, D.C., just by completing a short application and interview. These could be your ticket to a once-in-a-lifetime trip to the nation's capital!

High school sophomores and juniors whose parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) are members of Lincoln Electric Cooperative are eligible to apply for this free trip. Lincoln Electric pays for the flight, accommodations, charter bus, tours and food (including most snacks). T-shirts are also provided for each day of the trip and are the students' to keep afterward.

It's easy to apply. Simply complete the application at lincolnelectric.coop and submit it with your supporting documentation before the deadline, November 20. A committee of the Lincoln Electric board will then interview applicants to choose a winner.

The selected student will travel to D.C. in June for a week of activities with other Montana students. Every Youth Tour includes meetings with Montana's U.S. senators and representatives, as well as all of the famous monuments and memorials, and the Smithsonian Museums.

Additionally, past Youth Tours have included a Washington Nationals baseball game, the International Spy Museum, a Broadway-style show, Ford's Theater, the Gettysburg Battlefield, the Naval Academy, the Marine Corps Museum, dinner at



the famous Hard Rock Café and countless other stops and attractions.

There is also a river boat cruise and dance with students from other states. One thing we can guarantee from past experience is you will have fun, and you will make friendships with students from across the state and country that will last a lifetime.

Visit lincolnelectric.coop for more information and to apply. 

WHAT IS YOUTH TOUR?

Youth Tour sends thousands of high school students from across the nation to join in Washington, D.C., to gain an understanding of electric cooperatives, our nation's history and the freedoms we enjoy, and to HAVE FUN.

Where?

Washington, D.C.

When?

June 14-21, 2024

Who?

Any current sophomore or junior whose parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) is a member of Lincoln Electric.

Why?

If selected, you get to go on a FREE trip to Washington, D.C., with other students from across Montana. Youth Tour is an opportunity to meet new people, visit museums and monuments, and get to ask questions of the state's congressional delegation, all while having a blast!

How?

Submit a completed application with supporting documentation at lincolnelectric.coop by the deadline.

Deadline:

Noon on November 20

Play it safe online

In today's world, most of us don't leave the front door unlocked. We protect our homes, loved ones and valuables from intruders with locks, alarms and other security measures. Cybersecurity is no different. It's the practice of protecting other valuables such as your identify, banking and health records, and other sensitive information from digital attacks and theft.



**Manager's Notes
by Telly Stanger**

In addition to pumpkin-spice lattes, crisper air and Halloween festivities, October is the time of year we recognize Cybersecurity Awareness Month. While taking necessary steps to protect our personal information is a year-round practice, at Lincoln Electric, we use this time to share helpful cybersecurity reminders across our team of employees.

Given our increased reliance on Internet-connected devices and gadgets, this month, I'd like to share a few cybersecurity tips and let you know how Lincoln Electric is working to boost our own cybersecurity efforts.

According to the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (CISA), an agency of the United States Department of Homeland Security that is responsible for strengthening cybersecurity and infrastructure protection, these are the four best ways to keep you and your family safe online.

Implement multi-factor authentication (also known as two-step verification) on your accounts. The additional layer of protection makes it much harder for criminals to access

See MANAGER'S NOTES, page 8

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW	YEAR TO DATE JULY 2023	YEAR TO DATE JULY 2022
kWh SALES	78,373,906	77,823,043
REVENUE	\$7,934,904	\$7,509,440
COST OF POWER	\$3,082,024	\$3,591,803
OPERATING EXPENSE	\$2,799,485	\$2,487,851
MARGINS	\$1,131,007	\$475,352
NUMBER OF MEMBERS	5,165	5,041
NUMBER OF METERS	6,491	6,464
MILES OF LINE	1,009	999
TOTAL UTILITY PLANT	\$38,864,321	\$37,695,731
MEMBER EQUITY	\$14,200,190	\$12,500,137
JULY AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL USE (KWH)	740	936
JULY AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL BILLING	\$108.71	\$113.52

BUSINESS AND BOARDROOM BRIEFS

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

- Approved a proposed bylaws change to be presented to the membership in conjunction with the 2024 Annual Meeting.
- Assigned Tina Taurman as the voting delegate for NRECA Region 9 with Marianne Roose as the alternate.
- Assigned Tina Taurman as the voting delegate for CFC Region 9 with Marianne Roose as the alternate.
- Approved changes to Policy 207 – Trustee Out of Town Travel Authorization.
- Authorized changing the Monday, September 18, 2023, regular board meeting from 6 p.m. to 3 p.m.
- Approved Becky Evins to attend the PNGC Annual Meeting.

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, OCTOBER 16, 2023



**Lincoln Electric
 Cooperative, Inc.**

HAVE A STORY SUGGESTION?

SEND YOUR IDEAS TO:
 memberservices@lincolnelectric.coop

ARE YOU READY TO SERVE?

LINCOLN ELECTRIC IS LOOKING FOR BOARD TRUSTEE NOMINATIONS

In one of the most notable inaugural speeches given, President John F. Kennedy spoke his famous words, “Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.” His inspiring words urged Americans to take actions that benefited the greater good. In essence, Kennedy was saying our country thrives when we all contribute our talents to the common good.

On a smaller scale, I think the same can be said about our cooperative, specifically with our board members. Lincoln Electric Cooperative’s trustees are community-minded individuals with a variety of skill sets. We rely on their many talents to help us make informed decisions on long-term priorities and investments. Our trustees live right here in Lincoln Electric’s service area, and we consider them the eyes and ears of the community because they provide their perspective on important community issues.

We recognize it takes many people with different skills to create a well-rounded board that can represent the full spectrum of our community. That’s why when trustee seats are up for election, we hope to receive petitions from members with diverse perspectives, experience, expertise and views. But above all else, we’re looking for folks who love our community and want to see it thrive now and in the future. Beginning October 1, local members of our community who can apply their unique talents to benefit all our friends and neighbors are encouraged to submit a trustee nomination petition.

What does it mean to serve on the board?

Serving on Lincoln Electric’s board means you’re making a difference locally, using your individual talents and perspective to guide big decisions about the co-op that, in turn, benefit the larger community. While day-to-day decisions are made by co-op staff, major decisions are made by the board, whose mission is to look out for the vitality of the co-op and the community it serves. On a granular level, Lincoln Electric’s board members typically provide input and guidance on:

- Budgets
- Cooperative goals and direction
- The cooperative’s community/charitable contributions
- Capital investments and upgrades in equipment and technology
- Renewable investments and energy mix
- The cooperative’s role and involvement in economic development



The energy industry is undergoing a major transition. Technology advancements and increased consumer preference for more renewable energy is driving change. Lincoln Electric is facing big decisions, and trustees have an opportunity to help chart a course for our future. To serve the community best, we need input from a wide range of people that represent the broad spectrum of views within the communities we serve.

Opportunity to serve the community

Lincoln Electric’s board consists of nine trustees. Each of the nine trustee seats carries a three-year term with trustees elected via mail-in ballot each spring before the annual meeting. There are three total trustee seats in District 6 - Upper, with term expiration in 2023 that require an election by the membership.

To run for an expiring trustee seat, interested members must be nominated by a petition of at least five current Lincoln Electric members in their district. Nomination petitions are available now. You may get a copy at www.lincolnelectric.coop, in the office at 312 Osloski Road, Eureka, or by emailing memberservices@lincolnelectric.coop. Completed petitions are due to Lincoln Electric by noon on Wednesday,

See TRUSTEES, next page

TRUSTEES

Continued from page 7

December 27.

While you don't need to be an expert in electricity or business to run, you do need to have a passion for the community, and a willingness to actively serve and learn. We're looking for individuals who can represent the full gamut of the members we serve. Our board meets on a regular basis, and we offer specialized training opportunities to help board members make informed decisions. Board members gain a deeper understanding of the electric utility industry, the cooperative business model and local economic development

efforts.

Ultimately, our board is the community pulse for the co-op, and helps keep us on the right track. We love our community and want to help it thrive. If you share the same commitment and want to contribute to the greater good in a tangible way, we hope you'll consider running for a board position.

The Fine Print

To become a candidate for a Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc. (LEC) trustee seat, a nominee must be a member of LEC currently receiving electric service. The nominee must have their primary residence and associated electric service within the district for which they are being nominated.

The nominee must submit a petition to LEC with the information and signatures of at least five (5) valid LEC members within their district.

The member endorsements can be found on the second page of the petition. Although only five members are required, it is recommended that each candidate get extra member endorsements in the event one (or more) are invalid memberships. The petition must be signed by the nominee indicating his or her understanding and acceptance of the responsibilities of the position if elected to serve.

If the nominee would like a short bio included with LEC's trustee election communications, they may return a bio of no more than 200 words and submit a digital photograph with their petition. Bios and photos received after the petition submission deadline will not be included in LEC's communications. LEC will publish the bios as received — no editing or proofreading services will be performed for any candidate.

The completed and signed petition (and accompanying bio with photo if submitting) must be returned by noon on Wednesday, December 27. 

MANAGER'S NOTES

Continued from page 6

your information. Even if a hacker obtains your password, they may be unable to access your accounts if multi-step verification is enabled.

Update your software. This is one of the easiest ways to protect your personal data. When downloading a software update, make sure it's coming straight from the company that created it. Beware of fake pop-ups that request urgent downloads. Better yet, turn on automatic updates.

Think before you click. Most successful cyber attacks start with a phishing email. Don't take the bait when cyber criminals go phishing. Avoid emails (or texts) that look too good to be true, oddly urgent, poorly crafted or include unusual requests.

Create strong passwords, using long, unique and complex words or phrases. Consider using a password manager to save time, work across all devices, protect your identity and notify you of potential phishing websites.

For the young people in your household

Just as you would talk with your children about safety in the physical world, discuss ways to stay safe online. Help them understand the public nature of the Internet. Young people need to know early on that what is shared online stays online and is difficult (if not impossible) to take back. Just as you would guard your money or valuables, children need to learn to guard their personal information, especially on social networks. As a parent or guardian, help your children learn about and use the privacy and security settings on social networks and gaming sites.



Keeping the electric grid and your data secure

We're doing our share on the cyber front. Part of offering excellent service is keeping that service secure and reliable. For Lincoln Electric, reliability means repairing wear-and-tear, upgrading our equipment to withstand storms and severe weather, and using technology and best practices to keep our system secure from cybersecurity issues.

We also work together with co-ops across the country to develop new technologies and infrastructure, learn from each other and keep the grid's network secure. For example, we participate in CyMET, where Montana electric co-ops come together to simulate realistic cyber issues and practice responding to the latest types of issues we might have to manage.

While we can't stop a storm or predict every disruption, as a co-op, we do everything we can to keep the lights on and our members protected. Because if we all do our part, our interconnected world will be safer and more secure for everyone. 