



news & views

from Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Lincoln Electric hires new general manager

Welcome Matthew Quinn to our co-op family

LINCOLN Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s board of trustees recently selected a new general manager. On May 28, Matthew Quinn began leading the cooperative and our wholly owned subsidiary, Rural Propane Services. Matt most recently served as the Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Prior to that appointment, he was the Adjutant General for the State of Montana, and the Commander of the Montana Army and Air National Guard, where he retired as a major general.

Matt began his career in the Montana electric utility world as an engineer, though he started off with the desire to be an electrician. As the youngest of six boys, Matt loved tinkering around the house with his dad, who worked for Montana Power. They enjoyed fixing small appliances and solving electrical issues that arose. At Christmas, Matt remembers licking his finger to test the Christmas lights.

In college, Matt studied electrical engineering since he liked math and science. During his sophomore year at Montana State University, he joined the Army ROTC, when it offered him a three-year scholarship.

After college, Matt entered active



Matthew Quinn joined Lincoln Electric Cooperative in May as general manager. He stands with his wife Jody and his daughter's 2 dogs, Maven and Theo. | COURTESY PHOTO

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BUSINESS AND BOARDROOM BRIEFS

The regular meeting of the board of trustees was conducted on April 15. A quorum of trustees was present and the board took the following action:

- Approved the ratification of an email vote to approve a \$300 donation for Tobacco Valley Baseball.
- Approved the member count by district.
- Approved a \$1,000 donation to Sunburst Arts for Shakespeare in the Park.
- Approved a \$500 donation to Hearts of Grace.
- Approved a donation request to waive the \$400 engineering fee for a service upgrade for Moose Horn Club.
- Approved a \$300 donation to the Bicycle Safety Rodeo.
- Approved the Manager Employment Agreement.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW	YEAR TO DATE MARCH 2024	YEAR TO DATE MARCH 2023
kWh SALES	47,826,058	45,999,829
REVENUE	\$4,404,805	\$4,034,188
COST OF POWER	\$2,280,941	\$1,857,724
OPERATING EXPENSE	\$1,277,027	\$1,271,870
MARGINS	\$419,959	\$509,588
NUMBER OF MEMBERS	5,221	5,109
NUMBER OF METERS	6,567	6,443
MILES OF LINE	1,016	1,005
TOTAL UTILITY PLANT	\$39,452,429	\$38,698,290
MEMBER EQUITY	\$14,878,351	\$13,627,405
MARCH AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL USE (KWH)	1,805	1,970
MARCH AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL BILLING	\$182.24	\$179.03

QUINN

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duty in the U.S. Army as a communications engineer in the Signal Corps, ultimately commanding a company in Iraq during Operation Desert Storm. After leaving active duty, Matt worked as an engineer at Montana Power Company (which later became Northwestern Energy) and as operations manager for One Call and ELM locating. During this time, he was also serving in the Montana Army National Guard. Matt commanded the first Montana unit deployed overseas after 9/11. He is

proud to have brought all 45 Montana soldiers safely back after growing the battalion in Iraq and Kuwait to more than 2,500 soldiers from across the U.S.

When he was deployed, Matt's wife Jody and his five children remained behind. The youngest was just over two months old when Matt departed from Missoula for pre-deployment training. Even while Matt served eight years as commander for the National Guard based in Helena, his family remained home in Missoula. Matt said, "Soldiers' families are real heroes, too. They make it possible for us to serve our country."

During his childhood, Matt's family moved within Montana several times. The last took them to Butte, where

Matt finished his last two years of high school. As an adult, he and Jody made the decision to keep their children settled in Missoula instead of uprooting them.

Even now, three of his children and both of his grandchildren remain in Missoula. His other two children are in Butte and Colorado. He and Jody are excited to return to Montana and get the opportunity to be more involved grandparents. They look forward to Quinn family holidays with lots of food, a bit of drink and a variety of board games.

They are also grateful for the chance to once again be part of a community.

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LINCOLN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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OFFICE HOURS

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Tina Taurman
 President

Joel Graves
 Vice President

Sandi Mason
 Secretary-Treasurer

Myra Appel
Becky Evins
Rodney Kane
Rick Peterson
Marianne Roose
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Matthew Quinn
 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:
THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2024



Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc.

HAVE A STORY SUGGESTION?

SEND YOUR IDEAS TO:
 memberservices@lincolnelectric.coop

77TH ANNUAL MEETING

Lincoln Electric's Meeting of the Members a success

LINCOLN Electric Cooperatives's 77th Annual Meeting of the Members was held at the Lincoln County High School on Saturday, April 20. Two percent of the membership, or 105 members, were needed to achieve a quorum. We had 283 memberships register for the event.

The meeting began at 9 a.m. and was adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

Our auditor, Brandon Tregellas of Decoria, Blair and Teague, P.S., gave a brief financial update based on Lincoln Electric's 2023 audit. He reported that your cooperative is in great financial standing.

Your Lincoln Electric board approved the retirement of capital credits for the 44th consecutive year. In 2024, more than \$400,000 in capital credits will be retired. Overall, we've returned more than \$14 million to our members in the form of capital credits, landing Lincoln Electric near the top cooperatives in the country for capital credit retirements.

Mark Hash of O'Brien, Hash & Biby, Lincoln Electric's legal counsel and meeting parliamentarian, presented the results of the 2024 trustee and bylaws amendments elections. There were three trustee seats, all in District 6-Upper, up for election in 2024. Joel Graves and Rodney Kane were the incumbent nominees, with the third seat held by Ethel White, who chose not to seek re-election.

There were four nominations received for the expiring seats in District 6 from incumbents Joel and Rodney, as well as new nominees David Purdy and Barry Roose. Mail-in ballots were mailed to all members, and were due back to Lincoln Electric by April 15 (please see ballot drawing winners in sidebar). The returned ballots were counted by a volunteer committee of



Luck of the Draw Scholarship Winners – \$5,000 Arnica Kalwara, \$3,000 Michael Shea (accepted by Jamie Shea), \$2,000 Savanna Peterson, and \$1,000 Margaret Graves (Leslie Graves, Sam Hall (Jennifer Hall), Paige Goheen (Scott Goheen), Chaidh Lochridge (Barry Lochridge), and Austin Gunset (Edward Gunset). Parents accepted on behalf of students there were unavailable to attend due to school or extracurricular activity conflicts. | **LEC PHOTO**

Drawing winners

Congratulations to the winners of the mail-in ballot drawings!

Thank you for voting.

\$250 – Brent Roose

\$150 – Greg & Janet Schwegel

\$100 – James & Jennifer Bartlett

six Lincoln Electric members. A voting quorum of 105 was required to elect trustees. We received 292 valid mail-in ballots prior to the deadline.


The results for District 6 were 248 votes for Joel Graves, 248 votes for David Purdy, 183 votes for Rodney Kane, and 134 votes for Barry Roose. Via mail-in ballots, both incumbents were re-elected and David Purdy was elected.

Bylaws proposed amendment #1 was to change the bylaws to not require a mail-in ballot for uncontested elections. It passed with a mail-in ballot

vote of 236 for and 35 against. Bylaws proposed amendment #2 was to correct an incorrect section reference resulting from the last bylaws change. It passed with a mail-in ballot vote of 251 for and 13 against.

Five \$1,000, one \$2,000, one \$3,000, and one \$5,000 scholarship were awarded to lucky students at the Annual Meeting (see photo for winner information). Since 1996, Lincoln Electric has used unclaimed capital credits to fund \$169,500 in Luck of the Draw scholarships, nearly \$100,000 directly to schools within Lincoln Electric's service area, and more than \$25,000 to other education programs.

The grand prize of free electricity for a year was won by Goldie Calvert, which will be awarded as a bill credit of up to \$145 per month for the next 12 months. The grand prize amount is based on the average residential bill from the previous year.

We appreciate all the members who attended the meeting. 

Thank you
members

5TH ANNUAL
MEMBER APPRECIATION
BARBECUE

JUNE 20
11 A.M. TO 2 P.M.



OUR NORTH LAWN • 312 OSLOSKI ROAD • EUREKA



QUINN

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While in Washington, D.C., Matt and Jody missed the close feeling of community that comes from living in a more rural area. They enjoy outdoor activities and are ready to discover the abundance of fishing holes, hiking trails and golf courses in the area. This winter,

they can also blow the dust off their cross-country skis.

Another benefit to small-town living for Matt is the ability to get personally active in community organizations. He is a member of almost every veteran organization, and is anxious to learn what other groups he can participate in as a resident and as Lincoln Electric's general manager.

Although his previous electric career was spent in investor-owned utilities,

Matt loved the cooperative approach when he was a member of Missoula Electric Cooperative. He likes that the work is being done for the benefit of members, as opposed to creating a profit for some investors. He is eager to learn more about how Lincoln Electric serves our members and communities.

Matt encourages members to contact him with any questions, concerns or feedback to help improve Lincoln Electric for our members. 



HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

CLOSURE

Lincoln Electric Cooperative will be closed Thursday, July 4

A banner for Independence Day closure. On the left, there is a photograph of several lit sparklers against a dark night sky. To the right of the image, the text reads 'HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY' in a large, serif font, followed by three red stars. Below that, the word 'CLOSURE' is written in a large, bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom, a smaller line of text states 'Lincoln Electric Cooperative will be closed Thursday, July 4'.