




news & views

from Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc.



 Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc.

YOUTH TOUR 2025

Lincoln Electric Co-op is sending a high school student to D.C. for FREE

WIN a FREE trip to Washington, D.C., by completing a short application and interview. This could be your ticket to a once-in-a-lifetime trip to our 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 for the students to keep afterward.

It's easy to apply. Simply complete

the application at www.lincolnelectric.coop and submit it with your supporting documentation before the deadline. A committee of the Lincoln Electric board will then interview applicants to choose a winner.

See YOUTH TOUR, page 6



The 2024 Montana Youth Tour delegation | COURTESY PHOTO

YOUTH TOUR 2025

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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 tours of famous monuments, 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, and countless other stops and attractions.

There is also a riverboat cruise and a 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.

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What is Youth Tour?

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

Where?

Washington, D.C.

When?

June 14-21, 2025



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?

Starting October 1, the Lincoln Electric website will house the applications. Submit a completed application with supporting documentation at lincolnelectric.coop or bring it in person to the Lincoln Electric office by the deadline.

Deadline for the application

Noon on Thursday, November 21, 2024

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

Joel Graves
Vice President

Sandi Mason
Secretary-Treasurer

Myra Appel
Rodney Kane
Rick Peterson
David Purdy
Marianne Roose

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:
MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2024



Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc.

HAVE A STORY SUGGESTION?

SEND YOUR IDEAS TO:
memberservices@lincolnelectric.coop

The regular meeting of the board of trustees was conducted on August 19. A quorum of trustees was present and the board took the following action:

- Approved Tina Taurman and Myra Appel to attend the PNGC Annual Meeting.
- Approved Rick Peterson, Myra Appel, David Purdy, Tina Taurman, Rodney Kane and Sandi Mason to attend the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA) Annual Meeting.
- Retroactively approved Rick Peterson and Marianne Roose to attend the western Montana Manager's group meeting.
- Approved David Purdy to attend the NRECA Region 9 meeting.
- Appointed Marianne Roose as the primary and Rick Peterson as the alternate on the MECA board of directors.
- Appointed Myra Appel as the MECA voting delegate and Sandra Mason as the alternate.
- Approved no changes to LEC Board sitting on MECA committees.
- Approved a donation request of \$500 from the Eureka Youth Soccer League.
- Approved a donation request of \$250 from Braach's Shepherds 4 Veterans.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW	YEAR TO DATE JULY 2024	YEAR TO DATE JULY 2023
kWh SALES	82,063,292	78,373,906
REVENUE	\$8,670,209	\$7,934,904
COST OF POWER	\$3,772,411	\$3,082,024
OPERATING EXPENSE	\$3,129,735	\$22,799,485
MARGINS	\$757,470	\$1,131,007
NUMBER OF MEMBERS	5,246	5,165
NUMBER OF METERS	6,636	6,491
MILES OF LINE	1,017	1,009
TOTAL UTILITY PLANT	\$40,006,330	\$38,864,321
MEMBER EQUITY	\$15,155,845	\$14,200,190
JULY AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL USE (KWH)	995	740
JULY AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL BILLING	\$129.67	\$108.71

LINCOLN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NIGHT AT THE GAMES

To enhance our connection with members, we're excited to continue the Lincoln Electric Night at the Games! Join us at Lincoln County High School, where we'll have a table set up for both the football and volleyball games. We invite you to stop by, learn more about our cooperative, explore our programs and services, or simply have a chat. And of course, to cheer on our Lions while we're there!

We value staying in touch with our members and keeping you informed about local Lincoln Electric Cooperative happenings. To make your visit even more enjoyable, Lincoln Electric members and their children who stop by our table will receive a ticket for a free hot dog or hamburger and a drink from the concession stand!

We especially encourage students to visit us. We're eager to share information about the various programs we offer, including the FREE Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., that we sponsor each year, as well as upcoming scholarship opportunities. Our table will also provide details on other valuable member services.

As members of the LCHS community – whether as parents, aunts, uncles or grandparents – Lincoln Electric employees and trustees are dedicated to the success of our students. We are passionate about fostering their development through our investments of time, financial support, scholarships and a range of enriching community programs. RM

LION POWER!



Lincoln Electric Night at the Games

LCHS VOLLEYBALL GAME
Thursday, October 24, 2024

LCHS FOOTBALL GAME
Friday, October 25, 2024

We hope to see you there!

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A LINCOLN ELECTRIC TRUSTEE

AT Lincoln Electric Cooperative, our board of trustees play a crucial role in shaping the future of our cooperative. These trustees are community-focused individuals with diverse skills and experiences, and their insights are invaluable in guiding our long-term strategies and investments. Living within our service area, our trustees are deeply connected to local issues and are pivotal in representing the community's interests.

Why We Need You

A well-rounded board requires a mix of skills, perspectives and expertise to effectively represent our community. As trustee seats become available, we actively seek nominations from individuals who bring a variety of viewpoints and talents. Above all, we are looking for passionate community members who are dedicated to ensuring the continued success of our cooperative. Starting October 1, we invite local members who are eager to contribute their unique skills to benefit our community to submit a trustee nomination petition.

What It Means to Serve

Being a trustee for Lincoln Electric means actively participating in decisions that impact both the cooperative and the wider community. While daily operations are managed by our staff, the board is responsible for making significant decisions related to: budgeting, setting cooperative goals and direction, overseeing community and charitable contributions, evaluating capital investments and technological upgrades, considering renewable energy initiatives, and engaging in economic development activities.

The energy sector is evolving rapidly with technological advancements and a growing demand for renewable

energy. As Lincoln Electric navigates these changes, trustees play a key role in shaping our future. We need diverse perspectives to ensure that our decisions reflect the broad range of views within our communities.


How to Get Involved

Lincoln Electric's board consists of eight trustees, each serving a three-year term. Elections for trustee positions occur annually via mail-in ballot in the spring, leading up to our annual meeting. This year, we have two trustees up for re-election. One seat in District 6 - Upper and one seat in District 7 - Lower, both expiring in 2025 at the annual meeting and requiring an election.

To run for a trustee position, you must be nominated by a petition signed by at least five current Lincoln Electric members from your district. Nomination petitions are available now and can be obtained at www.lincolnelectric.coop, at our office located at 312 Osloski Road, Eureka, or by emailing memberservices@lincolnelectric.coop. Completed petitions must be submitted to Lincoln Electric by noon on Thursday, December 12.

No prior expertise in electricity or business is required to serve as a trustee, but a genuine passion for our community and a commitment to learning are essential. Board members receive specialized training to make informed decisions and gain a deeper understanding of the electric utility industry, cooperative business models and local economic development.

By serving on our board, you become a vital part of the cooperative's leadership, helping to steer us in a positive direction. If you are committed to the well-being of our community and want to make a tangible difference, we encourage you to consider running for



CALL TO ACTION

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 a photo if submitting) must be returned by noon on Thursday, December 12.