



news & views

from Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc.



At Lincoln Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting, there were nine Luck of the Draw Scholarship winners, with a total of \$20,000 in prizes awarded.
| LEC PHOTO

78th Annual Meeting

LEC's 2025 Annual Meeting a record-breaking success

ON Saturday, April 12th, Lincoln Electric Cooperative hosted its 78th Annual Meeting at Lincoln County High School in Eureka – and it was one for the books! With 297 members and 349 total attendees, this year marked the highest turnout in recent years.

Guests were treated to a delightful spread of breakfast foods and desserts, all sourced from local businesses. Meadow Creek Cafe, The Gathering Place and The Farmacy served up breakfast favorites, while The Munchy Monkey and Café Jax offered sweet treats. Fresh fruit was provided by Watson's Market. Girl Scout Troop 3494 helped serve food with friendly smiles, and the LCHS Robotics Club wowed



Clark Mather was the guest speaker at the Annual Meeting. | LEC PHOTO

attendees with a live demonstration of their innovative robots.

Every registered membership received \$20 in Chamber Bucks and was entered into a drawing for 37 fantastic door prizes – including multiple \$100 local gift cards, a Dewalt tool set, several coolers and the grand prize: a \$150 electric bill credit for an entire year!

The "Luck of the Draw" Scholarship program also saw a record number of applications, with 42 students applying and nine winners selected. A total of \$20,000 in scholarships was awarded, helping to support local students in

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FINANCIAL OVERVIEW	YEAR TO DATE FEB. 2025	YEAR TO DATE FEB. 2024
KWh SALES	48,132,239	47,826,058
REVENUE	\$4,740,494	\$4,404,805
COST OF POWER	\$2,288,710	\$2,280,941
OPERATING EXPENSE	\$1,481,391	\$1,277,027
MARGINS	\$489,449	\$419,959
NUMBER OF MEMBERS	5,304	5,221
NUMBER OF METERS	6,735	6,567
MILES OF LINE	1,020	1,016
TOTAL UTILITY PLANT	\$42,399,005	\$39,452,429
MEMBER EQUITY	\$16,006,123	\$14,878,351
FEBRUARY AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL USE (KWH)	1,630	1,805
FEBRUARY AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL BILLING	\$178.00	\$182.24

KEY REMINDERS

- Lincoln Electric Co-op now has a "Safety Demo Trailer." Contact LEC at 406-889-3301 for more information about the trailer.
- If you or your dependent won a "Luck of the Draw Scholarship" at the 78th Annual Meeting, please check your email for a confirmation message and follow-up instructions to claim your scholarship before the deadline.
- Summer digging projects? Remember to call Montana 811 before you dig to locate underground utilities. Call 811 or visit www.Montana811.org for more information.
- The Sixth Annual Member Appreciation BBQ is on June 26 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the LEC North Lawn. See you there!

BUSINESS AND BOARDROOM BRIEFS

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

- Approved Resolutions 2025-7 to 2025-12 to move the checking accounts from Tina Taurman to the new President, Rick Peterson
- Approved the member count by trustee district as presented
- Approved donation request of \$2,000 to the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office for narcotics K9
- Approved \$500 donation request for Relay for Life
- Approved service upgrade for Coley's House



FIND AND FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM under Lincoln Electric Cooperative, to stay up to date on breaking news, LEC events, promotions and local news.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE at www.lincolnelectric.coop for information on member services, billing, outages and safety, job postings, energy efficiency, community and general cooperative updates.

LINCOLN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

CONTACT

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 Secure Payments: 1-833-890-6258

ALWAYS REPORT OUTAGES TO:

1-406-889-3301

OFFICE

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 PO BOX 628
 Eureka, Montana 59917

OFFICE HOURS

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Rick Peterson
 President

Joel Graves
 Vice President

Sandi Mason
 Secretary-Treasurer

Myra Appel
Rodney Kane
David Purdy
Marianne Roose
Tina Taurman

Matt 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 4 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 16, 2025



**Lincoln Electric
 Cooperative, Inc.**

HAVE A STORY SUGGESTION?

SEND YOUR IDEAS TO:

memberservices@lincolnelectric.coop

ANNUAL MEETING

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their educational journeys.

The meeting kicked off with a heartfelt rendition of the *Star-Spangled Banner* by Rachelle McCully, followed by a meaningful invocation from Pastor David McCarthy of Holy Cross Lutheran Church. General Manager Matt Quinn delivered a detailed update on LEC's recent activities, including recovery efforts following "Snomageddon" in November 2024, and the necessary rate changes for 2025. Guest speaker Clark Mathers from Northwest River Partners gave an engaging talk on the organization's work promoting clean, reliable and affordable hydropower.

With an uncontested trustee election and no new business on the agenda, the meeting wrapped up efficiently, leaving time for members and staff to connect, share stories and celebrate another successful year.

Looking ahead, **LEC's 79th Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday evening, April 16, 2026**, marking a shift from the usual Saturday morning schedule. This change aligns with trends among other cooperatives aiming to boost attendance, avoid weekend conflicts and reduce overtime costs, while continuing to provide a valuable and member-focused experience. **We hope to see you there next year!** RM



ABOVE: The LCHS Robotics Club demonstrates their innovative creations. **BELOW:** Girl Scout Troop 3494 helped serve food.



Meet Mandy White

STAKING TECHNICIAN

MANDY is a proud Eureka native and a 2004 graduate of Lincoln County High School. After high school, she spent two years at the University of Washington before transferring to the University of Montana, where she earned a bachelor's degree in Business Management and Information Systems in 2009.

Following college, Mandy returned to her hometown and worked a variety of jobs — including a stint at Laughing Water Ranch, where she met her husband, Ben. In 2014, she joined the team at LEC as a payroll clerk. Since then, she's steadily advanced through several roles, including new services representative and eventually stepping into her current position as a staking technician.

"It's a great job," Mandy said, "I love getting outside and meeting with members. It's rewarding to help them



The faces of LEC

Introducing our Lincoln Electric family of employees to all our members

design their services and meet their electrical needs."

Outside of work, Mandy is all about family and the great outdoors. She and Ben are raising their three children with a love for rural life. Together, they enjoy horseback riding, hunting, fishing on local lakes, boating on the reservoir, hiking and huckleberry picking. Their family is also active in 4-H, raising hogs, participating in the horse program, baking and serving as 4-H leaders.

Thank you, Mandy, for your dedication and hard work — we're lucky to have you on the team! RM



Lincoln Electric Cooperative linemen worked to remove the old rotting Fortine School baseball field backstop. They replaced the aging structure with new durable fencing and treated wooden supports. | **LEC PHOTOS**

Fortine school hits a homerun with baseball field backstop repairs

At a Lincoln Electric Cooperative (LEC) board meeting in late 2024, administrators from Fortine School made an in-person visit to request assistance with repairing the school's aging baseball field backstop. The structure was in poor condition and posed safety concerns for players and spectators alike.

After hearing a detailed explanation of the situation, the LEC Board generously agreed to have LEC donate the time, materials and manpower needed to make the field safe once again.

As the weather improved and roads reopened to heavy equipment in late April 2025, LEC linemen assembled a crew and headed to the site to begin repairs. The work involved removing four old utility poles that were rotting and leaning dangerously toward home plate. In addition, the crew dismantled the mismatched, worn-out wire netting and replaced it with new, durable fencing. Treated wooden supports were also replaced with new materials to ensure long-lasting strength.



In a day and a half, the LEC crew completed the backstop project. | **LEC PHOTOS**

In just a day and a half, the LEC crew successfully completed the project, removing and properly disposing of all the old materials and installing a brand-new backstop using sturdy poles, supports and wire fencing.

This effort was a shining example of community support and teamwork, something LEC is proud to be a part of. Special thanks go to a select InterBel crew for their help with the removal

of a particularly tricky pole, and to the Fortine School groundskeeper for providing gravel, answering questions and offering on-site assistance.

If you have a community project that LEC can help with, we invite you to attend one of our monthly board meetings to share your request.

For more information, please call us at 406-889-3301 or visit our website.

RM