



news & views

from Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc.

YOUTH TOUR 2025 IN HER OWN WORDS

'Truly an unforgettable experience'

Column by **MADDIE MORRIS**
For Lincoln Electric Cooperative

Editor's note: Each year electric cooperatives throughout the state send incoming high school juniors and seniors on an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., for a week to learn more about the history of the United States and electric cooperatives.

They visit monuments and museums, meet other electric cooperative youth from across the country and get to ask questions of the state's congressional delegation.

Here is how this year's trip impacted Lincoln Electric Cooperative's representative Maddie Morris, in her own words:

FIRST off, I want to thank Lincoln Electric Co-op and the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA) for sponsoring my trip to Washington, D.C. Not only was it an amazing experience, but I also learned so much about our co-op and how it operates. I would highly recommend this trip to any high schooler — it's incredible.

They kept us engaged and busy right from day one. On the first day, we visited Arlington National Cemetery, which left a lasting impact on all of us. We also had the opportunity to witness the Changing of the Guard, which I found to be incredibly powerful — unlike anything I've ever experienced. Afterward, we visited the White House and the Washington Monument, and that night we attended a Nationals baseball game.

The adventure continued on day



Maddie Morris, far right, with some of the other Youth Tour participants, Hasalyn Schairer, Corlan Laughery and Savannah Nelson, pose at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

two with a tour of the Capitol. We went inside the Library of Congress and also toured the U.S. Naval Academy. One of the highlights was seeing the hangar that holds the Wright Brothers' airplane and the state flags — it was especially cool.

Day three was one of my favorites. We had coffee with Montana Senators

Tim Sheehy and Steve Daines, and learned about what they do to represent our state in Washington, D.C. We also visited the Supreme Court. That evening, we got dressed up and went on a boat tour of the Potomac River, which was my favorite part of the

See YOUTH TOUR, page 8

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW	YEAR TO DATE JUNE 2025	YEAR TO DATE JUNE 2024
kWh SALES	80,939,257	82,063,292
REVENUE	\$9,098,284	\$8,670,209
COST OF POWER	\$3,883,256	\$3,772,411
OPERATING EXPENSE	\$3,475,334	\$3,129,735
MARGINS	\$632,387	\$757,470
NUMBER OF MEMBERS	5,339	5,246
NUMBER OF METERS	6,769	6,636
MILES OF LINE	1,021	1,017
TOTAL UTILITY PLANT	\$42,449,662	\$40,006,330
MEMBER EQUITY	\$16,113,211	\$15,155,845
JUNE AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL USE (KWH)	900	995
JUNE AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL BILLING	\$128.07	\$129.67



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.

BUSINESS AND BOARDROOM BRIEFS

The regular meeting of the board of trustees was conducted on August 18. A quorum of trustees was present, and the board took the following action:

- Approved donation request of \$1,000 for Fortine School
- Approved donation request of \$2,000 for TFS Community Hall

KEY REMINDERS

- Youth Tour 2026 applications are now available on the LEC website at www.lincolnelectric.coop under the "Community" tab. Application and supporting reference forms must be submitted by noon on Thursday, November 20.
- Lincoln Electric's "Night at the Games" will take place on Friday, October 24 at the Lions football game and Saturday, October 25 at the Lions volleyball game. Both evenings will also feature Senior Night, celebrating our outstanding senior athletes. As a special thank you, Lincoln Electric will be handing out tickets good for a free hotdog or hamburger from the LCHS Boosters concession stand. Come out, enjoy the games and cheer on the Lions!
- Interested in learning more about how LEC provides programs and services to help its members? Visit our website at lincolnelectric.coop or call our office to speak with an LEC representative.

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

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, OCTOBER 20, 2025



**Lincoln Electric
Cooperative, Inc.**

HAVE A STORY SUGGESTION?

SEND YOUR IDEAS TO:
memberservices@lincolnelectric.coop

Meet Julie

RECEPTIONIST

JULIE is from Riverside, California, where she grew up riding horses and minibikes, and exploring the farmland that surrounded her rural community. She embraced the cowgirl lifestyle, staying out from sunup to sundown playing and caring for her family's cows, pigs, horses, ducks, geese, rabbits and chickens. They raised all sorts of animals both for food and for the love of being around them.

"I've always loved animals and being around them. It taught me a lot about responsibility and how important it was to take proper care of the animals you owned," said Julie about growing up in a rural area.

After high school, she went to junior college to become a veterinary technician, where she was able to continue caring for small animals, mostly cats and dogs.

"I worked with the local vet for many years before an opportunity came up to help a family member run his optometrist office. I ended up managing the office, and it was a great business experience. I was able to meet and help people."

When asked what brought her to Eureka, she said, "My husband has been coming to Eureka since the '90s – hunting, fishing and spending time with the locals, making friends and learning about the area."

In 2014, they bought some property and built a cabin with the intention of using it as a vacation home. But by 2015, they decided it wouldn't just be a getaway – they made the move to Montana permanently.

Since being in Eureka, they have built and renovated homes, focusing on construction and helping people build their dreams.

When the position for a part-time front office assistant opened at LEC in 2023, Julie jumped at the opportunity to give back to the community. In 2025, she transitioned to a full-time receptionist role.

"I really enjoy getting to know more people in the community and having the opportunity to be in front of them and help with their electricity questions. As much as I enjoy being out in the woods, I also love meeting new people and learning their stories," she said.

When not at LEC, Julie leads the 4-H Horse Project, spending time with kids as they work with their horses – teaching

The faces of LEC

Introducing our Lincoln Electric family of employees to all our members



them to ride correctly and properly care for their horses while developing strong horsemanship skills. The ability to care for, train and ride horses responsibly is at the heart of the project.

She also enjoys spending time outdoors in the woods – hunting, fishing, riding her mules, boating on the lakes and exploring.

"When people ask what I do for fun, I always say I'm chasing the Montana sun. To me, that means when we're out in the woods, we stay until dark and get the most out of every day. I love every minute of the woods and the outdoors," she said.

Thank you, Julie! We're grateful to have you on the team! RM



OUTAGE UPDATE

Trego Substation

In the early hours of Monday, August 18, members experienced a planned outage while LEC crews completed critical work at the Trego Substation. This outage enabled our crews to safely perform maintenance work throughout the week, focusing on repairing essential equipment vital to the safe and reliable operation of our system.

Since the Trego Substation contains two transformers, this initial outage allowed LEC crews to transfer all power to Transformer #2. This ensured uninterrupted service to members

during the week Transformer #1 was taken offline for repairs.

A similar planned outage took place on Wednesday, October 1st, allowing LEC to restore power to Transformer #1 and complete all necessary testing to ensure its safety and reliability.

Proactive efforts such as these help protect our infrastructure and ensure we continue delivering dependable power to our members. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work to keep the lights on for our community. RM

YOUTH TOUR 2025 IN HER OWN WORDS

YOUTH TOUR

Continued from page 5

entire trip.

Day 4 was filled with even more adventures. By then, everyone was becoming good friends, and we were all really enjoying our time in D.C. That day was Gettysburg Day – we went to the film museum and took a tour of the Gettysburg Battlefield. That night, the entire group gathered for dinner at the NRECA All-State Event.

Before we knew it, Day 5 – the final day – had arrived. We toured the Air and Space Museum, which ended up being my second favorite part of the trip. We also visited several Smithsonian Museums and got to experience history firsthand. One of the most powerful yet haunting stops was the Holocaust Museum. We ended the day at the NRECA Co-op Connections Night, where we spent time with our new friends – eating, hanging out, and

reminiscing about the amazing week we'd had.

In addition to all these incredible experiences, I also learned a lot about co-ops. For example, I found out that electric cooperatives power 56% of the landmass of the United States and serve 42 million people, which is roughly 12 percent of the U.S. population. Unlike other sectors of the electric industry, co-ops sell most of their power – 53 percent – to households. Keeping rates affordable is a major priority for co-ops, so they can take care of their members.

This was truly an unforgettable experience. Coming from a small town, we don't always get opportunities like this. I am so grateful to have received the gift of attending the 2025 Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. To all the high schoolers who may be considering this opportunity – don't second-guess it. You may not get another chance for an all-expenses-paid trip to our nation's capital. It's the trip of a lifetime. RM

