



news & views

from Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Trustee Election 2026

LINCOLN Electric is guided by an eight-member Board of Trustees — elected by you, our members. Each trustee is also a co-op member, bringing their own experiences and perspective to help shape the future of Lincoln Electric.

Lincoln Electric's service area is divided into two districts, with each district having at least two representatives on the board. Trustees serve three-year terms, with three seats up for election each spring. Election results are announced at the Annual Meeting.

What are their responsibilities?

Collectively, your Board of Trustees is responsible for establishing, reviewing and revising corporate policies to ensure Lincoln Electric continues to prioritize service to its members while maintaining a stable, competitive position in the industry.

Your trustees also understand the importance of community involvement. They know the members come first — because they are members, too. They live and work right here in our communities, and they are dedicated to making life a little better for us all.

Who's up for election this year?

Three seats are up for re-election in 2026:

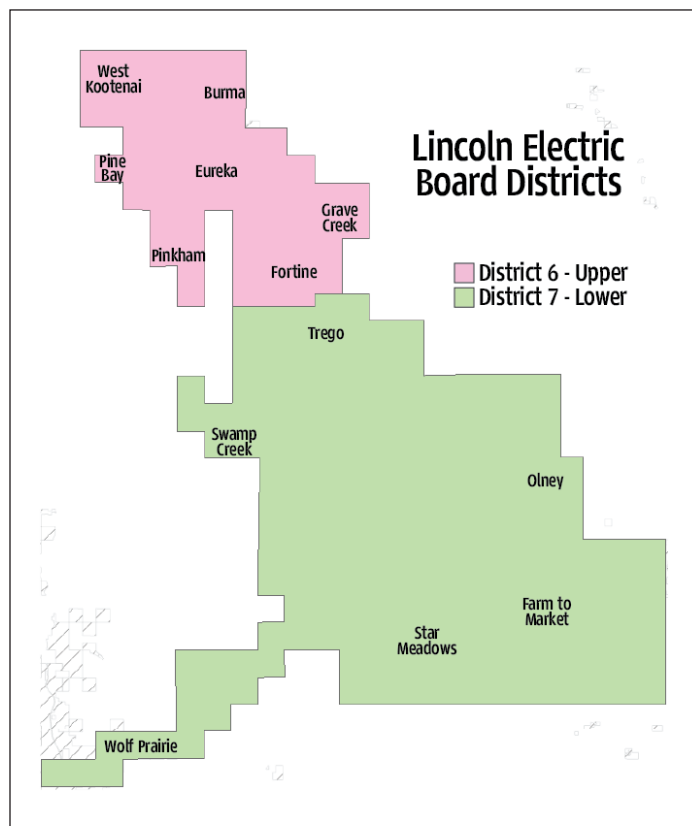
- Myra Appel – District 7
- Rick Peterson – District 6
- Maryanne Roose – District 6

Nomination petitions must be completed and submitted by 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 11.

Interested in Running?

Serving as a trustee is a great way to represent your neighbors and make a difference in our co-op. To become a candidate for a Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc. (LEC) trustee seat, nominees must:

- Be an LEC member currently receiving electric service.
- Have their primary residence and associated electric service within the district they wish to represent.
- Submit a completed petition to LEC and include the names and signatures of at least five (5) valid LEC members whose primary residence is within the nominee's district. (Endorsement spaces are provided on the back page of the



petition.)

While only five signatures are required, we recommend gathering additional endorsements in case one or more memberships are invalid.

The petition must also be signed by the nominee, confirming his or her understanding and acceptance of the responsibilities of the trustee position if elected.

Petitions can be downloaded at lincolnelectric.coop/cooperative/board-of-trustees or picked up in person at our main office at 312 Osloski Rd, Eureka, Montana 59917.

Learn More

To find out more about your Board of Trustees, visit the Board of Trustees page at lincolnelectric.coop/cooperative/board-of-trustees. RM

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW	YEAR TO DATE AUGUST 2025	YEAR TO DATE AUGUST 2024
kWh SALES	88,528,774	89,646,364
REVENUE	\$10,139,543	\$9,673,103
COST OF POWER	\$4,246,924	\$4,130,397
OPERATING EXPENSE	\$3,891,805	\$3,511,093
MARGINS	\$726,167	\$795,608
NUMBER OF MEMBERS	5,349	5,255
NUMBER OF METERS	6,779	6,646
MILES OF LINE	1,022	1,018
TOTAL UTILITY PLANT	\$42,485,338	\$40,016,114
MEMBER EQUITY	\$16,204,480	\$15,192,132
AUGUST AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL USE (KWH)	867	867
AUGUST AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL BILLING	\$127.78	\$123.13



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 September 15. A quorum of trustees was present, and the board took the following action:

- Approved donation request of \$400 for The Log Jam
- Approved any trustee who would like to attend the PNGC education on 9/18, the NRECA class on 10/30 and the PNGC education on 10/31

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 via this form by noon on Thursday, November 20.

• Board of Trustee Elections are happening now with three trustee seats up for election on 2026. If you'd like to run for one of these seats, nomination petitions must be completed and returned by 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 11. Petitions can be picked up in person at the LEC office or downloaded online at lincolnelectric.coop/cooperative/board-of-trustees

• 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, NOVEMBER 17, 2025



**Lincoln Electric
 Cooperative, Inc.**

HAVE A STORY SUGGESTION?

SEND YOUR IDEAS TO:
memberservices@lincolnelectric.coop

Meet Ashleigh Baker

ACCOUNTANT

ASHLEIGH Baker is originally from the small town of Aztec, New Mexico, where she grew up in the beautiful San Juan Mountains along the Colorado-New Mexico border. Growing up in a big family, she and her siblings enjoyed camping, fishing and taking trips to Chama, NM and Silverton, CO.

"I have four siblings; I am the oldest and always felt like the mom. I loved it — I was always taking care of them and enjoyed spending time with them. Being the oldest came with a lot of responsibility, but I was also the boss," she says with a smile.

Ashleigh graduated from Aztec High School in 2012. Out of nearly 300 students, she ranked 10th in her class.

"I loved school — it was fun, and I was good at it. I really enjoyed math."

After high school, Ashleigh attended San Juan Community College in Farmington, NM, where she earned her Associate of Applied Science degree in Accounting.

"I met my husband Brandon and became a mother at a young age. I was fortunate to be able to stay home and raise our daughter, Brooklyn, and spend time with her. After Brooklyn came our son, Emsley. At the time, we were still in Farmington, raising our kids close to where we grew up and near both our parents, which was nice since we are so family-oriented," Ashleigh said.

In 2021, Ashleigh's husband Brandon

The faces of LEC

Introducing our Lincoln Electric family of employees to all our members



found a job that matched his passion for golf. He accepted a position at Indian Springs Golf Course, and the family began their move to northwest Montana.

"We were excited to start a new adventure. Our relationship slogan has always been 'Always an adventure,' so although we didn't know exactly what we were getting into, this move felt right. Eureka was perfect — it was beautiful, small-town, and felt like

a safe community to raise our kids, which was what we were looking for," Ashleigh said.

Once they settled in Eureka, Ashleigh found excellent childcare, which allowed her to begin working again. She first worked for a local concrete company handling the books and also managed a mini storage business. She enjoyed the work and the people she met there. When the accounting position opened at LEC in 2022, Ashleigh threw her hat in the ring and started as the cooperative's accountant in October 2022.

"When I started at LEC, I was excited to finally put my accounting degree to use for the community that had welcomed me to Eureka. Numbers have always come naturally to me, and this was my chance to apply that skill in service to the co-op," she said.

When Ashleigh isn't at LEC, she devotes nearly all her time to her family. They enjoy taking drives together, exploring the area and spending time at the golf course.

"We spend a lot of time at the course — sometimes playing golf (I'm not the best, but I can keep up), though mostly I'm there with my kids, socializing and making friends. I'm a very social person and love being around people," she said.

Thank you, Ashleigh for bringing salsa to the office and giving everyone a nickname. The Office is a brighter, and much louder, place because of you. RM



WINTER IS HERE

Tips to keep warm without breaking the bank

WELL folks, winter has officially settled into northwest Montana. The woodstoves are burning, the snow shovel workout program has started and most of us are wondering how on earth it's dark at 5 p.m. At Lincoln Electric Cooperative, we know cold weather means more electricity use – but with a few simple tips, you can stay cozy *and* keep those bills from climbing higher than the snow drifts outside your front door.

Heat Without the Headache

Thermostat tug-of-war. Every degree you turn down the heat can save you up to 3 percent on your bill. (So yes, when Grandpa says “put on a sweater,” he’s not wrong.)

Blankets beat kilowatts. A fleece throw or flannel sheets do wonders. Plus, they don’t raise your bill.

Plug Those Pesky Drafts

Find the leaks. If your house whistles when the wind blows, it’s time for some weatherstripping or caulking.

Insulate like a pro. Attics, basements, crawl spaces – these spots love to steal your heat. Beef up the insulation and keep that warmth inside where it belongs.

Curtains have a job, too. Open ‘em during the day for free sunshine, then close ‘em at night to keep Jack Frost outside where he belongs.

Everyday Energy Savers

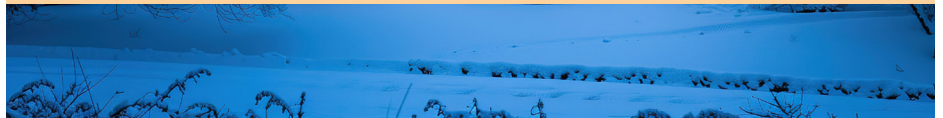
Appliance teamwork. Only run the dishwasher or washing machine with full loads—half loads just waste energy (and soap).

LEDs are a bright idea. They use about 75 percent less energy and don’t burn out when you need them most.



Assistance is available

If you find yourself, or your neighbors, struggling financially to meet your energy needs, there are resources available. The Community Action Partnership of Northwest Montana (CAPNM) is here to help. Visit the, at www.CAPNM.net to find out more about Energy Assistance programs.



The phantom menace. Electronics and chargers sip electricity even when you’re not using them. A power strip makes it easy to cut them off at the source.

Safety First

Space heaters = handle with care. Keep them away from anything that burns, plug them right into the wall, and never leave them alone (they’re like toddlers with heating elements).

Check your smoke and carbon-monoxide detectors. Batteries

are cheaper than emergencies.

We’re in This Together

Here at Lincoln Electric Cooperative, we get it – winter’s long, cold and sometimes a little expensive. But with a few tweaks, you can keep your home comfortable, safe and maybe even save enough to buy an extra round of hot cocoa.

Stay warm out there, neighbors – and remember, no one ever regretted an extra pair of wool socks. 