



news & views

from Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc.

PART 3 OF 3:

The cost of keeping the lights on

UNDERSTANDING OUR SYSTEM MAINTENANCE CHARGE

*Keeping power reliable
in every corner of our
community*

EVERY time you turn on the lights, charge your phone or make a pot of coffee, you're relying on a complex system of powerlines, poles, transformers and meters — all working quietly in the background. At Lincoln Electric Cooperative (LEC), our System Maintenance Charge helps cover the ongoing costs of maintaining that vital infrastructure, so electricity is there when you need it most.

Our crews work year-round to ensure your power remains reliable, safe and consistent. Whether it's replacing aging poles, repairing storm damage or upgrading lines to meet modern energy demands, this charge ensures the system you depend on is strong and ready.

What the charge covers

This charge isn't tied to how much energy you use, it is about the cost of being connected to the grid. Every meter, no matter how much or how little electricity it draws, relies on an entire network of equipment and personnel to function properly.

The System Maintenance Charge helps pay for:

- Line and pole maintenance
- Substation upkeep and upgrades
- Meter testing and replacements
- Vegetation management and right-of-way clearing

UNDERSTANDING OUR RATE STRUCTURE SERIES:

Part 1: Understanding the Usage Charge | SEE FEBRUARY RM

Part 2: Understanding the Demand Charge | SEE MARCH RM



- Storm response and emergency repairs
- Safety inspections and compliance measures
- Operational support staff and equipment costs

Even when electricity use drops, these fixed costs remain. It takes dedicated crews, specialized tools and constant vigilance to keep power flowing safely to thousands of members across northwest Montana.

Fair, sustainable foundation

Because Lincoln Electric is a member-owned, not-for-profit cooperative, every dollar collected goes directly back into maintaining and improving the system for all members. The System Maintenance Charge ensures we can continue delivering reliable, affordable electricity today, and invest in the infrastructure that will serve our communities for decades to come. RM

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW	YEAR TO DATE JAN. 2026	YEAR TO DATE JAN. 2025
KWh SALES	16,776,490	19,612,761
REVENUE	\$1,690,838	\$1,656,069
COST OF POWER	\$742,933	\$993,738
OPERATING EXPENSE	\$739,363	\$440,805
MARGINS	\$44,121	\$114,038
NUMBER OF MEMBERS	5,387	5,220
NUMBER OF METERS	6,845	6,530
MILES OF LINE	1,024	1,014
TOTAL UTILITY PLANT	\$42,976,193	\$40,261,319
MEMBER EQUITY	\$16,396,612	\$15,942,526
JANUARY AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL USE (KWH)	2,154	2,409
JANUARY AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL BILLING	\$212.60	\$219.69

A P R I L 1 3 , 2 0 2 5

HAPPY LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY

WHEN THE POWER GOES OUT, OUR LEC LINEMEN ARE THE ONES WHO SHOW UP

LEC Annual Meeting

THURSDAY APRIL 16TH

Registration starts at 5 p.m. and business session at 6 p.m.

Location: The Lincoln County High School in Eureka.

BUSINESS AND BOARDROOM BRIEFS

The regular meeting of the board of trustees was conducted on February 17. A quorum of trustees was present, and the board took the following actions:

- Approved Policy 213 as presented.
- Approved the resolution for the MRPPA for natural gas for "up to" 12 megawatts and for LEC Manager Quinn to sign PSA.
- Approved a donation of \$1,000 for Energy Certificates for the Tobacco Valley Animal Shelter.
- Approved for LEC to support the Lincoln County Fair through improvements of their existing facilities.
- Approved the donation of \$750 for Rendezvous.
- Approved the donation of \$2,000 for the Eureka Volunteer Fire Department



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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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, APRIL 20, 2026



Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc.

HAVE A STORY SUGGESTION?

SEND YOUR IDEAS TO:
memberservices@lincolnelectric.coop

LEC: EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITIES WITH FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS

Glacier Peak Holistics

DEB Gwynn is the CEO and founder of Glacier Peak Holistics, which provides a holistic approach to pet health. She is a certified herbalist and herbal remedy formulator and has been designing herbal remedies for dogs, cats and horses, since 1996. Deb is also a pet food nutrition specialist.

With more than 30 years of expertise in herbs and nutritional supplements, Deb formulates exceptional natural solutions designed to promote pet well-being and ease discomfort from injury, aging or illness. Each product is carefully handcrafted at their facility in Eureka. Glacier Peak Holistics takes pride in using 100 percent organic, naturally sourced herbs — most of which are grown in the Pacific Northwest.

Before starting Glacier Peak Holistics, Deb owned a health food store specializing in herbs.

“I started with herbal formulas to help people. I made teas and tinctures for ailments,” she said, reflecting on her time operating Heaven’s Peak Health. “The store was located on Main Street, and it was growing. People were looking for plant-based and herbal health supplements, and being an herbal formulator, I was staying busy. I was enjoying it and doing well, but my true passion was helping animals through a holistic approach. So, I sold the health food store and started Glacier Peak Holistics in 2009.”

Deb was doing what she loved, and business was growing. Soon, it was time to expand. That’s when a friend told her about Lincoln Electric Co-op’s Revolving Loan Fund.

“It was just me. I was grinding herbs, filling capsules, packaging, shipping — everything. I needed help, and I needed more space. The loan from Lincoln Electric allowed me to set up the larger space I needed. I was able to use the



Deb Gwynn is the CEO and founder of Glacier Peak Holistics. Lincoln Electric’s Revolving Loan Fund helped her grow and expand her business. | **LINCOLN ELECTRIC PHOTO**

funds to remodel an old warehouse, hire more people and make it exactly how we needed it.”

With the new warehouse and headquarters in place, Deb has continued to grow and help animals across the coun-

try and around the world.

“We currently supply approximately 500 wholesale stores with our products, as well as approximately 300 veterinarians nationwide. The funds

*See **GLACIER PEAK**, next page*

Honoring Trustee Marianne Roose

LINCOLN Electric Cooperative proudly recognizes Marianne Roose for her outstanding service on the Board of Trustees as she retires from her position. Marianne joined the board in 1989, beginning a remarkable tenure that spanned more than three decades.

During her years of service, she held several leadership roles, including serving as president of the board. She also represented the cooperative for many years as a trustee on the boards of Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association and the Northwest Public Power Association, further extending her leadership and advocacy on behalf of our members. She was a very instrumental part of LEC, the energy structure of Montana and beyond, and our community.

Her long commitment to the cooperative gave her a deep understand-



ing of both the organization and the communities it serves. She consistently brought valuable context and historical perspective to board discussions,

helping guide thoughtful and informed decisions.

Marianne has a unique ability to absorb information and ask insightful questions. She speaks her mind and stands firm in her convictions, yet she is equally generous with praise and appreciation. Her institutional memory, steady leadership and genuine care for the cooperative have made a lasting impact.

As one fellow trustee shared:

"Marianne brings perspective that the rest of us simply can't have without her years of experience. She asks great questions, holds her ground, and never forgets to show appreciation. She is amazing and will be greatly missed as a board trustee."

We are deeply grateful for Marianne's dedication and years of faithful service. RM

GLACIER PEAK

Continued from previous page

allowed me to expand so we could focus on inventory, and hiring help so we could get products made and out to people who need them for their pets."

Glacier Peak Holistics has built a strong reputation nationwide, with customers providing firsthand testimonials about how the products have helped improve their pets' health and quality of life.

"I'm a lifelong animal lover. My company works with pet owners and veterinarians to help animals live their best lives. We run a Pet Wellness Sensitivity Test using biofeedback machines. That way we have a starting place to know what the pets need, or need to avoid, in their diet and environment."

The loan from Lincoln Electric helped purchase the biofeedback machines, which Deb describes as the backbone of the operation.

"Once we know what the animals

LEC Revolving Loan Fund

If you are interested in learning more about the LEC Revolving Loan Fund, visit:
lincolnelectric.coop/community/loan-program/

are sensitive to, we can provide specific remedies to get them healthy and keep them healthy," she said.

From anti-anxiety herbal blends to Peak Immunity formulas, as well as enzymes and probiotics, Glacier Peak Holistics uses pure, organic ingredients sourced from nature and remains committed to enriching pets' well-being and nurturing their longevity.

In addition to serving pets worldwide, Glacier Peak Holistics employs 17 team members locally and remotely.

"Another great thing the LEC loan allowed me to do was expand to a point



where I can support the local economy of Eureka. We work with many different contractors, and I'm able to hire locally and give back to the community," Deb said.

All Glacier Peak Holistics pet products can be purchased online at www.glacierpeakholistics.com. RM