



news & views

from Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc.

LEC's 79th Annual Meeting a big success

New Thursday format led to great participation

LINCOLN Electric Cooperative's 79th Annual Meeting, held on Thursday, April 16, at Lincoln County High School in Eureka, proved to be a resounding success. Moving the event from its traditional Saturday time slot to a Thursday evening resulted in a record-setting turnout, with 308 members registered and 369 total attendees, the highest participation in years.

Members and guests enjoyed a delicious meal provided by local favorites. Hillbilly Hoageez served wraps and sandwiches, while Elkhorn Smokehouse dished up BBQ pork sandwiches and mac & cheese. The Munchy Monkey delighted attendees with an impressive assortment of desserts, and Montana Market prepared vibrant trays of fresh fruits and vegetables. The Lincoln County High School Speech and Drama Club did an excellent job assisting with food service and guest care, while the LCHS Robotics Club impressed attendees with a live demonstration of their innovative robots.

Each registered membership received \$20 in Chamber Bucks and was entered into a drawing for 38 door prizes. Prizes included multiple \$100 local gift cards, a DeWalt tool set, several coolers, and the grand prize — a \$150 monthly electric bill credit for an



LEC General Manager Matt Quinn speaks at the Annual Meeting.

entire year.

The "Luck of the Draw" Scholarship program also saw record participation, with 47 students applying. Eight

students were selected as winners, with a total of \$12,000 in scholarships awarded to support their educational goals.

The meeting began with a unified Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a heartfelt rendition of the national anthem performed by the LCHS Choir. Pastor Marty Kaarre of West Kootenai Community Church delivered a heartwarming invocation. General Manager Matt Quinn provided a detailed update on LEC's recent activities, including an overview of the outages experienced from autumn through December 2025.

LEC also welcomed two guest

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FINANCIAL OVERVIEW	YEAR TO DATE MARCH 2026	YEAR TO DATE MARCH 2025
KWh SALES	43,218,218	48,132,239
REVENUE	\$4,709,471	\$4,740,494
COST OF POWER	\$2,028,240	\$2,288,710
OPERATING EXPENSE	\$1,689,243	\$1,481,391
MARGINS	\$520,781	\$489,449
NUMBER OF MEMBERS	5,402	5,304
NUMBER OF METERS	6,875	6,735
MILES OF LINE	1,043	1,020
TOTAL UTILITY PLANT	\$43,255,513	\$42,399,005
MEMBER EQUITY	\$16,956,298	\$16,006,123
MARCH AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL USE (KWH)	1,644	1,630
MARCH AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL BILLING	\$196.18	\$178.88

KEY REMINDERS

- Right-of-way clearing will take place in select areas from Glen Lake to Burma, and south to Graves Creek. For more details, give us a call at 406-889-3301.
- If you or your dependent won a "Luck of the Draw Scholarship" at the 79th Annual Meeting, please check your email for a confirmation message and follow-up instructions to claim your scholarship.
- Planning any digging projects this summer? Remember to call Montana 811 before you dig to locate underground utilities. Call 811 or visit www.Montana811.org for more information.
- 7th annual Member Appreciation BBQ Thursday, June 25th 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the LEC North Lawn. See you there!



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 April 20. A quorum of trustees was present, and the board took the following actions:

- Approved member count by Trustee district.
- Approved Policy 207, 211, 212, 305, 415, 416, 511, 512, 513 as presented.
- Approved a donation of \$2,000 for Sunburst Foundation for Shakespeare in the Park and Summer Series.
- Approved donation of \$3,000 for Kidsville at the Lincoln County Fair.
- Approved Sandi Mason to attend the NWPPA Annual Meeting and serve as LEC's voting delegate.

LINCOLN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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OFFICE

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 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
Larry Benson
Rodney Kane
David Purdy
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 15, 2026



Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc.

HAVE A STORY SUGGESTION?

SEND YOUR IDEAS TO:
memberservices@lincolnelectric.coop

Meet Brad

LEC'S NEWEST LINEMAN

BRAD joins Lincoln Electric Cooperative from Munising, Michigan, where he grew up near Lake Superior. An avid outdoorsman, Brad embraced the rural Midwestern lifestyle – spending his time fishing, hunting, hiking and enjoying the woods.

Growing up, Brad held a variety of jobs, including carpentry, general labor, and working in the woods. He later joined the National Guard, where he served two tours in Iraq. During his service, he completed several advanced courses, including the Reconnaissance and Surveillance Leaders Course (RSLC), Airborne School, Warrior Leader Course (WLC) and Squad Designated Marksman (SDM).

After completing his deployments, Brad returned to Munising and took a temporary job as a meter reader. While working in the field, he met linemen from Upper Peninsula Power Company (UPPCO)—an experience that changed his career path.

“The linemen I met were so passionate about their work. It was really motivating to see them doing what they love and keeping the power on. I decided that’s what I wanted to do.”

Brad worked hard and was soon offered a full-time position in the metering department. Not long after, he earned an opportunity to enter UPPCO’s lineman apprenticeship



The faces of LEC

Introducing our Lincoln Electric family of employees to all our members

program.

“I worked hard, and when I was offered the lineman apprenticeship, it was a life-changing event.”

While completing his apprenticeship, Brad attended Northeast Wisconsin Technical College (NWTC) for additional lineman training. He went on to become a journeyman lineman and later advanced to a leadman/foreman role, where he led crews on job sites.

“Working where I grew up was a huge asset since I knew the locations and the locals on a personal level.

That’s a useful trait when you’re a lineman.”

Brad said the transition to northwest Montana felt natural.

“The Michigan Upper Peninsula is very similar to Eureka. The geography and trees are a little different, but the small-town feel and camaraderie are the same. I really love it here and look forward to learning the area and meeting people. This move was an easy decision, and I’m so happy to be here.”

Outside of work, Brad continues to enjoy the outdoors – hunting, fishing and exploring a new hobby: gold prospecting.

“I’ve heard there’s gold in the rivers here, and I can’t wait to find a good flake.”

Welcome to the LEC team, Brad – we’re lucky to have you. RM

MEETING

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speakers. Tracy McIntyre, executive director of the Montana Cooperative Development Center and the Montana Council of Cooperatives, spoke about the importance and unique value of cooperatives and their impact on local communities. Mark Lambrecht,

CEO of the Montana Electric Cooperatives’ Association, shared insights on rural electrification efforts and developments affecting cooperatives nationwide.

Board elections were also held during the meeting. With three seats up for election, Myra Appel (District 7) ran unopposed and was re-elected by acclamation. In District 6, incumbent Marianne Roose retired, leaving two open seats. Four candidates were nomi-

nated: Larry Benson, Ben Goodrich, Rick Peterson (incumbent), and Greg Stought. Following the vote, Rick Peterson was re-elected, and Larry Benson was elected to fill the second open seat.

Lincoln Electric Cooperative extends its sincere thanks to all who attended and supported LEC throughout the past year. Your participation and engagement are greatly appreciated, and we look forward to seeing you again next year. RM

LEC supports new power project in ID

LINCOLN Electric Cooperative (LEC) is supporting a new power project in northern Idaho aimed at keeping electricity reliable and affordable for homes and businesses across North-west Montana.

The project, developed through Pacific Northwest Generating Cooperative (PNGC Power), will feature a high-efficiency natural gas plant designed to produce more electricity with less fuel. The facility is expected to be among the lowest emitting of its kind in the region, and could incorporate hydrogen blending in the future.

LEC officials say the investment is part of long-term planning to meet growing demand and respond to increasing challenges, including extreme weather, reduced hydropower and rising energy needs across the Northwest.

“This is about making sure our members have power they can depend on at a price they can afford,” said Matt Quinn, LEC general manager. “We’re planning ahead to keep electricity reliable when it matters most.”

The project is one of several efforts by PNGC Power and its member cooperatives to strengthen the regional power supply and improve system resilience.

“This reflects our responsibility to plan for the future,” said Jessica Matlock, CEO of PNGC Power. “We serve communities across the Northwest, and this project helps ensure they have reliable, affordable electricity in the years ahead.”

About PNGC Power: PNGC Power is a generation and transmission cooperative owned by 25 electric cooperatives across seven western states. It provides power supply and related services to member systems throughout the Northwest. RM



JOIN US

**7TH ANNUAL
MEMBER APPRECIATION
BBQ**

• LET'S CELEBRATE •

ON THE LEC NORTH LAWN

THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 11 A.M. - 2 P.M.

312 OSLOSKI ROAD, EUREKA