



news & views

from Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc.



LINCOLN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE EMPLOYEES **THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE POWER**

FOR the first time in several years, nearly the entire Lincoln Electric Cooperative team paused long enough to gather for a group photo. That may not sound remarkable, but during the peak of construction season it's a rare occurrence. Line crews are building and maintaining the system, engineers are managing projects, member service representatives are assisting members and employees across every department are focused on the work that keeps electricity flowing. Bringing almost everyone together in one place

offered a rare opportunity to capture the people behind the power.

When the photo was taken, smoke drifted across the mountains in the background. It wasn't planned, and it wasn't exactly the picturesque scene we were hoping for, but it couldn't have been more fitting. It served as a reminder of the wildfire seasons that are part of life in northwest Montana and the challenges our employees face while keeping the lights on for the communities we serve.

Behind every flipped light switch

and plugged in outlet, is a team of people working together. The friendly voice answering the phone when you call. The employee scheduling your new service. The engineers designing tomorrow's electrical system. The crews clearing hazardous trees, replacing poles after storms, and extending power to homes and businesses in some of the most remote parts of our service territory. Every person has a role, and every role matters.

See LEC TEAM, page 8

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW	YEAR TO DATE JUNE 2026	YEAR TO DATE JUNE 2025
kWh SALES	68,376,995	73,049,293
REVENUE	\$8,350,159	\$8,038,623
COST OF POWER	\$3,472,704	\$3,507,825
OPERATING EXPENSE	\$3,185,851	\$2,882,661
MARGINS	\$739,625	\$696,756
NUMBER OF MEMBERS	5,411	5,330
NUMBER OF METERS	6,896	6,756
MILES OF LINE	1,044	1,021
TOTAL UTILITY PLANT	\$43,380,388	\$42,431,348
MEMBER EQUITY	\$17,147,740	\$16,192,774
JUNE AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL USE (KWH)	841	822
JUNE AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL BILLING	\$135.65	\$131.84

BUSINESS AND BOARDROOM BRIEFS

The regular meeting of the board of trustees was conducted on July 20. A quorum of trustees was present, and the board took the following actions:

- Approved Joel Graves to be the designated bidder at the Lincoln County Fair 4H Livestock auction
- Approved \$100,000 Revolving Loan Fund to Bison Woodworks
- Approved Policy 407 as presented
- Approved a donation request for TFS Heritage Days for \$500
- Approved board members to attend the Western Montana Managers Group meeting

KEY REMINDERS

- Lincoln Electric Co-op will be closed in observance of Labor Day on Monday, September 7.
- 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.
- Planning any digging projects this fall season? Remember to call Montana 811 before you dig to locate underground utilities. Call 811 or visit www.Montana811.org for more information.



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

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
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, SEPTEMBER 21, 2026



**Lincoln Electric
 Cooperative, Inc.**

HAVE A STORY SUGGESTION?

SEND YOUR IDEAS TO:
memberservices@lincolnelectric.coop

BACK TO SCHOOL

How LEC supports and gives back to the communities we serve

It's that time of year again — shorter days, cooler nights, the sounds of Friday night football, echoing cheers at volleyball matches and rumbling school buses filled with laughter on the roads. It's the shoulder season when summer says its slow goodbye and autumn quietly takes center stage. Back to school.

Lincoln Electric Co-op serves employees who are mothers, fathers, grandparents, guardians, teachers and all who play a role in the back-to-school tradition. New schedules, new classes, new teachers and newly sharpened pencils all mark the beginning of another school year. What's not so new is how LEC continues to support and strengthen our schools and communities to the best of our ability. Through donated employee time and equipment, volunteering for events and services, and answering the many local donation requests that come our way, we are



The 2026 Luck of the Draw Scholarship winners (students and/or parents) take the stage at the LEC Annual Meeting. | LEC PHOTO

here to show up, to serve and to help foster successful growth and community engagement for our students, teachers, schools and families.

Since its inception in 1948, LEC has created a culture of giving and community support. Over the years, LEC has

provided scholarships to students and members who need a little financial boost when it comes to funding higher education. Each year, members and students alike have the opportunity to participate in the Luck of the Draw Scholarship at the Annual Meeting.

There is also the annual Montana's Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, where LEC funds a trip of a lifetime to Washington, D.C., for one member student in their sophomore and junior years of high school. The Youth Tour is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience our nation's capital with in-depth tours and unique visits to monuments, historic sites and landmarks that many students from rural Montana may never otherwise have the chance to see.

The local Night at the Games is another opportunity for LEC employees to support the LCHS Gridiron Grill while providing hamburgers and hot dogs for LEC members and their families. This annual event is a great



LEC Line Crews install the Eureka Lion's Football Field lights in 1957. | LEC FILE PHOTO

*See **COMMUNITY**, next page*

LEC TEAM

Continued from page 5

Providing reliable electricity takes far more than powerlines and substations, it takes dedicated people who care about the communities they serve.

That commitment is reflected in Lincoln Electric Cooperative's mission:

"To provide reliable energy, at reasonable rates, with exceptional member service and commitment to the communities we serve."

For our employees and trustees, this mission is personal. We don't just work here, we live here. We raise our families here, volunteer in our communities, cheer for our local schools, and share the same roads, neighborhoods, and the same challenges as our members.

This photograph captures more than the faces behind Lincoln Electric Cooperative. It captures a team of neighbors working together every day to power the place we all call home. RM

ALWAYS
CALL

BEFORE YOU
DIG



NOTICE: Updated engineering applications are now available

THE Lincoln Electric Cooperative Engineering Department has updated its applications for:

- Line extensions
- Development
- Commercial and industrial service
- Service upgrades and relocations

The revised applications are now

available on the LEC website under **Cooperative > Forms**.

If you have questions about a new application or the status of an existing application, please contact our Engineering Department at 406-889-3301. We're happy to assist you.

COMMUNITY

Continued from previous page

opportunity for employees to visit with members, share stories, catch up and provide dinner while enjoying the football and volleyball games.

Donations come in many forms, and one of those is the donation of skilled labor. Over the summer, LEC donated the use of its auger to help with improvements at the fairground's playground, digging holes for a new swing set and merry-go-round.

Last fall, the LEC line crew volunteered at the Fortine Middle School baseball fields, replacing the aging baseball field net poles with brand-new poles that will provide a safe and stable place for students to play baseball for many years to come.

Through unclaimed capital credits, coupled with a scrutinized, board-managed donations budget, LEC is able to fund programs such as the Luck of the Draw Scholarship and support projects



A LEC line crew dismantled and replaced the Fortine School baseball field backstop.

such as new lighting for the school auditorium. Our youth are the future of our communities and our nation, and we are grateful for the opportunity to invest in our communities, work responsibly within our budget, and be good stewards of the resources entrusted to us. RM

Labor Day CLOSURE

Lincoln Electric's office will be
closed Monday, September 7

