

F E R G U S

FEATURES

Member Newsletter ♦ Fergus Electric Cooperative, Inc., Lewistown, MT ♦ www.ferguselectric.coop



MANAGER'S MESSAGE

From Carson Sweeney

SPRING IS HERE!



SPRING has arrived and our service territory is turning a beautiful sea of green! We appreciated receiving the late winter moisture and we were happy to only encounter minimal outages during the April 6 snowstorm. Our operations team was well prepared and called most of our linemen in during the storm, expecting widespread issues.

The lack of severe damage was a pleasant surprise. For the last several years we have invested heavily in our vegetation-management and line-maintenance programs. Because of the planned investments in circuit protection devices, pictured right, and vegetation management within our current and future budgets, I believe we will see as much as a 40-percent decrease in preventable outages throughout the next five years.

As a reminder, Fergus Electric Cooperative is a wholesale distributor of Generac generators and outdoor power equipment. Year to date we have sold 14 generators to members throughout the co-op's service territory. Our engineers regularly submit orders for new Generac generators. If this is of interest to you, please contact our engineering department for more information.

Construction applications

Our construction schedule for new services is filling up fast. If you have a project in mind that you hope to have completed this summer, I encourage you to contact our team soon to begin



(L to R) Dan Rice, Lineman; Travis Sura, Apprentice; Bill Stanton, Lineman are ready to head out to the field to install three-phase Compact Modular Reclosers

working through the details. Don't wait until late fall when our schedule is busy, and weather becomes another challenge.

Legislative Conference

Your electric cooperative has an active and informed Board of Directors that regularly attends state and national meetings. Recently, Director Brad Arntzen and I made the trip

to Washington, D.C., with 23 other Montana electric cooperative directors and managers. This is an important trip that we schedule each year to inform our Montana delegation on federal and state issues impacting electric cooperatives. Unfortunately, we voice concerns about federal action far more often than we provide support.

The current federal initiative to dramatically replace the existing electric generation fleet that helped build our nation is under intense pressure. The priority of Montana electric cooperatives is to provide reliable and affordable power. The concept of moving away from these traditional assets to accept renewable energy technologies is currently an unaffordable and unattainable pipe dream. We continue to share these priorities with our elected officials and work with them on solutions that make sense for rural Montana communities. We are fortunate to have a strong and influential Montana delegation that supports Montana electric cooperatives.

New facility open house

We are tentatively planning to have an open house in mid-May at our new Roundup facility to give our members the opportunity to tour the new office and shop and visit with members of the staff and board. When we have a firm date and time, we will post an invitation on our website and Facebook. We

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MEET THE BOARD CANDIDATES

In accordance with Fergus Electric Cooperative Bylaws, Article IV, Section 4.3, the nominating committees met and elected candidates for the Board of Trustees.

In addition to the procedures set forth above, any 15 or more members acting together from the district in

which a trustee is to be elected may make other nominations by petition not less than 30 days prior to the meeting, and the secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the aforesaid committees are posted. No other method of nominating candidates for trustee shall be posted. RM



Bob Evans

DISTRICT 7

Incumbent Bob Evans is seeking a 13th term on Fergus Electric's board of directors. He is past president of Fergus Electric's board of directors, as well as past president of the statewide organization: Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA), headquartered in Great Falls. Bob currently serves on MECA's Bylaws and Policies Committee.

Bob says, "I see complex issues facing the cooperative regarding long-term power supply. Maintaining quality power and affordable rates remain my top priority."

Bob earned a Bachelor's of Science degree in industrial arts from the University of Montana – Western at Dillon in 1974, and returned to Geysler, where he spent years operating a cow-calf-yearling operation. Since retiring, Bob has leased his ranch, yet he stays busy with ranch maintenance. In addition to spending time on his ranch, Bob enjoys traveling, checking in on kids and grandkids, and working with his fellow board members on Fergus Electric duties. RM



Terry Frost

DISTRICT 5

Incumbent Terry Frost has been a board member for 15 years, and looks forward to the challenges of another three-year term. After serving as a lineman and foreman at Ravalli Electric Cooperative for 30 years, Terry understands the complexities involved with all aspects of electric coop-

eratives. His knowledge of power supply, power safety, equipment and related services, as well as customer expectations, are essential in board decisions. We are constantly being challenged to make sure we make the right decisions for the future of Fergus Electric's members. "The availability of power that is threatened by removal of constant baseload, I take this challenge seriously and will work to keep the lights on for our membership," Terry said.

Terry and his wife LaVonne raise registered Angus cattle in the Bull Mountains south of Roundup. They have lived there for 25 years this July, and love the proximity of their sons and their families, who assist with the ranch activities and bring love and laughter every time they visit. Terry and LaVonne have been married for 51 years.

Terry continues to volunteer for organizations, which keeps him active in the community. He has been president for the Midland Empire Angus Association and president for the Musselshell Stockgrowers, as well as for the Ravalli County Stockgrowers. Terry is currently on the Musselshell Refuse Board and serves as Committee Chairman for the Musselshell County FSA – this being his ninth year. Terry served as a volunteer firefighter for the Corvallis fire department for many years, and is a former director for Genex Corporation.

In addition to serving his local community, Terry is active in his role as vice president of Fergus Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors, representing all the members of the co-op. Terry also represents Fergus Electric serving as board director of the statewide organization, Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA) and by serving on MECA's Resolutions Committee.

Terry thanks members for their confidence in his service, and he appreciates the opportunity to venture forward for another three years as a member of this progressive board. RM



Brad Arntzen

DISTRICT 3

Incumbent Brad Arntzen is a fourth-generation rancher from central Montana, who operates a seed-stock Angus cattle ranch north of Hilger, along with his family.

In 2001, Brad graduated from Montana State University – Bozeman with a Bachelor's of Science degree in animal science. After graduation, he returned to the family ranch, where he resides with his wife, Stacie, and his daughters Abbie, Ashlen and Aleia.

Brad is involved in community activities. He serves on the Winifred American Lutheran Church Board. He served as president of the Central Montana Angus Association, during which time he helped organize the Montana State Angus Tour. He also served as a director on the Central Montana Port Authority, and as a director on the HRDC Loan Review Committee.

In 2012, Brad was selected to serve as a member of Fergus Electric Cooperative's Member Advisory Committee, of which he was elected chairman. His experience on the advisory committee helped him to learn more about how a rural electric cooperative operates. In 2015, the members of Fergus Electric Cooperative voted to elect Brad to serve as a member of the co-op's Board of Directors. As a member of the governing body for Fergus Electric Cooperative and a representative of the members, Brad is invested in the co-op. In the fall of 2016, Brad successfully completed the series of National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) courses in Billings to become an NRECA Credentialed Co-op Director. Brad currently serves on the statewide organization, Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association's (MECA) Power Supply Committee, and is a past member of MECA's Communication Committee. Seeking his fourth three-year term, Brad said, "It is a great privilege to serve the members of Fergus Electric Cooperative as your board director, and I would be honored to have your continued support in serving the membership for another term." RM



Thaddeus Daniel Moseman

DISTRICT 3

Born to Dan and Delores Moseman on May 4, 1974, in Lewistown, I was raised on the family ranch at

Christina. I graduated from Winifred High school in 1992, I then graduated from Montana State University Bozeman in 1997, with an animal science degree. Out of college, I married my highschool sweetheart Rebecca Lowry from Flat Willow, in 1998. Our family soon increased with the births of our two sons, Ashton and Caleb Moseman. Currently Ashton is at MSU Bozeman studying mechanical engineering, and Caleb is in his first year in the Marine Corps, stationed in Okinawa, Japan.

In 1999, we moved to the Billings area, where I started a staking engineering position with Beartooth Electric Cooperative, based in Red Lodge. I spent 12 years working for the cooperative in the engineering field, member relations and management. I ended my career there as engineering manager in late 2011, to pursue a ranching life to raise our two boys.

Currently, my wife and I work at the family ranch with my youngest brother, mother and father. I have been active in the community, serving on the Fergus County Stockgrowers Board and Fergus County Weed District Board, and am still active on the Hilger Volunteer Fire Department Board, Hilger Community Board, and the Fergus County Farm Bureau Board. I am proud to be part of the central Montana community, and look forward to helping its future any way possible. RM



REMEMBER AND HONOR
MEMORIAL DAY
 — ★★ —
CLOSURE

Fergus Electric Cooperative offices will
 be closed Monday, May 27

Luck of the Draw scholarships to be given away at the Annual Meeting

Must be present to win

Fergus Electric Cooperative will offer 10 \$1,000 scholarships in a drawing during this year's annual meeting June 6 at the Fergus County Trade Center.

Rules for the scholarship drawing are: 1) The applicant must have a home address in a residence served by Fergus Electric or be the child of a current Fergus Electric member. 2) The applicant must have at least a "C" grade average, 3) **Applicant MUST return application slip by June 3.** No applications will be accepted at the annual meeting. 4) The scholarship may be used for undergraduate college, vo-tech or graduate studies.

No support documentation is required. Winners are determined by the luck of the draw. Checks will be written to the college or school of the winners' choice.

Please complete the following application and return it to: Fergus Electric Scholarship Drawing, 84423 U.S. Highway 87, Lewistown, MT 59457. RM

FERGUS ELECTRIC SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Application due by June 3, 2024

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

College/Vo-Tech attending/will attend: _____

I maintain at least a "C" average:

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

MANAGER

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are excited for our members to see the facility that was an aspiration for many years of present and former co-op employees alike. Thanks to the support of our members, we have a spacious new building and pole yard.

Annual Meeting

On June 6 we will welcome all members to the Fergus County Trade Center for our 86th annual meeting of the membership. I always look forward to this annual event to provide our membership with information on all the exciting projects we have been working on. I will be providing pictures of our new office/shop in Roundup,

updates on the new 24-mile 50 kilovolt transmission line from Hilger - Winifred, and information pertaining to multiple infrastructure investment projects that are improving system reliability. Our operations team is hard at work to maintain our existing facilities, while replacing infrastructure that is at the end of useful life. We have a long-term strategic plan to maintain affordable and stable rates while meeting the needs of our growing membership. During the meeting I will also be providing detailed information pertaining to the new General Service rate structure. Members will also hear updates from our board president and other trustees of the board. I hope you can come to the meeting, and enjoy having lunch and catching up with all of us. See you there. RM

IDENTIFY ACCOUNT NUMBER*

WIN A \$32.50 CREDIT

If one of the following account numbers is yours, call Fergus Electric (406-538-3465) and identify yourself and your account number and you will receive a \$32.50 credit on next month's statement.

**Account 320027, Account 396570
 Account 397106, Account 194525
 Account 148500, Account 89310**

CONGRATULATIONS!

Betty Wherley of Winifred, Mike Tyler of Moore, Michael Kennedy of Roundup and Mike Miller of Billings (So. Roundup service area) were last month's winners!

* NUMBERS ARE DRAWN MONTHLY



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

FOR OUTAGES

First: Check the fuses or breakers in the building in which the electricity is off.

Second: Check the breaker below the meter.

Third: If electricity is still out, call a neighbor to see if they have electricity.

Fourth: Call 406-538-3465 day or night or:

- Dale Rikala 406-366-3374
- Bret Ophus 406-366-7523
- Bret Nellerhoe (Roundup)..... 406-939-0636
- Carson Sweeney 406-366-0971
- Melanie Foran 406-462-5650
- Scott Olson 406-366-5822
- Dan Balster 406-366-0975

FERGUS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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E-mail: ferguselectric@ferguselectric.coop

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ferguselectric

Carson Sweeney.....General Manager
Dale Rikala..... Line Superintendent
Sally Horacek Office Manager
Janine Rife Didier.....Editor

Fergus Electric is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- District 1: Paul Descheemaeker, President, Lewistown, 428-2417
- District 2: Brett Maxwell, Lewistown, 538-9002
- District 3: Brad Arntzen, Hilger, 462-5555
- District 4: Cathy Kombol, Roundup, 428-2202
- District 5: Terry Frost, Vice President, Roundup, 323-3415
- District 6: Jason Swanz, Sec./Treas., Judith Gap, 473-2462
- District 7: Bob Evans, Jr., Geysers, 735-4476

Fergus Features is an award-winning newsletter.