



# news & views

from Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

LINCOLN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

## Wrong tool for the job

*Using the Clean Air Act to regulate greenhouse gas not a good idea*

Lincoln Electric Cooperative has serious concerns about the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) using the existing Clean Air Act to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from power plants.

We understand that EPA is moving forward to finalize Clean Air Act regulations on greenhouse gas emissions for cars and trucks as early as this month. We also understand these regulations will in turn lead to regulations related to the electricity sector, scheduled to go into effect in Jan. 2011.

In 2007, the Supreme Court handed down its opinion on a case in which

Massachusetts and several other states had sued EPA for failing to respond to the states' petition to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicles under the Clean Air Act. This Supreme Court decision essentially required a series of cascading events that led us to where we are today.

Lincoln Electric respects EPA's duty to respond to the Supreme Court's decision. But, the existing Clean Air Act is simply not the right tool to address greenhouse gas emissions from power plants. The statute imposes a command-and-control regulatory framework that would impose nonsensical requirements, unnecessary burdens,

and extreme expenses on industry and our economy if used in an attempt to control greenhouse gas emissions. And, it is not clear that the Clean Air Act could be effective or efficient in actually reducing emissions of greenhouse gases from power plants.

Members of Congress from both parties have introduced several pieces of legislation that would delay or prevent these regulations from going into effect. Through PNGC Power, Lincoln Electric is working with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and others to track these efforts.

Our position is that burdensome and expensive cli-



Manager's Notes  
by Mike Henry

mate change regulation by the Clean Air Act is not the way to go.

Even Clean Air Act legislation author, John Dingle (D-MI), said that using it in the manner proposed by EPA would produce a "glorious mess." If greenhouse gas is to be regulated, the better approach is to have Congress take the lead.


## System Wide Power Outage Planned

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is requiring a system wide power outage to complete critical maintenance on the transmission line serving all Lincoln Electric Cooperative members.

**All Co-op Members will be without power on Sunday, June 6 from 1 a.m. - 7 a.m.**

We apologize for the inconvenience, but this crucial maintenance will provide long term reliability for co-op members. If you have any questions, please contact the office.



Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



889-3301  
1-800-442-2994

# 61<sup>st</sup> annual meeting

Photos by Marita Combs,  
Applied Visions Media

The largest member gathering in some time took place Saturday, March 27, when Lincoln Electric held its 61st annual meeting of the members.

Nearly 450 members and guests attended the business meeting.

The Co-op's independent auditor gave a clean bill of health, and Manager Mike Henry gave his report on co-op activities. Mr. Henry reported that a rate increase will be coming later this year, most likely followed by another one in mid-2012. Future power supply cost increases were cited as the main factor.

To offset these coming increases, Mr. Henry demonstrated ways that the *TogetherWeSave.com* website, sponsored by Touchstone Energy, could help members make informed decisions on how to control energy costs in your home.

Using three examples of replacing your current light bulbs with CFLs, lowering your thermostat two degrees and replacing your old clothes washer with a new ENERGY STAR model, the website calculated savings of over \$250 per year just by doing these three things.

Co-op members returned three of four incumbent trustees to office in a voice vote, with Kathern Mounter winning a contested race. Members also elected Courtney Pluid by voice vote

to replace Phyllis Hansberry, who retired after 22 years. A bylaw amendment was also approved that allows a process to convert trustee terms to three years, from the current two-year terms; and will see three or four trustees elected each year instead of the five currently elected.

At the end of the meeting, six lucky students were awarded \$1,000 "Luck of the Draw" scholarships, paid for with unclaimed capital credits.



Above: Courtney Pluid won the open seat created by Phyllis Hansberry's retirement.

Right above: MECA CEO Dave Wheelihan updated the membership on federal legislation that may impact electric cooperatives.

Right: Volunteer voting tellers Linda Kraft and Jean Garrison assist as members deposit their ballots.



Retiring Fortine-Glen Lake trustee Phyllis Hansberry was recognized for her 22 years of service to LEC.



# photo album



Manager Mike Henry (r) stands with the six \$1,000 "Luck of the Draw" scholarship winners. Many applicants were represented by a parent at the meeting.

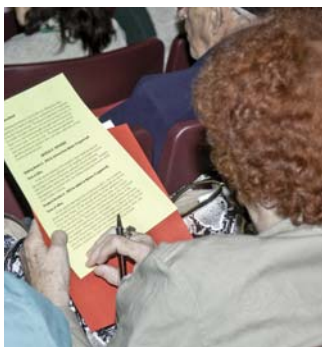


Alicia Edwards and Albert Leaver grab a bit to eat before the meeting.

Michael Brandon of Trego won the grand prize drawing for free electricity for a year.



Auditor Rick Matusiak had a clean audit report for the Co-op.



A member reviews the proposed bylaw amendment prior to voting. Members approved the bylaw amendment 256-19.



A good crowd was on hand for the meeting with 362 registered members and 86 guests.

# Online bill pay

Go Paperless Today!

Whether you're busy taking care of your family, or just always on the go, we know how hard it is to get everything done in 24 hours. That's why Lincoln Electric Cooperative is proud to offer online bill pay.

You have the ability to pay your bills online, view your account history and your statements with our new Online Bill Pay system. You can take care of

your electric bill from home – before dinner, during your favorite TV show, or after the kids have gone to bed.

Just visit our website at [www.lincolnelectric.coop](http://www.lincolnelectric.coop) and click the Online Bill Pay icon. You'll be directed to our secure site. Once there you will need to create a user ID, the first time you log on.

Your user ID will consist of your email address and a password chosen by you. You can then view and pay your bill online. It's really that easy.

Online Bill Pay also offers access to 18 months of payment history, 24 months of bill copies and actual copies of your bill and payment stub which can be printed.

In addition, you can view charts of your monthly or average cost or usage of all accounts. You can also elect to no longer receive a printed bill in the mail. Just click on the Start/Stop Bill Print link and make changes as necessary.



Our Online Bill Pay system is secure and designed to protect your account and payment information. You create your own password and have the option to change it at any time as an added security measure. You can pay your bill online with a personal or business check, or use your Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover card.

We think you will enjoy the convenience online billing offers and hope you will take full advantage. We're always looking for ways to serve you better.



**Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

## News & Views

Published monthly by Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc. Eureka, Montana

Lincoln Electric's board of trustees meets monthly at the Eureka office. The regular meetings are scheduled for the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. Members with items of interest are encouraged to contact the general manager in advance of the meeting.

### Board of Trustees

- Tina Taurman** – President, Dist. 2, Trego – Stryker
- Marianne Roose** – Vice President, Dist. 3, Fortine – Glen Lake
- Ethel White** – Secretary, Dist. 4, Eureka – Tobacco Plains
- George Elam** – Dist. 1, Flathead
- G.I. Burk** – Dist. 1, Flathead
- Courtney Pluid** – Dist. 3, Fortine – Glen Lake
- John Hossack** – Dist. 4, Eureka – Tobacco Plains
- Kathern Munteer** – Dist. 5, Koozanusa Shores – Pinkham
- Jim Reynolds** – Dist. 4, Eureka - Tobacco Plains
- Mike Workman** – Dist. 5, Koozanusa Shores – Pinkham

General Manager Michael T. Henry

#### In case of power failure:

Call 889-3301 or 1-800-442-2994

Anytime day or night

After hours voice-mail for

Visit us on the Web at:

[www.lincolnelectric.coop](http://www.lincolnelectric.coop)

e-mail: [info@lincolnelectric.coop](mailto:info@lincolnelectric.coop)

## Business and Boardroom Briefs

The regular meeting of the board of trustees was conducted March 15, 2010. A quorum of trustees was present and the board took the following action:

- Agreed to purchase two tickets to the annual ALERT banquet to support the organization.
- Approved a \$250 donation to the Louise Burk Memorial Breast Cancer Awareness luncheon.
- Approved a \$250 Rendezvous corporate sponsorship.
- Approved a \$1,000 donation to the Eureka After School program.

	Year to Date 2/28/2010	Year to Date 2/28/2009
YTD Kwh Sales	25,042,189	29,111,194
YTD Revenue	\$1,614,319	\$1,841,521
YTD Cost of Power	\$719,960	\$843,604
YTD Operating Exp	\$718,728	\$686,771
YTD Margins	\$176,530	\$312,497
# of Members	3,931	3,858
# of Meters	5,195	5,125
Miles of Line	918	899
Total Utility Plant	\$27,032,371	\$26,216,623
Member Equity	\$6,792,498	\$6,953,101
Avg Residential Usage (kWh)	1,801	2,078
Avg Residential Billing	\$116.56	\$130.66