



# news & views

from Lincoln Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## Lincoln Electric 68th Annual Meeting Recap

Photos By  
Gary Henderson



The 68th Annual Meeting of the Members was called to order at 9:00 am on Saturday, March 25, 2017 at the Lincoln County High School Auditorium.

The attending members received a report on the 2016 year-end financials of LEC. A copy of this information can be found on our website at [www.lincolnelectric.coop](http://www.lincolnelectric.coop).

Gary Wiens, Assistant Manager of the Montana Electric Cooperatives Association, provided a legislative update. To keep up to date with the issues facing Montana cooperatives, please visit [www.montanaco-ops.com](http://www.montanaco-ops.com).

The manager's report by General Manager Ray Ellis centered mainly around the upcoming rate change. As detailed in past issues of your Rural Montana and our March Community Meetings, this change is vital.

By moving toward a full COSA (Cost of Service Analysis) rate, LEC will improve

financial stability in the future. It also helps to ensure all members are contributing fairly and equitably toward their cooperative.

One of the main duties of members at the Annual Meeting is to conduct the business of the cooperative. This year, there were four Trustee positions up for election.

Three of the Trustees were re-elected by acclamation. They were Marianne Roose, District 3; Myra Appel, District 1; and Wesly Loughman, District 4.

There were two nominations for the fourth Trustee position for District 5 - Eugene Jarrell and incumbent Mike Workman. Upon voting of the members, Mike Workman was re-elected for District 5.

The membership also voted on seven By-Laws changes, which were all approved. Please see the sidebar for a brief description of these revisions\*.

After the voting recess, member questions were answered by LEC Trustees and employees. No new business action items were needed.

Drawings were made for



Jenny and Ron Komac won the grand prize of free electricity for a year (some restrictions apply).

14 \$1,000 Luck of the Draw Scholarships. These are funded by unclaimed capital credits. Including the 2017 scholarships, LEC has used unclaimed capital credits to donate over \$167,000 to education endeavors in our communities

The Luck of the Draw winners were Ryan Price, Connor Harmon, Ashlyn Waldo, Gina Williams, Emily Billow, James Dunn, Courtney Harmon, Derek Hickman, Kaylee Kronsperger, Cole Pickering, Braden Thier, Taylor Pacella, Bradley Stein, and Jaimie Soderling.

\*For a full copy of the By-Laws revisions or a video of the Annual Meeting, please contact LEC at 406-889-3301 or [memberservices@lincolnelectric.coop](mailto:memberservices@lincolnelectric.coop).



### By-Laws Revisions

#### Revision 1

Remove the requirement for LEC to provide and track Membership Certificates.

#### Revision 2

Add the option of holding the Annual Meeting in April, instead of restricting to only March.

#### Revision 3

Add another delivery option for notice of members' meetings if so requested in writing by the member.

#### Revision 4

Modify to make it a requirement that a member meeting must be adjourned if a quorum of members is not present.

#### Revision 5

Simplify the Trustee term description now that all Trustee terms have been converted to three years.

#### Revision 6

As LEC is no longer indebted to the United States Government or Rural Utility Services, remove references regarding reporting to, or complying with the regulations of, these agencies.

#### Revision 7

General housekeeping and language revisions that do not affect the intent of the By-Laws, but create a more cohesive and uniform document.

LINCOLN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

# Member Participation is the Key to Cooperative Success

The strength of Lincoln Electric lies in its relationship with its members. The ability to band together and democratically control the organization for the benefit of all is the single most important aspect of the cooperative. It is the ultimate in consumer advocacy where the members can choose the direction of the company they have helped build by electing its

Board of Trustees and controlling its foundational document, the By-Laws. On March 25th of this year, that process was once again put into action. Our Annual Meeting was well attended and the business of the cooperative was transacted. It is always good to be able to meet with the members and see the faces of those we fight for, whether on the political front or against Mother Nature.

of everyone involved. The staff puts in a great deal of time and energy to bring the event together and the Board of Trustees provide guidance and direction. The most important participants are you the members.



**Manager's Notes**  
by Ray Ellis

I very much appreciate the efforts

I want to thank you for your attendance and active participation. It's what makes us a successful organization and ensures that the legacy of the founding members continues into the future.

Thanks for your membership,  
Ray



## News & Views

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Lincoln Electric's Board of Trustees hold regular meetings monthly at the Eureka office. These are typically scheduled on the third Monday of each month at 7 pm. All 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, May 15, 2017**

### Board of Trustees

- **Mike Workman** - President, Dist. 5, Koochanusa Shores-Pinkham
- **Wesly Loughman** - Vice President, Dist. 4, Eureka-Tobacco Plains
- **Courtney Pluid** - Secretary, Dist. 3, Fortine-Glen Lake
- **Myra Appel** - Dist. 1, Flathead
- **Joel Graves** - Dist. 5, Koochanusa Shores-Pinkham
- **Tom Klyver** - Dist. 1, Flathead
- **Marianne Roose** - Dist. 3 - Fortine-Glen Lake
- **Tina Taurman** - Dist. 2, Trego-Stryker
- **Terry Utter** - Dist. 4 - Eureka-Tobacco Plains
- **Ethel White** - Dist. 4 - Eureka-Tobacco Plains

**General Manager Ray Ellis**

**In case of power outage:**  
**Always call 406-889-3301**

312 Osloski Road  
PO Box 628  
Eureka, MT 59917

www.lincolnelectric.coop  
info@lincolnelectric.coop

## BUSINESS AND BOARDROOM BRIEFS

The regular meeting of the board of trustees was conducted on March 20, 2017. A quorum of trustees was present and the board took the following action:

- Approved changes to policies 206, 207, 208, 401, 402, 406, 408, 410, 414, 415, 416, 502, 505 and 506.
- Approved Board Resolutions 2017-1 through 2017-7.
- Awarded the right of way contract to Persson Tree Services.
- Approved a \$750 donation to the Eureka Chamber of Commerce for Rendezvous Days.
- Approved a \$525 donation to the Sunburst Foundation for Shakespeare in the Park.
- Approved a \$175 donation to the Kootenai Valley Rangers.
- Authorized the addition of a two-part rate for traditionally billed accounts.

	Year to Date 02/28/2017	Year to Date 02/29/2016
Year to Date kWh Sales	31,097,675	24,055,087
Year to Date Revenue	\$ 2,433,090	\$ 1,983,169
Year to Date Cost of Power	\$ 1,370,342	\$ 1,055,202
Year to Date Operating Exp	\$ 809,061	\$ 798,789
Year to Date Margins	\$ 256,554	\$ 122,262
Number of Members	4,499	4,414
Number of Meters	5,820	5,723
Miles of Line	955	949
Total Utility Plant	\$ 31,613,853	\$ 32,698,455
Member Equity	\$ 9,516,435	\$ 8,798,326
Feb. Average Residential Use (kWh)	1,979	1,536
Feb. Average Residential Billing	\$161.93	\$132.93

**BPA has scheduled a SYSTEM-WIDE OUTAGE  
from 11:00 pm on Wednesday, June 28, 2017  
until 5:00 am on Thursday, June 29, 2017  
ALL Lincoln Electric members will be without power  
during this time while BPA makes crucial repairs on the  
transmission line. We apologize for any inconvenience.**

## Unclaimed Capital Credit List

As part of a cooperative, our members are entitled to a refund of margins for years they had economic participation in the cooperative. These are returned in the form of capital credit checks. However, when members move, they sometimes fail to notify LEC of their address change and the checks are undeliverable. In order to make every effort possible to find those that have capital credit funds due to them, we are asking our current members to lend us a hand. Please look over the unclaimed capital credit list of names that will be published in your May, June, and July *Rural Montana's*. If you have a way to contact any of these folks, please contact LEC at 406-889-3301 or [info@lincolnelectric.coop](mailto:info@lincolnelectric.coop). Thank you for being great members!

### —A—

AABERGE, JAY  
ABW INC.  
ADAMS, EDWARD A  
ADAMS, THOMAS L  
AESTHETIC LOGGING  
ENTERPRISES  
AHL, LARRY  
ALAVANA, JACK  
ALBA FARO CO. INC.  
ALEXANDER, LEWIS G  
ALFSON, JANICE  
ALLEN, EDWARD  
ALLEN, JAMES F  
ALLEN, JONATHAN E  
ALLEN, KAREL A  
ALLEN, STEVEN D  
ALLEN, VERNA G  
ALLISON, BRUCE  
ALPINE CONSTRUCTION  
INC.  
ALSIPPI, PAUL M  
ALVERSON, JIM  
AMBELLAS, KIMBAL  
AMBROSE, GARY G  
AMELON, PEGGY S  
ANDERSEN, HANS  
ANDERSON, DEENA A  
ANDERSON, LARRY D  
ANDERSON, MICHAEL  
ANDERSON, NATHAN S  
ANDERSON, ROBERT  
ANDERSON, TIMOTHY J  
ANDERSON, WENDY L  
ANDOR, LAVERTA  
ANDREANI, PABLO  
ANSORGE, BETTY

ARMBRUST, PAUL  
ARMOUR, NORMAN H  
ARMSTRONG,  
MARGARET A  
ARNOLD, MICHAEL D  
ARROE, BEATRICE  
AURICH, TRICIA  
AUSTIN, VAL  
AVCO FINANCIAL  
SERVICES

### —B—

BACHUS, RAY  
BAIN, DAN J  
BAKER, BARBARA H  
BAKER, DAN W  
BAKER, DENISE R  
BALMER, JOHN T  
BANEY MEATS  
BANKUS, JACK  
BARBER, MARION  
BARCLAY, PAULA  
BARK, R.M.  
BARKER, TED  
BARTLEY, WILLIAM J JR  
BATCHELOR, NATHAN  
BATES, BARRY A  
BEAR, MARVIN L  
BEARDSLEY, WM. E  
BECK DRILLING ENVIR.  
SERV.  
BECKER, JILL  
BECKETT, FRANKLIN  
BEDNAR, ELIZABETH  
BEEMAN, TRACY A  
BEICK, SHIRLEY L  
BEILER, DAVID B  
BELL, BOB

BELL, JAMES R  
BELSTAD, REBECCA L  
BERGER, SID L  
BERGET, CHARLES  
BERKLUND, DENNIS  
BERNEKING, H.F.  
BERRETH, HERBERT  
BETHEA, MICHAEL A  
BETTCHER, DONALD  
BIANCHE, DAVE  
BICKEL, NORMAN  
BILLOW, JOSEPH D  
BIOSYSTEMS ANALYSIS  
INC.  
BISHOP, MIKE  
BLACKBURN, HOWARD E  
BLACKBURN, STEVEN B  
BLAIR, TERRY A  
BLANCHARD, BRIAN G  
BLANCK, DAVE  
BLANKERS, KATHRYN E  
BLODGETT, SANDRA  
BLOMQUIST, GUS  
BLOOMSTINE, MAURICE H  
BLUE, JOHN  
BLYMAN, GEORGE  
BOCK, GERHARD  
BOEKE, JOHN  
BOGARDUS, DIANE R  
BOGUMIL, JESS W  
BOHMAN & SUTLEY  
BONER, PAUL H JR  
BONNER, EUGENE S  
BOONE, BILL E  
BOREN, DON  
BOWANS, COLBY L  
BOWDEN, WILLIAM  
BOWERS, JAMES W

BOWLAND, ANTHONY  
BOWMAN, ARTHUR R  
BOWMAN, JOE  
BRAMMER, MARK  
BRAS, CLARENCE  
BRAUN, TIM E  
BRAUNSCHWEIG, TODD  
BREAKWELL, ROBERT  
BRENAN, SEAN M  
BRENNEMAN, IRENE  
BREZINA, KEVIN R  
BRITT, EDDIE C  
BRITTON, WENDY J  
BROADHEAD, JASON  
BROCK, DAVID  
BROCKEL, VICKIE K  
BROCKMAN, HANNAH D  
BROCKSTEDT, LUTZ  
BROUSSEAU, FRANK J  
BROUSSEAU, MAURICE  
BROWN, HEIDI J  
BROWN, THOMAS  
BRUNS, SHAWNDA R  
BRYANT, ALYCE R  
BURDE, BEN JR  
BURFOOT, DAN  
BURGMEIER, STEVE M  
BURKE, JOSHUA A  
BUSCIGLIO, JOHNNY  
BUTLER, D.J.  
BUTLER, SHARRON L  
BUTRICK, DEVERETT  
BUTTERFIELD,  
DOROTHY R  
BUTZ, MICHELLE  
BUZZELL, SUSAN A  
BYE, SCOTT

*Continued on page 6*

**Unclaimed**

*Continued from page 5*

BYERS, JUNE M  
BYLER, JOSEPH  
BYRNES, CHANDOLINE

**-C-**

CABELL, GARY J  
CAFFEE, TOM  
CAMPBELL, LARRY  
CAMUS, ALICE  
CAMUS, GINGER J  
CANFIELD, GRANT  
CANFIELD, KEN  
CANUSA GARDENS  
CARDANI, LISA A  
CAREY, DONNA F  
CARKHUFF, DAVID  
CARLOSS, JOHN N  
CARLSON, BEN R  
CARMAN, RONALD L  
CARTER, VINCENT  
CARVEY, SHARON E  
CASEY, RICKY D  
CASPERSON, DANIEL J  
CASTONA, DENNIS  
CENTURY 21  
CHATMAN, DONNA L  
CHEEVERS, TOYE V  
CHEFF, PATRICK J  
CHRISTIAN, JAMES A  
CICCOLELLA, MALCOM  
CLAIR, RICHARD D  
CLARK, CYNTHIS H  
CLARK, DALE R  
CLARK, DUANE JR  
CLARK, GERALD  
CLARK, NORMAN C  
CLARK, WM. R  
CLARKE, BOB L  
CLARKE, DIANNE  
CLAYTON, CLAUDIA A  
CLEMENT, TERESA  
CLEMENTS, RICK  
CLIFFORD, ALLEN  
CLP HOLDINGS INC.  
COATS, PAUL B  
COCHRAN, DOUGLAS W  
COCHRAN, JEM R  
COE, JOANNE L  
COFFMAN, RANDALL A  
COHEN, WILLIAM F  
COLASUONNO,  
DOMENICO  
COLE, ESTHER W  
COLE, LYA  
COLE, ROBERT L  
COLLINS, ROBERT  
COLONNA, LAURA A  
COMBS, R.E.  
COMBS, ROGER D  
COMPTON, MITCHELL C  
CONAT, RICHARD A  
CONNELLEY, ROBERT M

CONYERS, WILLIAM W  
COOK, HAROLD  
COOK, MARION  
CORNERSTONE DEV  
GROUP LTD  
CORNISH, MAGHA F  
COSTICH, THOMAS F  
COTTRELL, PAUL T JR  
COUGHLIN, SEAN  
COX, CRYSTAL L  
COX, EULA L  
CRAIG, ROGER  
CRANE, TERROL L  
CRAWFORD, RUDY  
CRISPO, CAROL M  
CROCKER, CY  
CRONIN, GARY  
CROSS, JODIE  
CRUMAL, CHRIS  
CURTIS, TIM  
CURTISS, RITA

**-D-**

DAGGETT, CHARLES  
DAIGNEAU, ALLAN  
DAKOTA LYTE  
DAMM, TERESA  
DANIELSON, MARVIN  
DARIGOLD DIST. OF  
KALISPELL  
DARLING, ALLEN N  
DAVID, KARL V  
DAVIDOW, CLIFFORD D  
DAVIS, DEBRA  
DAVIS, GEORGIA A  
DAVIS, MONICA L  
DAVIS, RANDAL E  
DAVIS, STEPHEN  
DEAN, LINDA  
DEGEORGE, TRISTAN A  
DELANEY, DAVID  
DELONG, DORIS I  
DICK, CLEO A  
DICK, M. LILIAN  
DICK, WILLIAM E  
DICKSON, LEIGH A  
DIERMAN, CLARA B  
DIERMAN, DARBY L  
DIERMAN WAPLES,  
DEANNA L  
DIERS, WILLIAM  
DODGE CREEK WATER  
USERS  
DODSON, REYES K  
DOHERTY, JOE  
DONALDSON, KEVIN M  
DONALLY, KIRSTEN  
DONSBACH, RONALD A  
DOOLEY, SUSAN K  
DORMAN, STEVE  
DOUGLAS, KIRK  
DOW, KATHLEEN  
DOWELL, MABEL  
DRUMMER, ALAN G

DRURY, BEVERLY J  
DRURY, TRACY  
DULEY, DIANA B  
DUNCAN, EDWARD  
DUNCAN, JAMES  
DUNN, GARY M  
DUNN, MICHAEL  
DUPONT, JAMES M  
DUSCHKA, PAUL E  
DYKSTRA, DAVID A

**-E-**

E G & G DYNATREND  
EASON, MARJORIE  
EASTER, CONNIE F  
EBERT, WILLIAM  
ECKLUND, DOUGLAS M  
EDDY, DOUGLAS  
EDENFIELD, PERRY E  
EDMONDS, JEFF M  
EDWARDS, DUNCAN W  
EGAN, GARY M  
EHRlich, DONNA I  
EICKHOFF, JAMES D  
ELLCEY, RONALD F  
ELLIS, JAMES D  
ELLIS, KENNY L  
ELLIS, ROBERT A  
ELLIS, WAYNE I SR  
ELOFF, IAN  
EMERALD ESTATES INC.  
ENDEMANN, FRED  
ENDEMANN, PYHLLIS M  
ENGLERT, BILL R  
ERBA, ANTHONY  
ERETH, J.O.  
ERIE, VIOLA  
ESLICK, DONAL R  
ESTES, TIM E  
EVANS, RAY E JR  
EVANS, SCOTT N  
EVANS, TERESA  
EVJENE, JERRY

**-F-**

FENN, ROBIN J  
FERGUSON, TIMOTHY S  
FIFIELD, SHERMAN  
FIKSE, JUDITH A  
FINCH, SUTTON  
FITCH, RUSSELL E  
FITZGERALD, BARRY C  
FITZGERALD, MICHAEL E  
FLECK, DONALD H  
FLEET FUNDING CORP.  
FLEET MORTGAGE CORP  
FLESCH, DAN  
FLESCH, KENNETH N  
FLESCH, LEO W  
FLETCHER, SUSAN  
FLOOD, TERRENCE J  
FOLLENSBEE, PATSY  
FOLTZ, JULIA  
FORSGREN ASSOCIATES,  
P.A.

FOSTER, SUSAN  
FRANK, ROBERT J  
FRANKLIN, TIM L  
FRASER, CARL A  
FRAZIER, KATHY M  
FREEMAN, RONALD  
FRIDAY, BERDINE  
FRIGGE, JIM  
FRONTIER WEST  
FUNKE, MARCHITA A

**-G-**

GALLOWAY, RONALD E  
GALUSZKA, JIM  
GAMBLE, DOUGLAS M  
GANNON, CLARISSA K  
GARbutt, GORDON  
GARDNER, BENNY  
GARRISON, BARRETT L  
GARRISON, DAVID L  
GARRISON, RACHEL  
GASKIN, DOUGLAS H  
GASSER, GEORGIE  
GATES, BEN M  
GEE, DARRELL W  
GENTRY, CANDACE  
GENTRY, JAMES W  
GIBBS, CHARLES F  
GIBSON, SPENCER I  
GIFFIN, BONNIE K  
GILES, GLENDA W  
GLASS, DREW  
GODKIN, SAM  
GODLEY, LESLIE  
GOHEEN, DAVE  
GOODELL, CHRIS  
GOODIN, GERALD H  
GOOSEY, ERIN D  
GORHAM, ROGER  
GOTCHER, MITZI  
GRADNIGO, CAROL  
GRAHAM, ROBERT E  
GRANDI, RENEE  
GRANMO, JAY  
GRANNUM, WILLIAM Q  
GRAUE, SUSAN J  
GRAVELLE, JAMES A  
GRAVELLE, JUANITA R  
GRAWUNDER, LEE  
GREAT NORTHERN  
ENTERPRISE INC.  
GREEN, BRIAN  
GREENE, CHARLES  
GREGG, WESLEY  
GRIFFIN, KRISTIN  
GRIFFITHS, AARON W  
GRILLO, VINCENT  
GROB, RUFUS A  
GRONEBERG, JENNIFER  
GROSS, SHAWN  
GROVER, DAVID  
GTE NORTHWEST  
GUYNES, SAMUEL J

*Continued in June*