

www.mckenzieelectric.com





Need money for college?

McKenzie Electric scholarship application due March 1

The McKenzie Electric Cooperative scholarship program will award two scholarships in the amount of \$500 each. One of these scholarships will be geared toward students with an interest in an electrical-related curriculum at an accredited college, university or technical school. The other \$500 scholarship will go to a student attending any accredited college, university or technical school.

Basin Electric and subsidiaries scholarship application due March 1

Applicant must be a dependent of a McKenzie Electric member or a member themselves for this scholarship. The individual may be a high school senior planning to enroll or someone currently enrolled in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited, two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school.

Visit www.mckenzieelectric.com for scholarship applications and instructions. Applicants can also stop in to the McKenzie Electric office and pick up an application.



Operation Round Up funds disbursed

Co-op members participating in Operation Round Up have their electric bills rounded up to the nearest dollar. The few cents each member contributes every month goes to help local organizations or individuals.

It is amazing what just a penny or two from many members can do within our communities to help those organizations and individuals in need of some help. Whether it's been funding for emergency responders or supporting activities for the youth in our community, it has always been important to our membership.

The Operation Round Up board members met Nov. 15, 2017, at the McKenzie Electric Cooperative (MEC) headquarters to review the applications submitted for the fall distribution period. The following donations were approved:

- Farm Rescue, \$1,000 toward helping farm and ranch families in need.
- Watford City Swim Team Club, \$750 toward purchasing startup equipment.

Twice a year, applications are submitted to the Operation Round Up board, which is made up of co-op members from each district within the co-op. They meet and review the applications and distribute funds. The next application deadline is May 25. To submit an application for a member or a local organization, please visit www. mckenzieelectric.com for application instructions and to apply. You may also call the MEC office at 701-444-9288.

Operation Round Up board members:

Doreen Orf Betty Bruins Nikki Darrington Maureen Moe Joan Baker Donna Lewis Misty Powell Kim Neprash Janene Knutsvig



WRITE A WINNING ESSAY AND WIN A TRIP OF A LIFETIME!

JUNE 9-15, 2018

AN ALL-EXPENSE-PAID TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

- To enter the essay-writing contest, you must be a sophomore or junior in high school.
- You and your parents or guardian must be served by McKenzie Electric Cooperative.
- If you have a question, contact Chantel Lane, McKenzie Electric, at the address listed below, or call 701-444-9288 during regular business hours.
- The deadline is Jan. 31, 2018. Emailed entries should be directed to clane@mckenzieelectric.com, and hard-copy entries mailed to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, McKenzie Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 649, Watford City, ND 58854-0649.



TO ENTER THE ESSAY-WRITING CONTEST

- $1. \ All-expense-paid \ trip \ to \ Washington, \ D.C., \ compliments \ of \ McKenzie \ Electric \ Cooperative.$
- 2. A whole week to visit unforgettable historic monuments, museums and the U.S. Capitol.
- 3. A learning experience you'll never forget.

ESSAY QUESTION:

There are approximately 20 million military veterans in the United States today. How shall fellow U.S. citizens honor and look after these veterans, who have served and sacrificed on our behalf? Describe any special connection you may have to a veteran or active-duty member of the military.



CHECK OUT THE ESSAY-CONTEST GUIDELINES AT

www.ndyouthtour.com











Simplify.

Pay-By-Bank is the most convenient way to pay your electric bill.

What is the Pay-By-Bank program?

Instead of mailing a check each month, you authorize an automatic withdrawal from your checking account.

How does the program work?

As usual, you will receive a monthly bill. When it's due, (the 20th) your bank will deduct the payment from your account.

How much is withdrawn from my account?

Only what you owe! The withdrawal is for the exact amount shown on your bill.

What does Pay-By-Bank cost?

Nothing. Fill out and sign this application and return it to our office. We'll do the rest.

COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM TO ENROLL

I (we) authorize McKenzie Electric Cooperative to initiate debit entries to my (our) account for payment. The financial institution named below is authorized to charge these bills to my (our) account.

McKenzie Electric account number(s):	
Member name (printed):	
Bank account number:	
Bank routing number:	
Pault name.	

Please attach a voided check.

Both McKenzie Electric and my financial institution have the right to cancel my use of the Pay-By-Bank plan. I will write to McKenzie Electric if I choose to cancel my Pay-By-Bank plan.

	Signature a	as shown	on ban	k account:
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Daytime phone number:

Today's date:

Mail to: McKenzie Electric Cooperative PO Box 649 Watford CIty, ND 58854-0649





Any Questions?

Give us a call— 800-444-9288, or 701-584-9239

* \$5 bill credit and entry into the \$100-prize drawing applies to new, elligible Pay-By-Bank enrollees only. Deadline: ???

Will Pay-By-Bank save me money?

It can! With Pay-By-Bank, you don't have to purchase stamps and envelopes. Plus, no more late payments, so no more late fees!

How do I sign up for Pay-By-Bank?

Simple! Complete the form here and return it to us with a voided check.

It's **easy** to stay on top of my electric bill

with Pay-By-Bank.

- No late fees payment always comes out of my account on the due date.
- No checks to write really, I've got better things to do with my time.
- No postage needed eliminates that frustrating search for an envelope or stamps.
- Completely private no third party vendors or credit card transactions needed.

If you are not already taking advantage of this program, why not sign up now.



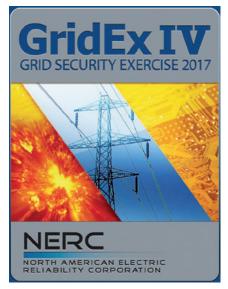




cKenzie Electric
Cooperative employees
participated in a continentwide grid security exercise,
GridEx IV, held in November.
The biennial exercise is sponsored
and administered by the North
American Electric Reliability
Corporation (NERC).

The purpose of GridEx is to promote industry and government collaboration for the purpose of enhancing emergency response planning. The large-scale cyber and physical attack scenario for GridEx IV was designed as a major challenge for even the most prepared organizations. Exercise planners used input from participants to help drive interaction between utility and government partners.

This year's GridEx was the largest exercise of its kind, with more than 6,300 participants from more than 450 organizations across North



America.

Load growth within McKenzie Electric Cooperative's (MEC) service area has led to the inclusion of some of our facilities within the bulk electric system (BES). As an owner of BES facilities, we are required to follow federal regulations put in place to maintain the reliability of the energy grid. We take this responsibility seriously. Part of this responsibility is our ability to restore power safely and quickly in the event of a large-scale event. Participation in GridEx introduced MEC to the coordination required between all our partners to ensure reliable service to all our members.

We participated in this year's event as observers, teaming with our power supplier, Basin Electric Power Cooperative. Basin Electric was an active player in the scenario with 50 employees participating in the two-day event. The lessons learned through our observations will allow McKenzie Electric to better protect our critical infrastructure, ultimately leading to better reliability to you, our member-owners. We look forward to taking an active role in GridEx V in 2019.



Vandalism damages equipment

andalism of electrical equipment is not a common occurrence in McKenzie Electric Cooperative's service territory. We appreciate our members who understand the importance of this equipment in keeping everyone's power on. Repairs to facilities and lines can be costly, and the damage can cause outages to our members. As a nonprofit cooperative, owned by the members, we all share in this expense.

Unfortunately, we recently had an incident of vandalism on a substation east of Watford City. Substation technicians were on site replacing equipment when they realized a circuit breaker had been shot multiple times. We were lucky in this instance, as the vandalism didn't cause an outage. Sometimes damage is not noticed for several weeks, and is only discovered during maintenance inspections or when an unexplained outage occurs. We conducted a thorough investigation of the facility with the McKenzie County sheriff's department and found that the control building had also been targeted. The equipment damaged has been inspected and damage is deemed superficial at this point. We will continue to monitor the circuit breaker closely to ensure the reliable operation of the substation.

Hunters and other gun owners should not shoot near or toward power lines, power poles or substations. A stray bullet can cause damage to equipment, could be deadly



to the shooter, and potentially interrupt electric service to large areas. McKenzie Electric encourages all members to report any unusual activity taking place near electrical facilities and power lines to McKenzie Electric or the local sheriff's department.



HUNTING SAFETY TIPS:

- Do not shoot at or near power lines or insulators.
- Familiarize yourself with the location of power lines and equipment on land where you shoot.
- Damage to the conductor can happen, possibly dropping a phase on the ground. If it's dry and the electricity goes to ground, there is the possibility of electrocution and fire.
- Be especially careful in wooded areas where power lines may not be as visible.
- Do not use power line wood poles or towers to support equipment used in your shooting activity.
- Take notice of warning signs and keep clear of electrical equipment.
- Do not place deer stands on utility poles or climb poles. Energized lines and equipment on the poles can conduct electricity to anyone who comes in contact with them, causing shock or electrocution.
- Do not shoot at, or near, birds perching on utility lines. That goes for any type of firearm, including pistols, rifles or shotguns.
- Do not place decoys on power lines or other utility equipment.
 Anything attached to a pole besides utility equipment can pose an obstruction and a serious hazard to electric cooperative employees as they perform utility operations.

McKENZIE ELECTRIC NEWS 🔳 JANUARY 2018 C7

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Managa



Thompsor



Hann



Houghton



Wasem



Wahlstrom



Sanford



Tesche



Board report

November 29, 2017

The regular meeting of the McKenzie Electric Board of Directors was held at the Headquarters Building in Watford City, North Dakota.
Directors present were: Clayton Monsen, Travis Thompson, Rondee Hanna, Cameron Wahlstrom, Ken Sanford, Chris Link, Tim Wasem, Glen Houghton and Ray Tescher.
CEO John Skurupey, Attorney Dennis Johnson and staff personnel of McKenzie Electric were also present.

PRELIMINARIES: The agenda for the meeting and minutes of the previous board meeting were approved by the Board of Directors. Expenses were also approved.

DIRECTOR DISCUSSIONS: The Board and management discussed member concerns which had arisen from their director districts.

ASSOCIATED

ORGANIZATIONS: Director Tim Wasem reported on the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC) board meeting. Director Chris Link reported on the "Strategic Planning" director education program he attended. The Board selected Clayton Monsen, Ray Tescher Ken Sanford, Glen Houghton and Tim Wasem as voting delegates and Travis Thompson as an alternate delegate to the NDaREC annual meeting. Tim Wasem was appointed as director and Glen Houghton alternate director to the NDaREC board of directors.

POWER SUPPLY: Director Travis Thompson reported on the Upper Missouri board meeting. The recent Basin annual meeting presentations were also discussed. Director Ray Tescher indicated there was no Mid-West Electric meeting on which to report.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT: Attorney Dennis Johnson gave his report relating to collection of delinquent accounts and litigation.

CEO REPORT: CEO John Skurupey reported on several items including a recent distribution cooperative meeting, Upper Missouri Managers Advisory meeting, RESCO board meeting and results of the NDaREC safety lab. The Board approved Upper Missouri's Exhibit A to the wholesale power contract and reviewed MEC's 2018 Load Forecast.

HUMAN RESOURCES: The Board reviewed the written report. MEC is participating in a job shadow program for high school students focusing on MEC's technical positions which include linemen, substation technicians, mechanic and others.

office Report: Financial and statistical reports for October were reviewed with the Board along with a budget-to-date comparison, the capital projects report and the comparative cash report. The Board approved the requested inventory adjustment and write-off's of delinquent electric accounts. The Board approved a reduction in the Line of Credit at CoBank. The proposed 2018 Budget was provided for board and will be reviewed and discussed at the December meeting.

ENGINEERING REPORT: An update was given on the progress of unfinished items remaining on the headquarters building complex. Due to a recurrent window leakage issue, the Board approved a staff request to engage a representative of the window manufacturer to inspect the installed windows to resolve the leakage issue. Updates were given on member issues, system outages, potential new loads, substations, SCADA, metering and reclosures.

OPERATIONS/CONTRACT MANAGEMENT REPORT:

Written reports provided updates on projects currently being worked on by MEC contractors and a work order progress report. The following were also reported: Basin repaired and put into service the second transformer at Patent Gate, the Schafer Substation was de-energized to allow the contractor to string transmission line into the substation, crews have finished maintenance between the Figure 4 Switch and the L11 Substation. Crews have been busy working on outages, maintenance

projects, work orders, meter changes, retirements and high loads.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

COORDINATOR: An update was given on NERC (North American Electric Reliability Corporation) compliance activities. A report was given on a recent power supplier Grid Ex exercise simulating a cyber security attack. An update was also given on Member Service activities.

NEXT MEETING DATE: The next meeting date was set for December 21, 2017 at the Watford City Headquarters building.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



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Upper Missouri Power Cooperative Director Rondee Hanna, Sec.-Treas.

Director, District 2C, Watford City...... 675-2516

Glen Houghton, Director At Large

Director, District 3B, Grassy Butte 863-6606

Tim Wasem, Statewide Director

Director, District 3C, Halliday......938-4376

Cameron Wahlstrom

Director, District 1A, Alexander......770-6631

Ken Sanford

Director, District 1B, Watford City

Chris Link

Director, District 2A, Alexander......651-6524

<u>CEO:</u> **John Skurupey** 701-570-3542

