

## Operation Round Up benefits area

Since the inception of Operation Round Up in 1998, \$201,350 has been distributed throughout the McKenzie Electric Cooperative (MEC) service territory to individuals with medical costs, civic and charitable organizations.

This program is voluntary to members of McKenzie Electric. Those members who choose to take part have their monthly bills rounded up to the nearest dollar and the difference is put into a fund that is managed by a board of local cooperative members to benefit area people and organizations.

The Operation Round Up Board of Directors consists of MEC members throughout our service territory. Current directors include:

<b>President Doreen Orf</b> .....	<b>Grassy Butte</b>
<b>Vice President Kim Neprash</b> .....	<b>Watford City</b>
<b>Secretary Betty Bruins,</b> .....	<b>Arnegard</b>
<b>Treasurer Maureen Moe</b> .....	<b>Keene</b>
<b>Nikki Darrington</b> .....	<b>Arnegard</b>
<b>Misty Powell</b> .....	<b>Alexander</b>
<b>Mary Johnson</b> .....	<b>Sidney, MT</b>
<b>Janene Knudsvig</b> .....	<b>Dunn Center</b>
<b>Ardyce Alveshere</b> .....	<b>Keene</b>



If you know of an individual or organization that can benefit from Operation Round Up, the next application deadline is Oct. 10. Applications can be found on the McKenzie Electric Cooperative website or by calling and speaking to a member service representative at MEC.

Thank you to our members who participate in Operation Round Up so that meaningful grants can continue to benefit individuals and local organizations. If you are interested in participating in Operation Roundup please call MEC for more information. ■



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[www.mckenzieelectric.com](http://www.mckenzieelectric.com)

McKenzie Electric Cooperative

*connections*



Left to right: **Alex Sims, Audrey Wolff, Mason Wolff, Darbie Moberg.**



Left to right: **Gracyn Darrington, Dylan Stromme.**

# Head. Heart. Hands. Health.

## McKenzie County 4-H'ers embody the spirit of the program

BY JESSIE VEEDER SCOFIELD

Nothing teaches a child about how the world works quite like helping a seed grow into a ripe tomato and turning that ripe tomato into a meal prepared and served to family and friends.

Nothing demonstrates discipline like waking up every morning to feed and walk a pig, only to do the same thing again before bed, day in and day out, watching him grow, making sure he's healthy and happy.

Nothing proves community involvement and togetherness like volunteering to clean up debris and belongings left over in a neighborhood devastated by a tornado.

Nothing shows pride in work like being responsible for preparing, serving and cleaning up a meal for a company gathering, with a smile and a willingness to help where he can.

Head, heart, hands, health. That's 4-H. And the McKenzie County youth involved seem to embody the unique opportunities and experience the program has to offer.

"Four-H is one of the only research-based programs youth can participate in outside of structured school programs," said North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension Agent Marcia Hellandsaas, who has been in her position for 27 years. And in those 27 years, she's seen the program ebb, flow and change in many ways. Right now? The county 4-H program is in an upswing in enrollment,

with nine clubs (two of them new this year) and 185 members enrolled.

With activities like shooting club, the Junior Master Gardening program and Project Nights, the diversity of the way youth can be involved in 4-H has evolved over the years, welcoming kids from all walks of life, not just those who are being raised in a rural environment.

Anna Taylor, a Watford City-based mother of two boys, has seen the way Extension programs like the Master Gardener program have helped her sons expand their horizons and learn a skill that can evolve into something bigger.

Through the Junior Master Gardner Program, participants plant and care for their own garden box on the McKenzie County fairgrounds. They meet as a group and can work on their garden on their own. And once harvest is on, they take the produce they've raised and create a meal out of it.

Both of Anna's sons, Wyatt, 12, and Luke, 9, have been participating in the program for two years and have entered their vegetables in the county fair open class exhibit.

"Wyatt won grand champion for the onions he grew this year," Anna said, adding that his experience in the garden and the meal preparation using the produce he's raised has helped him gain confidence in his interest in attending culinary school.



As for Luke? “Last year, Luke grew the biggest sunflower I’ve ever seen. There’s such pride they feel for the finished product,” Anna said. “Both of my boys are more conservative and quiet and this program really works for them.”

This is one of Hellandsaas’ favorite parts of the job. “There are so many benefits to being involved in 4-H in our diverse area, but it really brings kids together. It helps new kids feel a sense of belonging and a bond with someone new,” she said.

And it’s one of the reasons the program is always looking for club leaders or adults willing to share a special skills or talent.

For Watford City’s Patty Wolff, 4-H was something she didn’t have the chance to be involved in as a kid, so she’s thrilled to offer her kids the opportunity.

“I really pushed for 4-H, because they learn leadership and responsibility,” Wolff said. “Yes, sports is great, but I feel what they can learn in this program will take them further.”

Three out of four of Wolff’s children, Isaac, 10, Mason, 8, and Audry, 7, show pigs as part of their 4-H projects, which also include woodworking, sewing and the Junior Master Gardener program. Patty believes that raising pigs has really helped them grasp the farm-to-table story and appreciate how much work goes into producing the food on their plate.

“They’re with those pigs every day, giving them treats, taking them for walks, and in the end it’s a good reward,” she said.

But beyond the projects, 4-H is a service-based organization with a mission to teach children about caring for their community by volunteering. Patty’s children were part of the Young Guns Club that helped in tornado relief efforts. They also serve concessions at the NDRA Rodeo and were part of preparing and serving the meal at McKenzie Electric Cooperative’s annual meeting earlier this summer. Other clubs raise money for victims of tragedies across the country or reach out to help neighbors or community members on a more personal level.

“We see 4-H evolve with the way kids change. I love watching them learn, grow and develop new skills,” Hellandsaas said.

Patty agrees. “At the end of each year, my kids are already talking about plans for next year, what they can do better or something new they’d like to try.”

The plan? “Next year we’re getting goats,” she said.

Because when it comes to 4-H, there are learning moments growing in the ground, sitting around the kitchen table, along the sidewalks of a community or standing on four little hooves just waiting to provide a lesson how the world works. ■



*Luke’s garden as part of the Masters Gardener Program*



*Isaac showing his pig at the McKenzie County fair*

# McKenzie Electric Cooperative offers reduced rate on electric heat

**M**ckenzie Electric Cooperative (MEC) offers an electric heat rate to its members from the beginning of October until the end of April each year. The heat rate applies to residential and commercial members with installed electric heat that meets the eligibility requirements.

To qualify for this rate, an electric heat meter must be installed at your residence. MEC provides the heat meter equipment free of charge to members. Members are responsible for contacting a licensed electrician to install the meter wiring and hardware. Once installed you

will need to call MEC to schedule a technician to install the meter.

If you already have a heat meter installed, make sure the breaker is switched to the "ON" position, so you can take advantage of the special heat rate starting the beginning of October. You can verify the meter is on by checking the meter and verifying the display on the face is displaying a reading. You will not qualify for the rate if we cannot read the meter. If you have any questions, please call the office to speak with a member service representative.

## Some types of heaters that qualify:

- 240-volt furnaces
- 240-volt direct wired fireplaces
- 240-volt direct wired heaters
- 240-volt radiant floor heaters
- 240-volt hardwired baseboard and cove heaters
- Air-source heat pump
- Geothermal heating/cooling systems

## Some types of heaters that do not qualify:

- Any 120-volt space heaters
- Any portable heaters
- Heat lamps
- 120-volt radiant floor heat
- 120-volt hardwired baseboard and cove heaters
- 120-volt hardwired wall heaters

## IN COMPARISON TO OIL OR GAS FURNACES, ELECTRIC HEATING HAS MANY ADVANTAGES

### Electric resistance heat

(i.e., energy-efficient space heaters, baseboard heating):



...is 100% efficient – every single Btu in a kilowatt-hour is delivered as usable heat.



...is quick to respond and can be very quiet.



...takes up less space in the house than other conventional systems (assuming space heaters are used).



...can warm select rooms, allowing you to keep your main thermostat down while ensuring continued comfort.

### Electric heating systems are:



...generally less expensive to purchase and install.



...safe because there is no combustion process. There is no chance of flames starting a fire or having combustion products contaminate the air.



**If you have questions  
whether your heater  
will qualify, please  
call McKenzie Electric  
Cooperative.**



# Do you have money waiting for you?

The following people have capital credit checks for which we do not have a current address. Please notify us if you have a current address for any of these people, or if you are entitled to the capital credits in the case of an estate. Information must be received by Nov. 30, 2018, to McKenzie Electric, P.O. Box 649, Watford City, ND 58854 or call toll-free 800-584-9239 or 701-444-9288. In December 2018, checks will be reissued with the updated information for the eligible members.

Amoco Pipeline Trucking	Felix, Hazel	Johnston, Darren	Portley, Sharon
Anderson, Susan	Ferrari, Shaleesha	Kaiser, Christopher	Precision Cleaning
Anheluk, Bob	Fort Berthold	Kerner, Clyde	Reed, Carol
Astral Co. LLC	Commodity Prog.	Kisse, Esther	Romero, Katherine
Bad Hawk, Emily	Fort Berthold	Kjorstad, Fabian	Sage, Joshua
Baker, Leonard	Development Corp.	Koch Service	Simon, Dotti
Bell, Adrianna	Freeman, Beaulah	Kummer, Stanley	Skolic, Larry
Bellet, Les	Geringer, C.C.	Lone Fight, Brenda	Solis, Christine
Benson, Lois	Good Bird, Ann	Long, Nikki	Standish, Leroy Sr.
Blekestad, Twila	Goodall, Darleen	Louis Dreyfus Natural Gas	Starr, Mavis
Borstad, Jerry	Grady, Calvin Sr.	Loyas, Jackie	Tarnavsky Brothers
Brown, Jim	Grady, Marty	Mandan, Adam	Taylor, Arland
Candrian, Kevin	Gwin, Alex	Martin, Monte	Thrams, Bryan
Carttier, Kip	Hale, Edward	Martinez, Kirk	Tipperary Petroleum Co
Chapin, Beaulah	Halliday Marine Club	Mead, Robert Jr.	Tschetter, Shawn
Costilla Energy Inc.	Haugen, Kenneth	Meredith, Loretta	Union Pacific Res
Cox, Robert L.	Heen, Debbie	Methodist Church (Grassy	White Body, Ardis
Crutcher, Michael	Hellman, Ben	Butte )	White Eagle, Wayne
Dillard, James C.	HUD	Molzahn, Shannon	White Owl, Eugene Mrs.
Dohrmann, Josh	Hull, Ken	Motorola Inc	Wilkie, Jennifer
Dubray, Pernell	Iron Hawk-Lew, June	Nelson, Barbara	Winters, Glenn
Dubray, Rhonda	James, Jay	Nelson, Glendon	Wolf, Francis
Duckett, Delores	Jensen, Rusty	Northrop, Burton	Wolf, Gary
Duvall, Desri	Johnson Jim D.	Pelton, Patricia	Young Bear, Curtis Sr.
Dvirnak, Elmer	Johnson, Barbra	Phelan, Ambrose	
Edwards, Joann	Johnson, Eloise	Phonetel Technologies	

## Update your information

From time to time, McKenzie Electric Cooperative (MEC) needs to contact you, our member. We understand the inconvenience of planned outages however, they are necessary at times to maintain and repair our system. When an outage is necessary, MEC will call those members affected.

To help us better serve you, please let MEC know if any of your contact information has changed. You can update us by calling our office or mailing the change in with your monthly statement. Phone numbers can also be updated through the SmartHub app. ■

# AS WINTER NEARS, OPERATE GENERATORS SAFELY

McKenzie Electric Cooperative strives to provide you with reliable, uninterrupted service every day, but sometimes Mother Nature creates unavoidable power outages. When the power goes out, a portable generator can be a lifesaver. However, generators that are improperly installed or operated can become life-threatening. Your local electric cooperative recommends following these precautions to avoid dangerous situations:

## TO AVOID CARBON MONOXIDE HAZARDS:

Generators exhaust carbon monoxide, a colorless, odorless gas that can be deadly. So, always use generators outdoors, at least 25 feet away from your home's doors, windows and vents.

- NEVER use generators indoors or inside enclosed spaces, even with ventilation. Never use a generator in an attached garage, even with the door open.
- Even outside, make sure a generator has at least four feet of clear space on all sides and above it to ensure adequate ventilation.

## TO AVOID FIRE HAZARDS:

- Before refueling the generator, turn it off and let it cool. Fuel spilled on hot engine parts could ignite.

## JUST REMEMBER:

Connecting the generator to your home's circuits or wiring must be done by a qualified, licensed electrician who will install a double-throw transfer switch to prevent backfeeding, which could electrocute lineworkers making repairs.

## TO AVOID ELECTRICAL HAZARDS:

- Keep the generator dry. Operate it on a dry surface. Do not use it in rain or wet conditions. If needed, protect a generator with an open-sided canopy with plenty of clearance on all sides. Never manipulate a generator's electrical components if you are wet or standing in water.
- Plug appliances directly into the generator or use a heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cord. Check the wattage use of each appliance plugged in and make sure the total does not exceed the cord's wattage rating. Make sure the entire extension cord is free of cuts or tears and the plug has all three prongs, especially a grounding pin.
- Ensure your generator is properly grounded.
- Never overload a generator. A portable generator should only be used when necessary to power essential equipment or appliances.
- Turn off all equipment powered by the generator before shutting it down.
- Read and adhere to the manufacturer's instructions for safe operation. Never cut corners when it comes to safety.







# ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT IS NEVER IN SEASON!

**A**s various North Dakota hunting seasons approach, please remember that electrical insulators, conductors and electrical equipment are NOT on the hunting season list.

McKenzie Electric Cooperative encourages hunters to be aware of electrical equipment while enjoying the great outdoors this season.

Hunters and other gun owners should not shoot near or toward power lines, power poles and substations. A stray bullet can cause damage to equipment, could be deadly to the shooter, and potentially interrupt electric service to large areas.

Be aware of what's behind that big buck or it might cost big bucks. Repairs can be costly and damages cause outages to our members. As a nonprofit cooperative, owned by the members, we all share in this expense.

We recognize the majority of hunters practice safe hunting and understand the potential risks when discharging a firearm. We encourage experienced hunters who are familiar with the area to identify the locations of utility properties and equipment to young or new hunters in their group and remind them to avoid shooting toward these facilities. Enjoy the great outdoors. Just be sure to hunt only what's in season.

## 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.

BOARD  
OF  
DIRECTORS



Monsen



Thompson



Hanna



Kershnik



Wasem



Wahlstrom



Sanford



Tescher



Link

# Board report

## July 25, 2018

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, Ray Tescher and Stephan Kershnik. CEO John Skurupey and staff personnel of McKenzie Electric were also present.

**PRELIMINARIES:** The agenda for the meeting, minutes of the previous board meeting and the reorganizational meeting minutes were approved by the Board of Directors. The annual meeting minutes were reviewed and will be presented to the membership for approval at the next annual meeting. Expenses were also approved. National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) 2018 resolutions were reviewed.

**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) meeting. The Board selected Rondee Hanna as the alternate NDAREC director to fill the open position vacated by Glen Houghton. The CoBank director election ballot was completed.

**POWER SUPPLY:** Director Travis Thompson reported on the Upper Missouri board meeting. The Board selected Ray Tescher as delegate and Ken Sanford as alternate delegate to the Basin Electric Region 8 Caucus. Chris Link was selected as authorized representative and Cameron as alternate representative to the Basin Electric annual meeting. Director Ray Tescher reported there was no Mid-West Electric Consumers Association meeting on which to report.

**BYLAWS:** Proposed bylaw amendments to Article 1 Membership, as recommended by Attorney Dennis Johnson, were reviewed. The Board approved the Article 1 Membership bylaw amendments and will present to the membership at the next

annual meeting.

**CEO REPORT:** CEO John Skurupey reported on several items including the Cost of Service Request for Proposal and five/ten year long range plans. The Board reviewed vendor specifications for contracted line locating services.

**HUMAN RESOURCES:** The Board reviewed the written report noting recent staffing changes. Other administrative issues were shared with the Board.

**OFFICE REPORT:** Financial and statistical reports for June were reviewed with the Board along with a budget-to-date comparison, the capital projects report and the comparative cash report. The Board approved special capital credit retirements as presented and an investment recommendation. The Board also reviewed a work order analysis.

**ENGINEERING REPORT:** An update was provided on the building warranty work and landscaping issues. The Board approved two budget deviations for project work completed by Western Area Power Administration (WAPA). Updates were provided on system outages, potential new loads, substations, SCADA, metering, cyber security and Partner Software implementation. The outage report was reviewed.

### OPERATIONS/CONTRACT MANAGEMENT/SAFETY REPORT:

Written reports provided updates on projects currently being worked on by MEC contractors and a work order progress report. An update was given on the facilities damaged/destroyed by the July 10th tornado that hit the Watford City area. Also reported, a helicopter spraying weeds in the North Unit of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park struck MEC's single phase line that resulted in no injuries and minimal damage to the line. MEC crews are busy working on a blinking lights issue, outages, maintenance projects, work orders, meter changes, conversions, retirements, tree trimming and high loads. The written safety report was reviewed by the Board.

**SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR:** An update was given on NERC (North American Electric Reliability Corporation)

compliance activities. MEC staff is reviewing facility ratings on a transmission line segment from the Lonesome Switchyard to Cherry Creek and is also assessing cooperative owned assets in the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) substation. The Board approved an easement at the North Fork Substation. An update was given on Member Service activities including a summary of the June 19 annual meeting.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** The next meeting date was set for August 29, 2018 at the Watford City Headquarters building.

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



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Director, District 2B, Arnegard..... 586-3336  
Travis Thompson, V. President  
Director, District 1C, Carlson ..... 675-2373  
Upper Missouri Power Cooperative Director  
Rondee Hanna, Sec.-Treas.  
Director, District 2C, Watford City ..... 675-2516  
Cameron Wahlstrom, Director At Large  
Director, District 1A, Alexander ..... 770-6631  
Tim Wasem, Statewide Director  
Director, District 3C, Halliday..... 938-4376  
Ken Sanford  
Director, District 1B, Watford City ..... 842-2581  
Ray Tescher, Midwest Director  
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