



VIGILANTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

P.O. Box 1049, Dillon, MT 59725-1049
(406) 683-2327 or (800) 221-8271

Web site: www.vec.coop

E-mail: contact@vec.coop

OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., 2015

Vigilante Electric Participants Reminisce

Our trip to Washington, D.C., in June was truly a once in a lifetime adventure. As a result of our sponsors being so well organized and the trip so well planned out, we were able to see a lot of the nation's treasures in a short amount of time. We were constantly on the go and seeing new sights daily. It was like getting a months worth of sightseeing done in just one week.



McKenna Jones

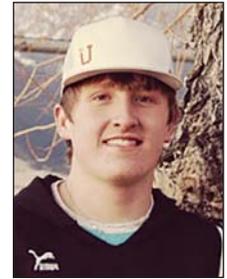
After seeing and learning about many of the different monuments and places, it really struck me how many people in the past influenced the formation of our nation. Of all of the attractions, the Arlington National Cemetery made an impression on me. It was extremely sad to see all of the graves there of people who gave their lives in hope to further the success of the world we now know. And the most saddening part was looking at all of those graves and thinking how we can no longer say the Pledge of Allegiance in our schools. It's almost as if people no longer care about the sacrifices made for us to get where we are today.

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier left me thinking about how many people give to a cause they believe in or in protecting our nation, without ever being recognized or compensated. It left me extremely ashamed of what people in the U.S. now take for granted. While watching the changing of the guard, we were told not to sit down at any time during the process. Much to my disgust, a kid actually sat down. One of the guards had to stop and tell a kid repeatedly that he needed to stand up. Eventually, a kid from our group had to stand him up. I can't even explain how ashamed I felt when the kid sat down. However, I was amazed to find out that in spite of whatever is happening in our country, this process never stops. Even during 9/11, when the planes crashed into the Pentagon and Twin Towers, the guards continued to march.

We also visited The Smithsonian Museums. They were so large and full of history, it would be impossible to see them all in a week. But, I think my favorite part of the whole tour was the Newseum. I had never previously heard about it, but it was amazing. There was part of the Berlin Wall in the Newseum and clippings from every important event in newspaper history. It had a wall of every current major newspaper from each U.S. state. The Newseum even had the

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When you hear the phrase, "Youth Tour D.C.," you don't really know what to think of it. It sounds like a bunch of youth go and tour Washington, D.C. Well, that's exactly what it is. It is when each cooperative that is part of the tour committee pick one to three students and sponsor them on a trip to D.C. Happily, I was one of two to be selected to represent my cooperative, Vigilante Electric. This was a great experience that I believe most kids should have the opportunity to participate in. I had to write an essay and fill out an application to be selected. Really, with a little time and effort, everyone is capable of doing it.



Wesley Armstrong

Going on this tour opened my eyes to a lot of things: the capability to meet new friends, meet kids from across the country, experience what it's like to be in a large city, and also be a tourist and have fun. When we first left for the trip, our main chaperone, Beckie, gave us these Montana pins. I had no idea what these pins were for until we first met up with North Dakota participants in the airport in Minneapolis. It was like a flock of birds flew in and attacked us saying, "Hey, want to trade pins?" From this point on, I caught onto the whole pin thing. Each state had their own pins/stickers, and as we saw each other, we traded pins. The goal throughout the whole week was to see who could collect the most states out of the 47 in D.C. Unfortunately, I came up a little short, with 39.

I met a ton of different kids from every state. I heard every accent from the North Dakotan to the Louisianan to the Georgian to the Northeastern states. It was really cool to me to hear so many different accents. These are only a tiny amount of things that I experienced on this trip.

Youth Tour not only opened my eyes and taught me about the nation's capital, but it also showed me many valuable life lessons. It taught me to never give up, how to make friends with complete strangers, and have an even better understanding of being a leader and the tools to being a better one.

The way it taught me to never give up is by having a guest speaker. I don't recall his name, but he was a world champion wheelchair basketball player. He had won one gold medal and one bronze medal. He had a tragic story behind him in his early life, and that's how he taught me. He was once shot in the chest accidentally by his really good

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VIGILANTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Distributed Generation

How things are changing

Our mission has been and always will be providing the highest quality of service at the lowest possible cost. This requires our Board of Trustees and management team to stay current on issues that could impact rates. In an industry such as ours, issues tend to evolve quickly and can be politically charged. Nowhere is this more evident than with distributed generation.

Distributed generation (DG) refers to power generation at the point of consumption rather than centrally located. It is a fuel displacer. At Vigilante Electric Cooperative, members can enter into an interconnection agreement to install DG on their side of the meter to reduce the need for electricity from the utility.

In 2002, Vigilante Electric established interconnection and net-metering guidelines and agreements. The interconnection agreement establishes the rights and responsibilities for connecting DG to the distribution system. The net-metering agreement is the explanation and acknowledgement for the billing side.

We allow installation of DG on residential services up to 10 kilowatts. Once the interconnection requirements are met, the member can offset part or all of his or her energy usage. At Vigilante Electric, true up is monthly. When a member puts more energy on the system than he or she takes off, the excess cannot be banked to use in another month.

About a year ago, we reviewed the economics of installing a 1 kW fixed-rack photovoltaic solar power system in our service territory. Today, much of the base information is still

the same. This system would generate approximately 1,357 kilowatt hours, equating to \$77.35 of electricity at a rate of \$0.57/kilowatt hour. So what has changed?

Last year we were looking at an estimated installed cost of \$5/watt, or \$5,000, for a 1 kW system. The simple payback on this system after tax credits was 39 years. This year we are looking at \$3/watt, and a simple payback after tax credits of approximately 21 years.

When members ask questions regarding DG, I preface my answers by stating how things are today. As you can see from the example above, this industry is changing very fast. Plus, key elements such as rates, technological advancements and economies of scale all indicate that this trend will likely continue.

In light of this trend, our big concern is shifting costs from owners of a DG system to those that don't own one. Vigilante Electric does not have a rate classification specifically for members with an interconnected DG system. Currently, these services are subject to the same terms and conditions as all other services under the two residential rate schedules.

For these reasons, our board of trustees and general manager are diligently analyzing this issue. We want to remain supportive of the installation of DG on our system, while safeguarding rate structures that ensure the costs of building and maintaining our system are met, and that one group is not being subsidized by others.

Youth Tour

by McKenna Jones
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Unabomber's shack from Lincoln, Montana. There were pictures on the walls from the most grotesque moments in our nation's history. I learned a lot about our country's history that I was not aware of just by walking down one hall.

During this D.C. trip, I met kids my age from all over the country. Besides making new friends, I experienced many new firsts: I got to eat food I have never tried before; we went out on a ferry for a dinner cruise; I got to see firsthand monuments and icons that I had only read about before; and I was left with the feeling of reverence for those who had given their lives to create the nation that we live in today.



New Payment Option Available

Vigilante Electric adds a VeriFone

As a convenience to our members, Vigilante Electric offers a variety of secure payment options. Last summer we introduced our Pay-by-Phone system, a convenient and secure way of managing your electrical account(s) by phone. Today, Vigilante Electric Cooperative is proud to provide a VeriFone card terminal for the payment of residential account(s) using a Visa and Mastercard in our Dillon office.

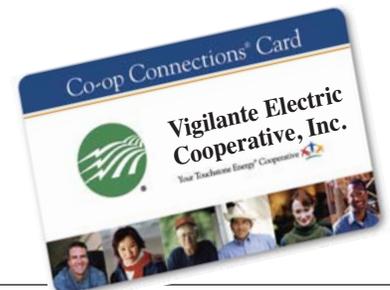
This payment gateway is compliant with payment card industry guidelines, and allows us to provide a fully secure transaction from card swipe to authorization. Data is encrypted immediately upon swiping your card. Card data is never stored and all Vigilante Electric receives is notification that the payment has been accepted or denied, and the last four digits of the card to print on the receipt.

We feel that the addition of the VeriFone card terminal is a great complement to our other payment options — electronic fund transfer (EFT),

E-Bill which can be accessed through our website, and our Pay-by-Phone System. If you any questions regarding your payment options, contact us at our Dillon office.

Prescription Discount Tracker

Total Paid Claims YTD	519
Total Savings YTD	\$13,773.30
Total Savings Percentage	38%
July Paid Claims	6
July Savings	\$133
July Savings Percentage	30.75%



Capital Credits

There are many things that make electric cooperatives different from other electric utilities. First and foremost is that we are owned by those we serve, and while there are many unique features of an electric cooperative, there is one thing that we receive many questions about — capital credits.

Your cooperative is, by law, a nonprofit organization. After all financial commitments are met, any excess revenue is credited back to the membership. The capital credit system, which was adopted at the 1947 Annual Meeting, provides a method for allocating to each individual member their share of excess revenues, or net margins.

The term “capital credits” is used because the actual money, which is classified as net margins, is invested in cooperative capital such as reserves or equipment. This

money belongs to the members, but they have agreed to its use for capital purposes by accepting the capital credit provisions in the bylaws.

Annually, a capital credit statement is sent to members notifying them of the allocation of margins for the previous year. When financial conditions permit, a general retirement of capital can be made. The capital credits, allocated for a particular year or years, will be paid to the individual member. The current cycle for payout is approximately 18 years.

In the event of the death of a cooperative member, our main office should be contacted as soon as possible to discuss options concerning estate payments. If you have any questions regarding capital credits, please contact our Dillon office.

Capital Credit Refunds

Vigilante Electric Cooperative is currently trying to locate the following individuals for payment of capital credits. If you have any information regarding names on this list, please contact us.

Vigilante Electric Coop., Inc. · PO Box 1049 · Dillon MT 59725 · MT Toll Free 800-221-8271 or 683-2327

LEDFOORD, RICHARD/MONIQUE TOWNSEND, MT	MCGEE, DANIEL/DEBBIE HELENA, MT	MOORE, HAROLD R/ICEL CAMBRIDGE, ID	NOORDA, KAREN WEST BOUNTIFUL, UT
LEE, KRISTA Y HELENA, MT	MCMORRIS, JEFF J/HEATHER DILLON, MT	MOORE, JIM DILLON, MT	NUNES, LARRY B BUTTE, MT
LEEDS, DOUGLAS J DILLON, MT	MELVIN, LARRY J/VICKIE LIMA, MT	MORLAN, DOUG ABSAROCKE, MT	NYDEGGER, JOHN TOWNSEND, MT
LEO, JEFF LIBBY, MT	MICHLIG, TONY/LIBBY SPOKANE, WA	MORRIS, LORI CORPUS CHRISTI, TX	NYHART, CLARAJA SHEPHERD, MT
LOWRY, ROCKY/BECKY HELENA MT	MILES, LYNDY WISDOM, MT	MOSCA, MICHAEL MORWICH, CT	OAKLAND HOMES MANHATTAN, MT
LUCINI, DOUG CATLADO, ID	MILLER, BRUCE TOWNSEND, MT	MUELLERS CAFÉ/CABINS CARLSBAD, NM	O'BRIEN, JACK G/EILEEN RENO, NV
LUKESH, DONNA NAMPA, ID	MILLER, LYNDA C LIVINGSTON, MT	MUNCY, DALE R HELENA, MT	OGBURN, MICHAEL DILLON, MT
MADRID, JULIO C/OFELIA DELL, MT	MILLER, MIKE/JENNIFER DILLON, MT	MURRAY, ALAN/KARLA EAST HELENA, MT	OLIVERSON, KURTIS BOZEMAN, MT
MALONEY, WILLIAM L VERO BEACH, FL	MILLER, ROBERT BELGRADE, MT	NASH, BRIAN A/KIMBERLY LAKE HAVASU CITY, AZ	OSTLER, R J DILLON, MT
MARTIN, ROBERT D/CARLA FORT MYERS, FL	MILLS, SHIRLEY MELROSE, MT	NELSON, ERIC WHITEHOUSE, TX	OVERCAST, DIRK DIVIDE, MT
MASLEN, JANICE FAIRBANKS, AK	MOALIITELE, LAUPULE GARDEN GROVE, CA	NELSON, HOWARD H BOZEMAN, MT	PARKS, GWEN DILLON, MT
MCALPINE, DEBBIE DILLON, MT	MOERBE, JAMES F/KATHLEEN COLUMBUS, MT	NELSON, MIKE DILLON, MT	PAULL, WILLIAM H/SHERILYN LIVINGSTON, MT
MCBRIDE, E K/LADORA BIG SKY, MT	MOGA, GEORGE R HELENA, MT	NEWMAN, JOE M/DEBI OROFINO, ID	PEARCE BUILDERS JACKSON, MT
MCCORD, JUANITA E LEAD, SD	MONTANA SIGNWRKS INC HELENA, MT	NIELSON, MARY A SALT LAKE CITY, UT	PELTIER, DENNY L TOWNSEND, MT
MCDONOUGH, KURT CHOTEAU, MT	MOORE, DAVID S MISSOULA, MT	NIMMICK, ROBERT T/HEIDI THREE FORKS, MT	

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PENA-CARL WHITEHALL, MT	POSEY, MICHEL LIBBY, MT	REYNOLDS, TED/MICHELLE SHISHMAREF, AK	SKRADSKI, JAMES M POLARIS, MT
PERROT, JILL B KIRKLAND, WA	POTTS, RON/MARY CALDWELL, ID	RHOADS, TOM/KIM JEROME, ID	SMELSER, KRIS R/STACEY HARDIN, MT
PERRY, TRAVIS T/TAMMIE DILLON, MT	PRINE, HARMON/DOROTHY LIMA, MT	ROBB, RODNEY DILLON, MT	SMITH, DARYL KAMIAH, ID
PETERSEN, PAUL H TWIN BRIDGES, MT	PROCTOR LVSTK INC DILLON, MT	RONCHETTO JULIE ESTATE BUTTE, MT	SMITH, JASON T DILLON, MT
PETERSON, RON/MARGE SHELTON, WA	RABEY, BECKY HELENA, MT	ROWLAND, SCOTT L HELENA, MT	SMITH, JIM/ALLISON CUBA CITY, WI
PIERCE, DAVID A GREAT FALLS, MT	RADANDT, TOM G MISSOULA, MT	RUST, DOUG M/SHANNON BOZEMAN, MT	SMITH, JOHN/ANGEL MISSOULA, MT
PIERCE, JENNIFER DILLON, MT	REEVES, AUBREY H/ SANDIDGE, CONSTANCE TOSTON, MT	SANDERS, DOUG E/CINDY SANTA CLARA, CA SANDERS, SARAH J S NOWVILLE, UT	SMITH, MARK A/IRENE GEORGETOWN, CA
PITCHFORD, KIM CASPER, WY	REICHART, MARSHA DILLON, MT	SAUNDERS, RICHARD M GREAT FALLS, MT	SNARIC, RICHARD/SABRINA HELENA, MT
	REIMER, DUANE C/JOAN BOWMAN, ND	SCHMAUS, SONYA TOWNSEND, MT	SOLAN, JOE/REBECCA CLARKSTON, WA
		SCHNEIDER, RICH/TERRI BILLINGS, MT	SOLOMAN, ZANE DILLON, MT
		SCHOLZ, BEN BUTTE, MT	SOMMERFELD, PAUL/JUDY CHALLIS, ID
		SCHUMACKER, LAURA BOZEMAN, MT	SPATZ, KEVIN D/JACKIE SURREY, ND
		SEELE, MIKE/SANDY DACONO, CO	SPECTY CAR/FINANCE NASHUA, NH
		SEEWALD, BRENDA BOZEMAN, MT	SPERLING, CAROL E ASHFORD, WA
		SEMMENS, JASON/AMY CATHEDRAL CITY, CA	SPORTSMENS MOTEL MISSOULA, MT
		SENN, MARY E DILLON, MT	SPROUT, DALE/JUNE CASCADE, MT
		SEVERANCE, PATRICK W/AMY BELGRADE, MT	STANOVICH, NICK M SILVER STAR, MT
		SHEILDS, GREG/KERBIE KING GEORGE, VA	STEELE, GLADE B/ROSEMARIE SPANISH FORK, MT
		SHERMAN, TONY/STACEY SUN RIVER, MT	STEVENS, JACK/PAT KANSAS CITY, MO
		SHOEMAKER, DENNIS/KAREN DEER LODGE, MT	STEVENSON, JOHN P/ MARGARET BUTTE, MT
		SIMANTON, STEPHANIE BILLINGS, MT	STEWART, JEFF C/CARLA HELENA, MT
		SIMON, MARGARET BUTTE, MT	STIBBS, JAMES W ANACONDA, MT
		SIMPSON, STEVE/KELLY WHITEHALL, MT	STIPE, HAROLD J/DIANE FAIRBANKS, AK
		SKILLMAN, CLARENCE/ WANDETTE HARRISON, MT	STOKES, KEVIN/KRISTIE BOISE, ID



Youth Tour by Wesley Armstrong
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friend. The bullet barely missed his heart and went into his spine. He was paralyzed from the shoulders down. He had a huge story on how he got back into shape and learned to be himself again. He is now married and has kids. He never gave up and that really taught me that there can be many negative things along your path in life, but there's always a positive way out.

Touring the nation's capital, we went to all the tourist attractions. It's completely different in person to see, rather than sitting in school having a teacher explain it to you. We went to all of these places: Mount Vernon, Pentagon, National Zoo, Capitol Building, the Smithsonian museums, the White House, all the monuments (Martin Luther King, Thomas Jefferson, Lincoln, World War II, Vietnam, Korean and Roosevelt), Ford's Theatre, National Aquarium, Hard Rock Café, Newseum, Ben's Chili Bowl, and went on a river boat cruise. I really thought all these places were really cool! I learned a ton at each site and would love to go visit it again.

I would like to thank the board of Trustees of Vigilante Electric for choosing me as one of two of its sponsored students on the 2015 Youth Tour. It was a great experience for me, and it was so much fun. It was a trip of a lifetime. Thank you.

CAPITAL CREDITS
Continued next month