



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

VIGILANTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Once in a Lifetime

A Week You Will Never Forget

Each June, high school students from across the country gather in our nation's capital to partake in a very special event. They come to see American history enshrined in Washington, D.C., and bear witness to history being made. They come to learn and share with others whose geographical diversity is rivaled only by the demographic diversity. Most of all, they come to have fun. What event is the thread that brings them together? The National Rural Electric Cooperatives' Association (NRECA) Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

In 1958, rural electric cooperatives in Iowa sponsored the first bus load of youth on a weeklong study tour of the nation's capital, and other states started picking up on the idea. In 1964, NRECA began to coordinate the program. That year, participating groups arranged to be in the city the same week, and there were about 400 young people from 12 states. In 2016, there were 1,724 students and 284 chaperones representing 42 states.

Since 2003, Vigilante Electric Cooperative has par-

ticipated in this program, providing an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. This past summer we were fortunate to send two outstanding young ladies. Their pictures and stories were featured in last month's edition of this publication. While it's hard to adequately describe this program and its impact, the term once in a lifetime gets used a lot. Here are some comments from our 2016 participants:



Katelynn Sutton



Mariah Mosher

"I enjoyed learning about the history of our country through my high school history classes, but while I could repeat the significant dates and happenings, history really came alive for me while visiting Washington, D.C., this June. Visiting the various monuments and really seeing those spots from my history class gave me a new understanding of the reality of the events and people who shaped our country and ideals."

Katelynn Sutton – Lima High School

"Washington, D.C., was one of the most incredible experiences of my life, and I'm sure I'll never forget my time spent there with all the amazing students and leaders I was privileged to spend it



with. Thank you Vigilante Electric for sponsoring my trip there, it was amazing."

Mariah Mosher – Beaverhead Co High School

In 2017, the dates of the youth tour are June 9 - 16. To qualify, the student must be the dependent of a member of Vigilante Electric Cooperative and currently a sophomore or junior in high school. Selection is based on an application and a short essay. Applications are available at the area high schools or by calling 683-2327 or (800) 221-8271, or visiting

our website at www.vec.coop. This year's topic is, "Why I should be Vigilante Electric Cooperative's Youth Tour delegate." Those interested are encouraged to be creative with their ideas and limit their essays to two pages. Essays are due to Vigilante Electric no later than November 30, 2016.

If you were to talk to past participants, they would tell you that no trip can compete with this one, and the only effort required is that put into the application and essay. It truly is a week you will never forget — and it's free.

Prescription Discount Tracker



Total Paid Claims YTD	526
Total Savings YTD	\$18,188.94
Total Savings Percentage	40.44%
August Paid Claims	9
August Savings	\$510.65
August Savings Percentage	54.27%

Cooperatives drive democracy

By Adam Schwartz

It has often been said that those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it. It is easy to take our right to vote for granted, maybe because there are so many opportunities to exercise that right. There are national, state and local elections for political offices. Then there are elections for social or other civic organizations. If you own stock, you are asked to vote in those elections. So it is understandable to see how “election fatigue” can take hold.

As we head into the final stage of what has been a divisive national election, it is a

good time to remember that elections don’t have to be about name calling and bitterness. Co-ops can and do play a role in cultivating a civil society, where people can practice democracy at the hyper-local level. As a member of Vigilante Electric, you have the right to run for the board of directors. Even if you choose not to have that level of participation, you should feel empowered to reach out to current board members and candidates.

The beauty of belonging to a co-op is every member has a voice, but you must use that voice if you want to be heard on the issues that matter to you. In their document,

“A Blueprint for a Cooperative Decade,” the International Cooperative Alliance, a global organization made up of co-ops from more than 100 countries, identified member participation as one of the five key ingredients for a co-op to be successful.

Voting and being actively involved in the affairs of the co-op are key ways in which members can participate. Take the time to get to know candidates running for Vigilante Electric’s board, and seek out ways that you can help spread the word about the good work your co-op is doing.

The cooperative business

model is a great one, it fosters engagement and creates strong communities. More than 100 years ago, President Theodore Roosevelt recognized this value when he said, “The cooperative is the best plan of organization. Under this plan, every business is [governed by a board], every person has one vote and only one vote. Everyone gets profits based on their use of the co-op. It develops individual responsibility and has a moral, as well as a financial, value.”

Those words are truer today than ever before. Let your voice be heard, and take the time to participate in all of the elections.

Paying Your Winter Heating Bill

Are you ready for winter? The prospect of a long, cold winter is something few, if any, people look forward to. It impacts not only our comfort levels, but can seriously impact our budgets. For low-income families, winter utilities can be an overwhelming burden. For this reason, there are organizations that can help.

Since 1998, Vigilante Electric Cooperative has helped qualified members receive credit on their

accounts to aid in winter heating. Applications are available October 1st by contacting our Dillon office, and must be returned by November 18, 2016.

It should be noted that the funding levels for our program is very limited. We strongly recommend that families in need apply for the programs offered by the state of Montana through the Department of Public Health and Human Services. It offers two programs aimed at

helping low-income individuals reduce their heating costs.

For those meeting eligibility requirements, the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) pays part of winter energy bills. Plus, the Weatherization Program helps improve the heating efficiency of their homes, thus reducing long-term energy consumption and costs.

The LIEAP guidelines and contact information are presented below. The application

period is October 1, 2016, to April 30, 2017. Eligibility is based on family size and total household income. If you think you qualify, call for an application. Each office serves specific counties, so contact the office nearest you.

Another source of help is Energy Share of Montana — a private nonprofit organization whose primary purpose is to help Montanans faced with energy emergencies meet their needs and move toward self-reliance.

Requests for this assistance also can be made through the state offices listed to the left.

Additionally, there are charitable organizations that provide assistance. While many ask for help, we know there are people who desperately need help who do not ask. To borrow a quote “The hardest thing isn’t needing help. The hardest thing is being brave enough to ask for it.” Don’t be afraid to ask.

Family Size	Income Limits	Family Size	Income Limits
1	22,293	7	57,877
2	29,153	8	61,335
3	36,012	9	67,575
4	42,872	10	73,815
5	49,732	11	80,055
6	56,591	12	86,295

Human Resources Council District 12 – Butte (800) 382-1325 (406) 533-6855	Rocky Mountain Development Council LIEAP Office - Helena (800) 356-6544 (406) 447-1625	HRDC District 9 - Bozeman (800) 332-2796 (406) 587-4486
--	---	--

Vigilante Electric line crew perform well at Lineman's Rodeo

Question: how many trades (non-sporting) can you think of where the required skill set can be put on display as a physically competitive, fun and spectator-friendly event? One such trade is that of an electric lineman, and each July teams of linemen come from far and wide to Butte to compete in the Montana Lineman's Rodeo. This year's rodeo took place on July 16th, and for the second year included a crew from Vigilante Electric Cooperative.

This year's journeyman's events included a hurt-man rescue, where the object is to rescue the "injured lineman (weighted mannequin)" as quickly as possible from a pole using all safety procedures and pole-top rescue techniques. There was a speed climb, where participants ascended and

descended a 45-foot pole as quickly and smoothly as possible. On the descent climbers put an egg in their mouth in order to measure smoothness. Finally, there was a mystery event. The mystery event is very entertaining. Participants get no prior notice about what they have to do and, in some cases, teams have to perform tasks they have never done before and/or use tools they have never used.

This year, our organization was represented by journeymen Jess Davidson and Vance Forsman, and apprentice lineman Morgan Noel. They performed well in all three events and had the best time in the hurt-man rescue for the teams representing rural electric cooperatives. We would like to acknowledge and thank them for representing our organization so well.



Morgan Noel



Jess Davidson



Vance Forsman

Capital Credits

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.

Gardipe, Jeanne Polson, MT	Green Tree Missoula, MT	Henderson, Matt Missoula, MT	Holland, Tyson Billings, MT
Gauer, Vince Butte, MT	Gregory, Tammy Dillon, MT	Hendrix, Mary Mesa, AZ	Hren, Carol Irrigon, OR
Gesh, Brett Dillon, MT	Guisbert, Thad / Cheryl Inver Grove, MN	Herron, Angela Twin Bridges, MT	Hunter, Jennifer Spokane, WA
Gould, Dennis / Sherry Whitehall, MT	Hamby, Charles / Veronica Belgrade, MT	Hibbard, Joni / Mike Helena, MT	Huseby, Daryl Dell, MT
Grasky, James / Mary Choteau, MT	Hammer, Robert Cookeville, TN	Hines, Barbara Whitehall, MT	Husted, Ann M. Dillon, MT
Grassy MTN Cattle & Guest Ranch Townsend, MT	Hanson, Brian E. Dillon, MT	Hjort, Roberta Clancy, MT	Huston, Terry / Ada Winslow, AZ
Grassy MTN Resort c/o Art Lundquist Townsend, MT	Hartung, Mark / Terry Helena, MT	Holland, Tim / Jamie Anchorage, AK	Jackson, Terry / Sharon Thompson Falls, MT

Continued on page 6

Capital Credits

Continued from page 5

Jeffs, James
Townsend, MT

Jellum, Emily
Missoula, MT

Jones, Thomas R.
Orrville, WA

Kaufman, Shelly
East Helena, MT

Kazio, Deborah
Las Vegas, NV

Kelly, Pamela
Jefferson City, MT

Kelsey, Herb / Jackie
Whitehall, MT

Kendrick, Bert
Dillon, MT

Kingston, Steve
Renton, WA

Kinsey, Mark
Silver Bow, MT

Kuska, Heidi
Safford, AZ

Landmark Reo #2327
Orange, CA

Lane, Patricia
Butte, MT

Larby, Michael J. / Rita
Henderson, NV

Larsen, Larry O. / Angela
Thornton, CO

Lawler, Rick
Dillon, MT

Lea, Gerald
Wisdom, MT

Ledford, Richard / Monique
Townsend, MT

Lentz, Scott / Gretchen
Sedro Woolley, WA

Lessley, Jeremy
Townsend, MT

Little, Wesley / Michelle
Three Forks, MT

Lott, Harvey D.
Dillon, MT

Lucey, Jarrod
Helena, MT

Madden, Jeff
Dillon, MT

Maes, B.
Tucson, AZ

Martin, Bill / Pam
Lolo, MT

Matthews, David / Kay
Dillon, MT

McAlpine, Debbie
Dillon, MT

McCaslin, John D.
Dillon, MT

McGee, Daniel / Debbie
Helena, MT

McInroy, Ian
Belgrade, MT

McRory, Robert / Pam
Three Forks, MT

Meeks, Chris
Dillon, MT

Miles, Lyndy
Wisdom, MT

Miller, Lynda C.
Livingston, MT

Miller, Robert
Belgrade, MT

Moore, Jim
Dillon, MT

Morgan, Lenny
Dillon, MT

Morris, Dale
Dillon, MT

Nelson, Eric
Whitehouse, TX

Nelson, Mike
Dillon, MT

Nielsen, Niela
Helena, MT

Nixon, Mandie /
Hayworth, Holly
Dillon, MT

Nydegger, John
Townsend, MT

O'Brien, Jack G. / Eileen
Reno, NV

Ostler, Jennifer
Belgrade, MT

Parker, Audie
Dillon, MT

Peltier, Denny
Townsend, MT

Petersen, Sherman / Jessie
Cardwell, MT

Phillips, Richard / Robin
Cardwell, MT

Pierce, David A.
Great Falls, MT

Pitchford, Kim
Casper, WY

Posey, Michel
Libby, MT

Proctor Lvstk Inc.
Clyde/Debbie Proctor
Dillon, MT

Profitt, Michael
Leesburg, ID

Pulver, Elmer
Whitehall, MT

Randall, Lisa
Whitehall, MT

Rathie, Randy
Ennis, MT

Reeves, Aubrey H. /
Sandidge, Constance
Toston, MT

Reynolds, April
Helena, MT

Rhoads, Tom / Kim
Jerome, ID

Ross, Mike / Lynette
Buelah, ND

Rust, Doug / Shannon
Bozeman, MT

Saunders, Richard
Great Falls, MT

Schumacker, Laura
Bozeman, MT

Seeman, Grant
Dillon, MT

Seewald, Brenda
Bozeman, MT

Senn, Mary
Dillon, MT

Serna, Adrian / Thelma
Dillon, MT

Shane, Bob / Sam
Salome, AZ

Shepherd, Craig D.
Whitehall, MT

Silverman, Joel
Missoula, MT

Skillman, Clarence /
Wandette
Harrison, MT

Sloan, Nicky / Curtiss,
Dustin
Missoula, MT

Smith, Anita
Dillon, MT

Smith, Bill / Jennifer
Dillon, MT

Smith, Donald
Cave Junction, OR

Smith, Jason
Dillon, MT

*CAPITAL CREDITS
Continued next month*