



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

Vigilante Electric Cooperative 80th Annual Meeting of Members

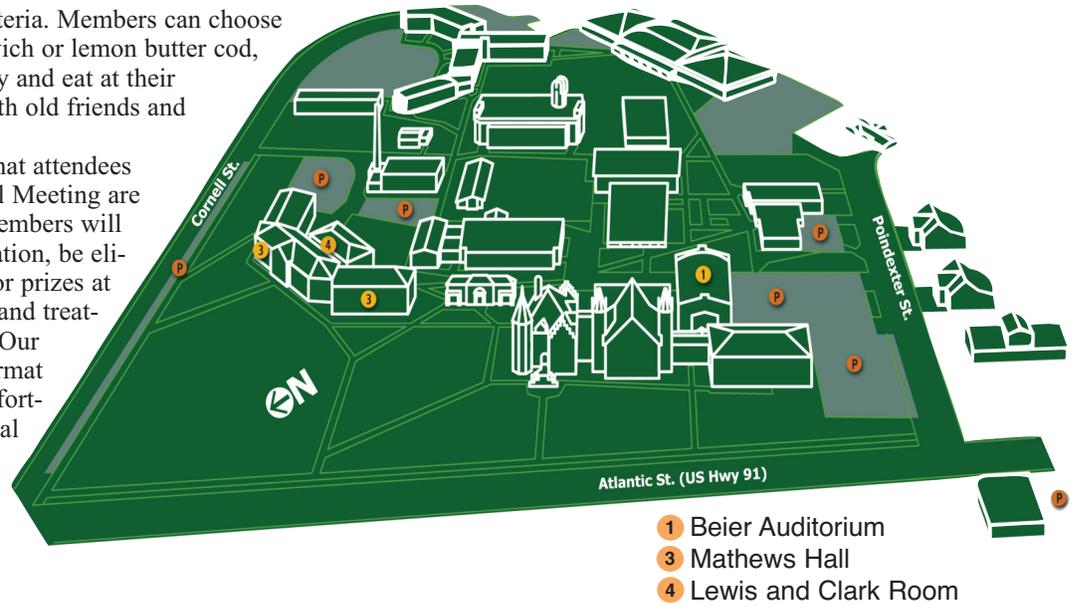
On March 2, 2018, Vigilante Electric Cooperative will host its 80th Annual Meeting of Members on the campus of the University of Montana-Western. For the trustees, management and staff of Vigilante Electric, this is the most important event of the year. To have a successful meeting and accommodate the needs of all parties involved, we are making a few changes this year.

The business meeting will begin earlier this year and will be held in a new location. Registration will be from 9 – 11 a.m. in the foyer of the Beier auditorium located in Main Hall of the University of Montana-Western. The meeting will begin at 10:30 in the auditorium. Parking will be closer and much more ample for our members in this new location, the auditorium foyer will allow for a more efficient registration process, and the Beier Auditorium allows all of our members to be seated comfortably in a location where they can see and hear well.

The business meeting will be conducted as normal. Members will hear our leadership discuss cooperative issues, recap events of the previous year, participate in trustee elections and receive information regarding our financial status. Our special guest will be Harleigh Johnson, a junior at Beaverhead Co. High School and our Youth Tour and Youth Leadership Council participant from this past summer.

For members who attend the meeting, a ticket will be provided at the time of registration for lunch. At the conclusion of the business meeting (approximately noon) members are welcome to move over to Mathews Hall where lunch will be served in the Lewis and Clark Room and in the campus cafeteria. Members can choose from a prime rib sandwich or lemon butter cod, and are welcome to stay and eat at their leisure and catch up with old friends and members.

All of the elements that attendees expect from our Annual Meeting are still there. Attending members will receive a gift at registration, be eligible for wonderful door prizes at the end of the meeting and treated to a delicious meal. Our hope is that the new format will create a more comfortable and efficient Annual Meeting for our valued members.



VIGILANTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

How Do Our Electric Rates Compare?

At Vigilante Electric we strive to keep our members informed. Over the last several months we have been communicating information regarding the rate modification that will take effect with the January billing. No increase is welcome, but if you compared our rates with other utilities, you will find that we are doing a very good job keeping our rates low, and costs under control.

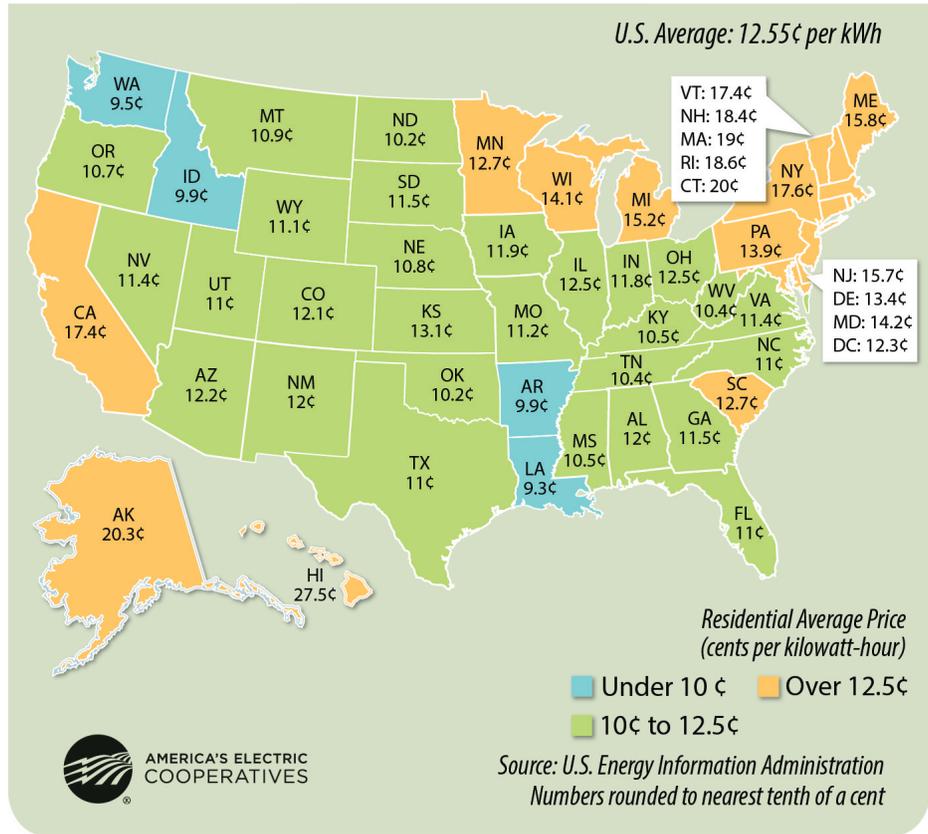
In General Manager Rollie Miller's October report in *Rural Montana*, he ended his commentary on our rate modification with this statement, "our wholesale rate increase was the smallest of the utilities in Montana served by Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), and our retail rates for residential and irrigation are some of the lowest in the country. More importantly, we plan to keep it that way."

This is not an unsubstantiated claim. We work collectively with the other western Montana utilities that are BPA customers during the rate process and freely share information. As for how we rank regionally and nationally, if you know where to look, the numbers are quite telling.

The best data sources come from the Energy Information Administration (EIA), which is responsible for collecting, analyzing and disseminating energy information, and is part of the Department of Energy. On its website www.eia.gov/electricity, EIA has a summary of key indicators. One indicator is the average price for residential electricity. Each year EIA publishes this rate map. While it uses the average price per state, it is not unreasonable for us to be considered as having one of the best energy rates at 5.8 cents per kilowatt hour.

Average Prices for Residential Electricity

2016 figures, in cents per kWh



Prescription Discount Tracker

Total Paid Claims	619
Total Savings	\$23,678.82
Total Savings Percentage	42.85%
Dec. Paid Claims	7
Dec. Savings	\$105.99
Dec. Savings Percentage	31.33%

Off the Clock

Longtime Whitehall Lineman Retires

After 30 years of dedicated service to our organization, Marty Simons has decided to retire. Marty worked his entire career out of our Whitehall, shop with the last five as the area foreman. Over Marty's career he distinguished himself as a skilled lineman and will be remembered for his direct nature and a wry sense of humor.

To honor Marty, the person in our organization that knows him best provided the following:

"The first time I met Marty is when we were working for Williams Construction in Helena in 1983. The first crew we worked on together was building the powerline to the Montana Tunnels mine at Jefferson City.

He had a nickname then of Climbin' Simons. Years later, even after having back surgery and all the meniscus removed from one knee, he could still climb like no other.

Marty hired on with Vigilante Electric Cooperative in August 1987 in Whitehall, and I followed in February 1988 in Townsend. It was good knowing someone starting a new job. We built a



L to R: Marty Simons, Tim Glueckert and John Moos

lot of powerline and restored many an outage. Usually he was the only one I could get out of bed on an early stormy night.

On a nice hot July day in 1993, Marty, Tim Glueckert and I participated in the First Ever Lineman's Rodeo below Holter Dam. We placed first with the help of Marty's climbing. Then the next year, 1994, we went to Kansas City, Missouri, and placed first in the Electric Cooperative Division at the International Lineman's Rodeo. I think we drank a little beer that night. I know Marty sure had fun. We could hardly get on the plane our heads were so big. That was a real special time with Simons.

Good luck in retirement old man Climbin'."

John Moos
Area Foreman – Townsend

Vigilante Electric Cooperative would like to thank Marty for his years of service to our organization and wish him a long, healthy and active retirement.

Paulsen Earns Journeyman Certification

In December of 2016, Austyn Paulsen joined Vigilante Electric Cooperative as an apprentice lineman working out of our Townsend shop. We are proud to announce that Austyn has successfully completed his apprenticeship and earned his journeyman lineman certification through the Mountain States Apprenticeship Program.



This apprentice program is quite intensive, taking about four years to complete and a minimum of 7,000 hours of on-the-job training and related instructional class work. General Manager Rollie Miller stated, "This is a major milestone for any lineman to achieve, and I am proud of Austyn for completing the program with such high success. He is a great employee and we are happy he is a part of our team."

On the Clock Tyler Arnio

Vigilante Electric Cooperative would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to our newest employee Tyler Arnio.

Tyler is a journeyman lineman and will be working out of our Dillon shop. He was raised in Wall, South Dakota. Prior to working for Vigilante Electric, Tyler worked for West River Electric Association in Wall.

Tyler is married to Malinda and together they have a son named Noah. He is also an avid outdoorsman enjoying hunting, fishing, camping, and riding motorcycles and four-wheelers. Tyler states, "I am looking forward to learning the area and the members served by Vigilante Electric."

Vigilante Electric would like to welcome Tyler and his family to our organization, and we look forward to a long association.



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 at 800-221-8271 or 683-2327, or by email at contact@vec.coop.

SPORTSMEN'S MOTEL,
DAYLE/TERRI
SAULSBURY
MISSOULA, MT

STAKER, RENEE
CARSON, ND

STEIN, LINDA/RICHARD
BUCKLEY, WA

STENERSON, CHRISTIE
THOMPSON FALLS, MT

STEVENSON, JIM
HELENA, MT

STEVENSON, JOHN P
BUTTE, MT

STOCKTON, CHAD
RICHMOND, MO

STRANG, DONALD
TOWNSEND, MT

STUDDERT, CHRIS
AMERICAN FORK, UT

SWANSON, JEFF/KATHY
LIVINGSTON, MT

SWIFT, ART
MILES CITY, MT

TALLMADGE, CINDY
COEUR D'ALENE, ID

TEHINNAH APOSTALIC
MELROSE, MT

TEPPO, KEVIN/QUESTA
CELESTE, TX

THOMAS, ARDA
c/o CAROLYN GEORGE
HELENA, MT

THOMPSON, LINDA M
WHITEHALL, MT

THOMPSON, REX E
HELENA, MT

TIETZ, NORMAN
BELGRADE, MT

TINSLEY, DALE/TINA
LONGMONT, CO

TORGERSON, TERRY
WASILLA, AK

TOTH, MIKE JR
JACKSON, CA

TOWNSEND TOOL & DIE
c/o J K KEGEL
TOWNSEND, MT

TURNER,
MONTY/DONNA
DIVIDE, CO

TVETEN, ROBERT/
CONNIE
WOLF POINT, MT

UHLER, CAROL
DILLON, MT

VALENTINE, JACK/LYNN
BIG SANDY, MT

VLAHOVICH, STANLEY
PALMER, AK

WAGNER, WADE
LANDER, WY

WALKER, JOANN
DILLON, MT

WALLINDER, SONJA
GREAT FALLS, MT

WALTERS, MARY
BOISE, ID

WARD,
MICHAEL/DONNA
ABSAROKEE, MT

WARD, ROBERT
DILLON, MT

WELBORN,
DOUG/ROBERTA
BROWNING, MT

WESTERN TELE-
COMMUNICATIONS
ENGLEWOOD, CO

WESTERN WIRELESS
CORP.
LITTLE ROCK, AR

WHITE, KATHLEEN
ROY, MT

WOGAMON, CLIFF
PEA RIDGE, AR

WOOD, ROBERT E
RENTON, WA

WOOD, STACY
BUTTE, MT

WORTHINGTON, RANDY
BOZEMAN, MT

WYSHYNSKI, SARAH
GUELPH,
ONTARIO CANADA

YOUNG, JOHN P
TOWNSEND, MT

Board of Trustees & General Manager

Allen Martinell, President – Dist. #9
Dell/Lima

Tom Helm, Vice President – Dist. #3
Townsend/N. Helena/Lump Gulch

Sharon Lasich, Sec/Treas. – Dist. #4
Twin Bridges

Norm Tebay, Trustee – Dist. #1
Cardwell/Whitehall/Three Forks

Dean Hanson, Trustee – Dist. #2
Silver Star/Waterloo

Cheyenne Garrison, Trustee – Dist. #5
Wise River/Silver Bow/Melrose

Andy Johnson, Trustee – Dist. #6
Dillon North/Glen

Dean Peterson, Trustee – Dist. #7
Jackson/Wisdom

Jim Petersen, Trustee – Dist. #8
Dillon South/Grant

Rollie Miller – General Manager

Vigilante Electric Safety Roundup *Progress Update*

We started the Safety Roundup program in August 2016. Because we structured it as an “opt-in” way for our members to contribute to the safety of our communities, we did it with the understanding that it would take some time to grow the funds needed to award worthy safety projects. At the end of December, we had 84 members participating, with total contributions of \$577.42. Thank you to all the members who opted in for safety.