



# Vigilante Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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**OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE**

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS



Vigilante Electric Cooperative's 85th Annual Meeting will be held on March 3 at the Watson Irrigation Training Center outside Townsend. | **VEC FILE PHOTO**

# VEC PREPARING FOR 85TH ANNUAL MEETING

**CURRENTLY**, Vigilante Electric is preparing for our 85th Annual Meeting of members. For us, this is the most important event of our business year. For our members, this is your opportunity to participate in the affairs of the cooperative, interact with our cooperative leadership, and hear about the issues that are impacting our industry.

Many things distinguish cooperatives from other organizations, one being that we adhere to seven core principles. Principle #2 is: "Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and

making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership." The Annual Meeting is your opportunity to participate in this process.

While the issues that require member participation change from year to year, the one constant is that members attending the annual meeting will participate in the election of trustees. This year, elections will be held for District #3 (Townsend-Toston), District #8 (Dillon south), and District #9 (Dell-Lima).

Meeting attendees will also hear from

**See ANNUAL MEETING, next page**

### VIGILANTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND GENERAL MANAGER

**Cheyenne Garrison**,  
President  
Dist. #5

Wise River/Silver Bow/Melrose

**Andy Johnson**,  
Vice President  
Dist. #6  
Dillon North/Glen

**Tom Mitchell**,  
Sec./Treas.  
Dist. #8  
Dillon South/Grant

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

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

**Tom Helm**, Trustee  
Dist. #3  
Townsend/N. Helena/  
Lump Gulch

**Colt High**, Trustee  
Dist. #4  
Twin Bridges/Point of Rocks

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

**Allen Martinell**, Trustee  
Dist. #9  
Dell/Lima

**Rollie Miller**,  
General Manager

# ANNUAL MEETING

*Continued from previous page*

our leadership about the state of the cooperative, as well as the successes and challenges faced this previous year. We will also receive a legislative update from a representative of the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA). Montana is in the midst of a legislative session, so we will hear about the political issues in Helena, as well as those in Washington, D.C.

We also invite special guests to attend and address our Annual Meeting. While nothing is confirmed at the time of this article, we are planning on having two very special guests.

This year's annual meeting will also have everything our members have come to expect. Registered members will be treated to a wonderful meal, receive a gift at registration and be included in a drawing for some great door prizes.

This year's meeting will once again be held at the Watson Irrigation Training Center outside Townsend on March 3. An official notice and registration card will be sent to all members. We hope to see you there. **RM**



Vigilante Electric Cooperative Manager Rollie Miller, center, speaks with Central Montana Electric Power Cooperative General Manager Doug Hardy, right, and Missoula Electric Cooperative Manager Mark Hayden, left. The Co-op Day at the Capitol brought hundreds of state legislators and co-op leaders together for a lunch on January 6. | **VEC PHOTO**

## Taking the cooperative message to the Capitol

**I**n last month's edition, we reported on having area legislators for lunch at our office to discuss political concerns cooperatives are facing at the national and state levels. On January 6, cooperative leaders and staff from across the state participated in a similar event, but on a much grander scale. Every legislative session, cooperatives take over the Capitol Rotunda for Co-op Day at the Capitol.

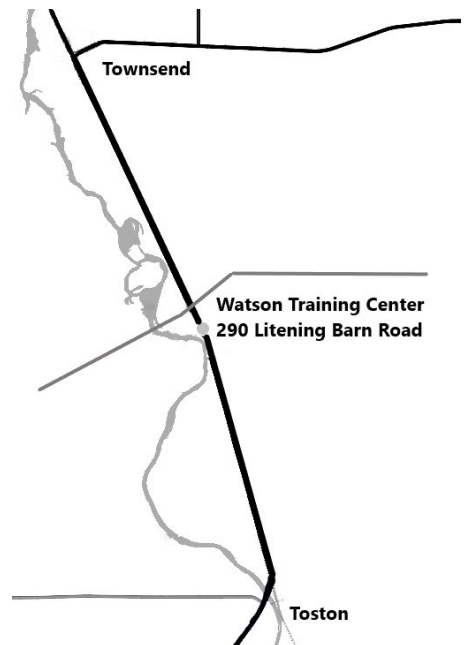
This year, approximately 500 legislators and capitol staff were invited to the Rotunda for lunch provided by the cooperatives. Each element of the luncheon was supplied by the cooperatives, with the beef being provided by Vigilante Electric Cooperative and prepared by the food services at The University of Montana - Western.

The planning, execution and teamwork made this a special event. The environment lent itself to a laid-back setting where some great dialog took place between the legislators and the cooperative personnel.



Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association CEO Gary Wiens speaks with Rep. Steve Galloway at the Co-op Day at the Capitol luncheon. | **VEC PHOTO**

This was a fabulous event and one that we can hopefully grow on. While not all of the discussion was political, we believe we left a good impression with the legislators, and developed relationships we can build on and call upon when cooperative interests are at stake. **RM**



# 2023 YOUTH TOUR

# A TRIP THEY WILL NEVER FORGET

## VEC ANNOUNCES YOUTH TOUR WINNERS

**O**VER the years we have used many adjectives to describe the Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., and its impact on the participants. The experience is truly one of a kind, and it is very easy to tell when a participant, or chaperone, shares their experience with others. 2023 will be the 22<sup>nd</sup> year that we have supported this program, and we are proud to announce that this year's participants will be Laura Martin and Kennady Perrenoud.

Laura is the daughter of members Ryan and Diane Martin, and is currently a junior attending Beaverhead County High School. Kennady is the daughter of Darcy Perrenoud, and is a junior attending Lima High School.

Each year, the participants for the Youth Tour are selected based on an application and essay. This year's essay question was "If you could witness one historical moment firsthand, what would it be and why?" We received six outstanding applications, making the judging process difficult. Based on the voting, Laura's application finished first and was forwarded to our statewide association to be judged against applications from across the state. That winner will have their trip sponsored by the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association.

The following is an excerpt from each lady's essays. We will post each essay in its entirety to our website, and we strongly encourage people to take



Laura Martin, left, and Kennady Perrenoud, right, were chosen as Youth Tour winners by Vigilante Electric. They will participate in a free trip to Washington, D.C. later this year. | VEC PHOTO



the opportunity to read through them to see the creativity and thought put into them.

### Laura Martin

*"You're sitting on your favorite plaid couch surrounded by your siblings and your parents; a bowl of forgotten popcorn rests between you and your dad. Your mom flips on the TV and for a second all you can hear is static but you don't care, you are too focused on the screen, waiting for the reporter to switch to live footage. What you – and the whole country – has been on the edge of their seats to witness is a piece of history and a step toward America's future – the moon landing."*

### Kennady Perrenoud

*"I believe that the lightbulb was a*

*significant invention for our world and has dramatically impacted our lives today. I think that if I could go back and witness any historical event, it would be the day Thomas Edison succeeded in making a lightbulb that efficiently worked in small spaces, such as a person's home. Before Edison's home bulb, arc lamps had already been invented, but the light emitted from these lamps was too strong to keep in small spaces. These arc lamps are what inspired Edison to create an invention that would forever change the lives of people all over the world."*

We would like to congratulate Laura and Kennady for being selected to represent our organization in this summer's Youth Tour, and we look forward to hearing and reading about their grand adventure. RM

# OFF THE CLOCK

## Longtime Townsend lineman retires

**W**ITH nearly 35 years of dedicated service to our organization, Townsend area Foreman John Moos has decided to retire. John has worked his entire Vigilante Electric Cooperative career out of the Townsend shop, with the last 17 years as area foreman.

Much could be said about John and his career at Vigilante Electric but the following tributes eloquently capture his impact on our organization:

*I would like to personally congratulate John on his retirement, and thank him for his faithful service to Vigilante Electric over the last three decades. He has been a leader amongst his peers, and has been a great benefit to not only the members in the Townsend outpost area but also systemwide. His expertise and presence will be missed. Again, Congratulations John!!! - General Manager Rollie Miller*

*I had the opportunity to work for John in the Townsend area for a good portion of my career. As a young apprentice, I was taught that the key to becoming a successful lineman was not found in books or time spent on the job, but would come by way of time spent*



John Moos

*with a good lineman who was willing to teach and share his experiences. That is exactly what I was able to be a part of while working with John in Townsend. Not only did he share his knowledge and experience with me, but I was able to observe his commitment to Vigilante Electric, our customers and, most importantly, safety. John has been a top-notch employee here at Vigilante and will be missed, but I wish him the best in his retirement. - Line Superintendent Justin Bair*

Vigilante Electric Cooperative would like to thank John for his service to our organization and wish him a long, active retirement. RM



Clint Begger

## CLINT BEGGER PROMOTED TO TOWNSEND AREA FOREMAN

**W**ITH the retirement of John Moos, we are proud to announce that Clint Begger has been promoted as the new Townsend area foreman.

Clint joined our organization in April 2018 as a journeyman lineman in our Townsend shop. He is a native of Montana, raised in Wibaux. Prior to working for us, Clint had spent the last 15 years as a lineman at Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative in Mandan, North Dakota.

On behalf of Vigilante Electric Cooperative, we would like to congratulate Clint on the well-deserved promotion. RM



**Vigilante Electric Cooperative**  
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**Vigilante Safety Roundup Tracker**

Participating members: 790  
Total Contributions: \$18,131.76

To apply, contact our office at  
(800) 221-8271 or 683-2327

An online application is available at [www.vec.coop](http://www.vec.coop).



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