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# Vigilante Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



The Board of Trustees at the 2024 Vigilante Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting.

# 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

## Taking the meeting to new heights

**O**n March 8, Vigilante Electric Cooperative held its 86th annual meeting of members. A lot of time and preparation goes into this event, but it is all worth it because this meeting and this day turned out to be spectacular.

When you have a meeting in March, you hope that the weather cooperates so that members have a safe and comfortable experience. When you add a hot-air balloon to the mix, the weather conditions need to be ideal.

This year, we brought the Touchstone Energy hot air balloon to Dillon. The weather was beautiful, and they were able to fill the balloon, creating wonderful photo opportunities and providing several tethered rides before the meeting began.

The meeting was called to order by the

Board of Trustees President Andy Johnson. After the procedural aspect of the meeting, he continued with the president's report. Keeping his comments brief, he focused on the retirement of General Manager Rollie Miller, thanking him for his time and dedication. Andy also introduced our new general manager, Trevor Parke, who drove up from southern Idaho to attend.

Next on the agenda, Norm Tebay presented the financial report. Vigilante Electric continues to thrive. Norm highlighted the increase in total plant and value of our financial partnership with Rocky Mountain Supply in the Montana Energy Alliance. The financial details referenced at the annual meeting are available on our

**See MEETING, next page**

**April 2024**

VIGILANTE ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND GENERAL MANAGER

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

**Tom Mitchell,**  
Vice President  
Dist. #8  
Dillon South/Grant

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

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

**John Moos,** Trustee  
Dist. #3  
Townsend/N. Helena/Lump  
Gulch

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

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

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

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

**Rollie Miller**  
General Manager

# MEETING

*Continued from previous page*

website or by contacting our office.

Miller continued the meeting and spoke about this year's meeting theme, "Level of Demand." We work extremely hard to meet the demands and expectations of our membership. We are committed to supplying reliable power at the lowest possible cost. We are also active in our area schools and communities promoting educational opportunities and safety, and we strive to provide the type of service our membership deserves.

Rollie briefly talked about several topics, including our wholesale power supply contract with the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). Our contract expires in 2028, and we are currently negotiating future contracts. He noted that outages and overtime are down 30 percent and that lead times for equipment and supplies continue to be a significant issue for us.

Rollie's legacy at Vigilante Electric will undoubtedly be his commitment to safety. Vigilante Electric recorded its eighth straight year with no reportable lost-time accidents. We continue to provide safety demonstrations to organizations within the communities we serve, and our Safety RoundUp program continues to grow and make a difference.

This year, Rollie presented Safety RoundUp awards of \$2,500 to the Beaver Boosters for bleacher upgrades, \$1,000 to Dillon Elementary School for vaping detectors for the middle school, and \$500 to the Grasshopper Valley Volunteer Fire Department for a fire danger awareness sign to be placed next to its fire station. He concluded by thanking the trustees and membership for the opportunity to manage such a great organization.

Trustee Colt High conducted the luck of the draw scholarship drawing. For the second year, we provided high school seniors, as well as current college students, the opportunity to



2023 Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. participant Laura Martin sharing her experience on the Youth Tour and thanking Vigilante Electric for the opportunity.

win a scholarship just for attending our meeting. This year's recipients were Ivar Radcliffe, Scott Chagua, Cody Fuller, Laura Martin and Payton Ramey.

Next came the elections for district trustee. This year, the district nominees were Colt High from District #4, Cheyenne Garrison from District #5, and Dean Peterson for District #7. With no additional nominations coming from the floor, motions were made for a unanimous vote for each.

Trustee Cheyenne Garrison then introduced 2023 Youth Tour participant Laura Martin. Laura is a senior at Beaverhead County High School, and she discussed her experiences and impressions of Washington, D.C., and thanked Vigilante Electric and the membership for granting her this opportunity.

The final presenter was Mark Lambrecht, director of government relations for the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA). Mark discussed MECA's efforts to advance co-op interests. He addressed the latest news regarding the proposed breach of the lower Snake River dams, work being done to exempt Vigilante Electric and other electric co-ops from exorbitant Forest Service permit fees, and the push to enforce current law that limits the financial liability of co-ops for forest fire damage.

Again, the theme for this meeting was "Level of Demand," and this meeting delivered. We would like to thank the University of Montana-Western for all the work put into making this meeting an ongoing success. We would like to thank all our guests, especially the high school and college students, for taking time out of their schedules to attend. We want to show our appreciation to Touchstone Energy for bringing the balloon to our meeting, and its pilot for his time. We also want to thank the members who took part in this incredible event. Thank you for letting us serve you. RM



**ABOVE:** Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association Director of Government Relations Mark Lambrecht speaks at the 2024 Vigilante Electric annual meeting.  
**LEFT:** Vigilante Electric General Manager Rollie Miller addresses the crowd at the annual meeting.



Manager Rollie Miller presents Beaverhead Boosters, represented by Ryann Gibson and Sheri Lagunas, a \$2,500 Safety Roundup award that will be used for bleacher improvements at the B.W. Lodge gymnasium.



Safety Roundup Award recipient Dillon Middle School representative, Principal Joel Rogers, shakes hands with Rollie Miller. The \$1,000 award will be used for vaping detectors.



Grasshopper Valley Volunteer Fire Department, represented by Brett Finneran, Jeff Slotta and Dave Miller, accepts a \$500 Safety Roundup award from Manager Rollie Miller. The award will be used for a fire danger awareness sign.

# Well Deserved Recognition

NATIONAL LINEWORKER APPRECIATION DAY IS APRIL 8  
ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS DAY IS APRIL 26

**D**URING April, we recognize two groups of individuals that constitute the heart and soul of organizations such as ours. Because of the efforts of these individuals, we can keep the power on and the doors open for business. Vigilante Electric would like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank our linemen and our administrative professionals.

## Lineworkers

As an occupation, line work is ranked as one of the 10 most dangerous jobs in the country. The linemen at Vigilante Electric work rain or shine, in often challenging conditions, to ensure you have reliable electricity. This year, we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 8th.

“Electric linemen do not often receive the recognition they deserve,” said Rollie Miller, general manager. “They work all hours of the day, often in hazardous conditions, to restore power to our communities. Our linemen, as well as lineworkers from across the nation, truly deserve this special day of recognition.”

We would like to thank Tyler Arnio, Clint Begger, Jess Davidson, Andrew English, Vance Forsman, Joe Kidd, Austyn Paulsen, Chuck Romerio, Cody Tarter, Charles Wharton and Chase White for their service to our membership and our organization.

“Having been a lineman for the better part of my career, I have a different perspective of these men. I know their dedication to each other, their work, and the members they serve are second to none. Being able to work around these guys that have this kind of character wired into them, and being able to call them friends, makes work



Vigilante Electric's line crew, from left: Tyler Arnio, Cody Tarter, Jess Davidson, Andrew English, Chase White, Austyn Paulsen, Chuck Romerio, Clint Begger, Charles Wharton, Vance Forsman and Joe Kidd. | **VEC PHOTO**



From left: Jackie Clark, Chelsey Hutchison, Emily May and Paige Garrison. | **VEC PHOTO**

the kind of place I want to be.” said Justin Bair, line superintendent

## Administrative Professionals

On April 26th, we join businesses across the country in celebration of Administrative Professionals Day. The day in the life of an administrative professional varies from moment to moment. While organization is key to their success, their flexibility and ability to manage the unexpected make them valuable to any business.

“I am very happy and proud to be working with all the administrative professionals in our office,” said General Manager Rollie Miller. “I am immensely proud of the accomplishments we have made as a team over the previous year. I hope you take time to thank these people when you see them next.”

“When it comes to keeping an office running smoothly and efficiently, I couldn't think of any other people who do it quite as well as our crew at Vigilante Electric. The innovation, dedication and humor this group of women bring to our office is second to none. Thank you for all you do day in and day out,” said Raquel Reno-Morast, office manager.

We would like to recognize Jackie Clark, Paige Garrison, Chelsey Hutchison and Emily May for their devotion and valuable work for our organization.

**RM**