

79th ANNUAL MEETING

June 18th, 2024



Lineman Loren Desjardins giving his mother Donna Desjardins a bucket truck ride.

PROGRAM

- 5:00 p.m. Registration and Meal
- 6:30 p.m. Call to Order
 - Determination of Quorum
 - Invocation
 - Welcome
 - Reading of notice and previous minutes
 - President's Report
 - General Manager's Report
 - Financial Report
 - Operation RoundUp Report
 - Service Awards
 - Presentation of Scholarships
 - Election of Directors
 - Old Business
 - New Business
 - Adjournment

MESSAGE TO OUR MEMBERS



Larry Gessele
President



Mark Doyle
General Manager & CEO

Busy...Busy...Busy!!

It has been another busy year for McLean Electric Cooperative.

The year started off with another storm. This was a frost event due to the mild temperature we were experiencing. The damage was marginal, but again, any damage is not appreciated. The event was submitted to FEMA but was under the threshold for a disaster declaration, so we had to absorb the cost without assistance. Then, the year ended in December with a massive ice storm in the southeast/south-central part of the state. We were fortunate not to be affected by this event and were able to assist other co-ops with mutual aid. This exemplifies one of our guiding principles, cooperation among cooperatives. That storm left thousands without power for days. Most people were happy with the mild winters, but it makes us nervous for obvious reasons.

Our priority is to deliver safe, reliable, affordable electric service to our members, with safety at the forefront. MEC was recognized with several awards for 2023. The first was a successful Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP) award. Your co-op is reviewed for our policies and procedures which include onsite visits. Another was a Safety

Performance award for having zero OSHA reportable injuries for one year. Finally, we stood alone with the Safety Excellence award for five consecutive years with no lost time injuries. These awards are proof of the staff's dedication to safety.

Our board of directors, management, and staff are also dedicated to maintaining the reliability of our system while keeping costs as low as possible. Along with other rural electric cooperatives in the state, we have had to raise our monthly base rate to try to cover our fixed costs. Much of the increase is due to the 50 to 100% + increase in materials costs that we need to maintain and upgrade our system while trying to keep up with about 4% annual growth. This increased our cash flow due to carrying a large inventory, due to supply chain issues that still exist. We have inventory in the yard for the 2024 and 2025 projects, as lead times for delivery are 6 months to 2 years, depending on the material.

We also have a concern for community, which is another guiding principle. MEC Trust Board (Operation Round-up) consists of seven members appointed by the board of directors. These trustees review applications for grants with funds provided by you, the member. Operation Round Up provided \$11,900 in projects around the county.

In addition, MEC is always proud to sponsor events and projects for organizations in our service territory. Last year, we partnered with Basin Electric, CoBank, and RDFC, supporting local schools, cultural festivals, and community events. Our commitment to community is an integral part of who we are as a cooperative, and we will continue to prioritize and support community development efforts in the future.

Some other highlights for 2023 include expansion at Blue Flint Ethanol. Beginning in October 2023, BFE successfully implemented carbon capture, which will allow it to stay viable in the ethanol market with an industry-leading carbon score.

Another is the continuing growth in White Shield and MHA Nation. MHA Nation continues to invest in its communities for the sustainability of its members. We appreciate its innovation, which makes it a growing, stable community and business in McLean County and the State of North Dakota.

We would like to thank the board and employees for all the dedication and hard work they have done this past year.

We look forward to visiting with you at your annual meeting.

Larry Gessele, Board President

Mark Doyle, General Manager

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Larry Gessele
President



Darcy Klain
Vice President



Rod Stockdill
Sec.-Treasurer



James Odermann



Clarence Behles



Troy Presser



Karen Hanson



Dave Lindell,
Attorney

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES – JUNE 20, 2023

The 78th Annual Meeting of the members of McLean Electric Cooperative, Inc., was held at the company's headquarters in Garrison, North Dakota, on the 20th day of June, 2023. The meeting was called to order by President Lany Gessele at 6:30 o'clock p.m.

Dinner was prepared by Border States Electric and served by the Board of Directors and staff, and the Garrison American Legion Team "The Titans".

Secretary Rod Stockdill informed President Gessele that a quorum was present and President Gessele informed the attendees that the Cooperative was open for business.

President Gessele introduced Pastor Rick Torkelson of Washburn Baptist Church, of Washburn, North Dakota, who gave the opening invocation.

President Gessele recognized present and past military service personnel and led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the playing of the National Anthem.

President Gessele introduced the dignitaries and guests who were in attendance and introduced Jessica Bell, Vice-President of Government and Public Affairs of Rainbow Energy Center to provide a key-note address. During her address she reported that Rainbow is celebrating the 1st anniversary of taking ownership of the Coal Creek Station and the Nexus DC line. She spoke about the projects involving Coal Creek Station, the Nexus line, Discovery Wind Project, and carbon capture and sequestration .

President Gessele reported that the notice of the 78th Annual Meeting and the minutes of

the 77th Annual Meeting were ready to be read for approval. It was moved that a reading of the notice and minutes be waived and that they be approved as presented. The motion was seconded and carried.

President Gessele provided his President's report, as follows:

- He thanked those that helped put together this year's Annual Meeting.
- The Cooperative is experiencing high growth and has been very busy with three crews working.

- Meter change over is ongoing.
- The cooperative is as financially sound as ever.
- He recognized the cooperative staff and thanked them for their work and service to the cooperative.

President Gessele introduced General Manager/CEO, Mark Doyle, to provide his address to the attendees. Manager Doyle discussed the following:

2022 year review:

- The closing of the Coal Creek Station sale to Rainbow Energy.
- Ice storm experienced with many outages and downed poles.
- No lost time by any of the crews.
- Improving member communication. The continuation of the supply chain issues.
- The Cooperative is involved in community support including the provision of scholarships to local school districts in the cooperative's territory, Kid's programs and community donations and sponsorships totalling \$23,795.00
- 2022 was a financially strong year for the Cooperative. The Cooperative experienced a 5.4% plant growth and ended 2022 with an equity ratio of 36.1 %. 2022 Revenue was \$15,533,473.00 with a net margin of \$1,811,579.00. Total assets are \$54.1 million. KWH sales usage for 2022 was 136,848,099 KWH.

2023 year to date Cooperative happenings:

- The Cooperative experienced a major ice fog storm in January.
- Continued growth of the Cooperative. "The Cooperative is busy".
- A new construction work plan/RUS loan was approved in May.

President Gessele introduced Troy Presser, MEC Director as well as the Cooperative's Director to Central Power and the Central Power Director to Basin Electric who provided a Generation and Transmission Report.

- During his report, Director Presser thanked the attendees for the honor to serve them.



ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES, CONTINUED

- 2022 was a great year for Basin. Basin cut its rate by \$1 million and retired \$22 million of capital credits.
- Basin Electric experienced multiple all-time peaks in 2022 with the highest peak in September.
- Basin Electric has plans to build two transmission lines to Canada.
- DGC was approved for a CO2 Storage Permit and Basin rejected its latest offer to sell DGC.
- He showed SPP maps of energy usage and expressed the need for more transmission in the Williston Basin.

General Manager/CEO Doyle provided a Operation Round-up report and explained how Operation Round-up works. He introduced the board members.

In 2022 Operation Round-up received \$14,590.78 and awarded grants of \$6,000.00 to Fundraising Friends of Makoti, Mercer Community Center, Garrison Area Food Pantry, Turtle Lake Chamber of Progress "Bike Fest", YMCA Triangle Y Camp.

He told the attendees that a maximum of \$11.80 can be given in any year.

President Gessele introduced Vice-President, Darcy Klain, who announced that the terms for directors in District 2 and District 7 were up for election. The incumbent directors for those districts, Clarence Behles for District 2, and Larry Gessele for District 7 were running unopposed. Vice President Klain asked for the casting of a unanimous ballot to re-elect the two directors. Such a motion was made and seconded and the directors were re-elected.

General Manager/CEO Doyle announced the following employee service awards:

- Travis Voth, Line Foreman - 20 years
- Lucas Dusek, Lineman - 15 years
- Lucas Schaaf, Engineering Manager - 5 years
- Austin Dillard, Mapping & Computer Service Coordinator - 5 years

Manager Doyle presented the following scholarships:

1. Basin Electric Scholarships of \$500.00 each to Coryssa Behles, of Garrison High School, daughter of Corey and Cynthia Behles of Garrison, North Dakota, and Cade Kjelstrup of Underwood High School, son of Christ and Taryn Kjelstrup, of Underwood, North Dakota. The McLean Electric Scholarship to Justin Volson of Surrey High School, son of Steve and Elaine Volson, of Surrey, North Dakota.
2. The 2023 Youth Tour Essay Contest Winner is Hannah Myers, of Garrison High School of Garrison, North Dakota.

President Gessele asked for any old business. There was none.

President Gessele asked for any new business. There was none.

President Gessele announced that the 78th Annual Meeting grand prize of \$1,000.00 would be given to a meeting attendee who was present. The 2022 winner was Arnold Moll. Other door prizes were presented as well.

President Gessele announced that the 78th Annual Meeting grand prize of \$1,000.00 would be presented in two \$500.00 prizes to attendees who were present. The 2023 winners were Robyn Bauer, of Garrison, North Dakota, and Karen Hanson, of Turtle Lake, North Dakota. Other door prizes were presented as well.

OPERATION ROUND UP®



Operation Round Up is a voluntary program in which McLean Electric Cooperative (MEC) consumers round up their monthly electric bills to the nearest dollar. The money goes into a trust fund, with grants awarded by a seven-member volunteer board.

Operation Round Up funds support qualifying individuals, families, or organizations in need of financial assistance. It assists with personal or family emergencies and community-based education, health, charitable, scientific, or safety programs or projects. Recipients must live within McLean Electric's service area, but don't have to be MEC members.

A total of \$11,900 was awarded in 2023. Nine organizations received grants when MEC consumers "rounded up" through the program in 2023:

- Max Public School - Backpack Program
- TL Trails Project - Brush Mower
- Our Savior Lord Pantry
- Guardian & Protective Services
- Elks Camp Grassick
- First Congregational Church - Garrison Food Pantry
- Andrea Andrews Medical Expenses
- House Fire
- Turtle Lake Chamber of Progress (Bike Fest)

The groundwork to establish Operation Round Up began in 2012. Since awarding its first grants in 2013, MEC members contributed \$155,134.52 to the program. Grants totaling \$133,882.00 have been granted to 88 recipients since the program's inception.

The most a McLean Electric account could contribute annually is \$11.88. For most MEC consumers, contributions average about \$6 annually when each month's bill is rounded up to the nearest dollar.

Operation Round Up board of directors shall be elected and voted on by McLean Electric's seven-member board of directors. Operation Roundup

directors are President Mark Jennings, Washburn; Vice President Debbie Boe, Turtle Lake; Secretary-Treasurer Carla Landenberger, Underwood; Steven Haakenson, Parshall; Lena Volochenko, Butte; Darci Behles, Garrison; Shelly Schumacher, Garrison.

The Operation Round Up board focuses on the organization's goals and mission in its ranking process as it reviews applications. Serving on the Operation Round Up board of directors is a voluntary, non-paying position.

McLean Electric Cooperative employees or board of directors are not involved with the Operation Round Up board or its decision-making. The cooperative's role is advisory, and it helps administer the program and ensuring bylaws and IRS 501(c)(3) regulations are followed.

Recipients can apply more than one time and must be an Internal Revenue Service 501(c)(3) federal tax-exempt organization. Individuals with medical or emergency financial needs can receive grants through nonprofit organizations' grant requests. More information is available on McLean Electric's website, www.mcleanelectric.com under "Community/Operation Round Up" or call the MEC office and visit with Sonja Moe at 701-463-6700 or toll-free 800-263-4922.

2023 Operation Round Up Financial Report

Beginning Balance (January 1, 2023)		\$19,037.82
INCOME		
Round Up Contributions	YTD	\$ 14,114.24
Total Income	YTD	<u>\$ 14,114.24</u>
EXPENSES		
Grants Awarded in 2023		\$ 11,900.00
Administrative Expenses		\$
Total Expenses		<u>\$ 11,900.00</u>
Ending Balance (December 31, 2023)	\$	21,252.06



BALANCE SHEET

Assets		
	2023	2022
ELECTRIC PLANT		
In Service	49,432,894	47,639,450
Electric Plant Under Construction	4,926,555	2,884,680
Total Electric Plant	54,359,449	50,524,130
Less Accumulated Depreciation	13,974,538	13,537,741
Net Electric Plant	40,384,911	36,986,389
OTHER ASSETS AND INVESTMENTS		
Investments in Associated Companies	9,691,364	8,888,543
Other Investments	347,148	407,563
Total Other Assets and Investments	10,038,512	9,296,106
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	1,248,343	1,893,745
Accounts Receivable - Electric Bills	2,933,777	2,692,116
Curr Portion Other Investments - Loans Rec	74,500	74,500
Materials & Supplies	3,002,581	2,543,699
Other Current and Accrued Assets	473,211	128,436
Total Current Assets	7,732,412	7,332,496
DEFERRED DEBITS	465,734	559,146
TOTAL ASSETS	58,621,569	54,174,137

BALANCE SHEET

Liabilities

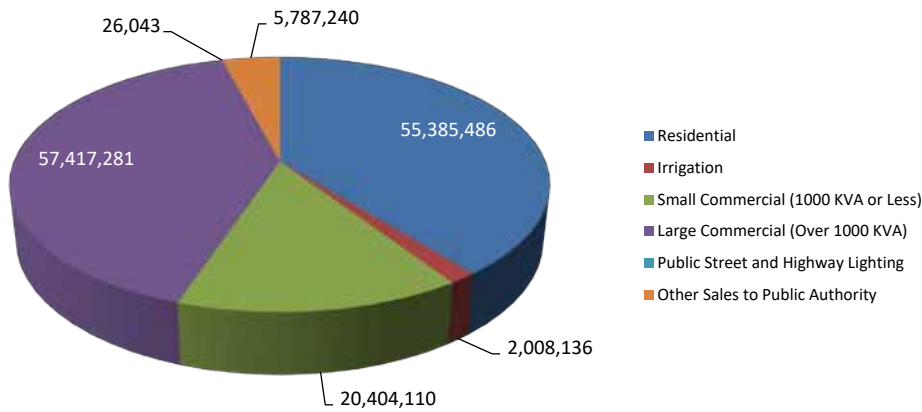
	2023	2022
EQUITIES		
Patronage Capital - Members	19,417,134	18,268,684
Other Margins & Equities	1,089,601	1,070,985
Total Equities	20,506,735	19,339,669
LONG-TERM DEBT		
Total Long-Term Debt	33,902,836	30,309,153
Total Lease Obligations	507,078	477,803
Less Current Maturities	1,585,018	1,507,403
Total Long Term Debt (Net)	32,824,896	29,279,553
OTHER NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accumulated Provision for Pension & Benefits	301,909	333,261
Total Non-Current Liabilities	301,909	333,261
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Current Maturities - Long Term Debt	1,454,202	1,401,911
Current Maturities - Lease Obligations	130,816	105,492
Line of Credit	1,500,000	2,000,000
Accounts Payable - Power Supplier	941,797	882,236
Accounts Payable - General	127,784	105,650
Member Deposits	167,484	44,497
Other Current and Accrued Liabilities	454,064	448,604
Total Current Liabilities	4,776,147	4,988,390
DEFERRED CREDITS		
Advanced Payment for Electricity - Members	211,882	233,264
TOTAL LIABILITIES	58,621,569	54,174,137



STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

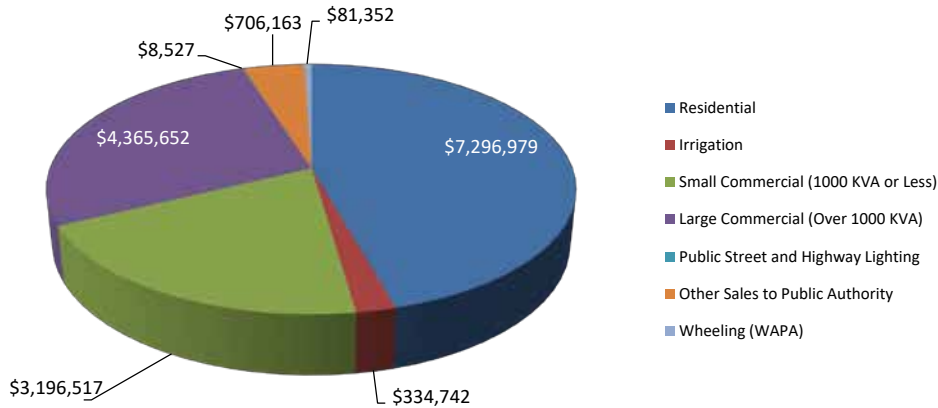
	2023	2022
OPERATING REVENUES		
Electric Revenue	15,908,580	15,428,823
Other	95,883	104,650
Total Operating Revenue	16,004,463	15,533,473
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Cost of Power	9,297,485	8,989,609
Operations & Maintenance	2,082,530	1,734,602
Member Accounts	393,014	372,303
Member Service	58,044	65,818
Administrative and General	1,395,560	1,165,252
Depreciation	1,503,963	1,353,255
Taxes	105,482	103,207
Other	15,412	16,731
Sales Expense	90,355	82,662
Total Operating Expenses	14,941,845	13,883,439
OPERATING MARGINS	1,062,618	1,650,034
FIXED CHARGES		
Interest on Long-Term Debt	1,096,596	1,005,125
Total Fixed Charges	1,096,596	1,005,125
O. MARGIN AFTER FIXED CHGES	(33,978)	644,909
G&T AND OTHER CAP CREDIT	1,065,111	1,112,202
NET OPERATING MARGINS	1,031,133	1,757,111
NON-OPERATING MARGINS		
Merchandising	(30,394)	(10,301)
Other Income	452,073	2,076
Interest Income	35,829	3,071
Gain (Loss) on Disposal prop	24,605	59,622
Total non-operating margins	482,113	54,468
NET MARGIN	1,513,246	1,811,579

KWH USAGE



kWh Usage	
Residential	55,385,486
Irrigation	2,008,136
Small Commercial (1000 KVA or Less)	20,404,110
Large Commercial (Over 1000 KVA)	57,417,281
Public Street and Highway Lighting	26,043
Other Sales to Public Authority	5,787,240
TOTAL	141,028,296

REVENUE



Revenue From Sales of Energy	
Residential	\$ 7,296,979
Irrigation	\$ 334,742
Small Commercial (1000 KVA or Less)	\$ 3,196,517
Large Commercial (Over 1000 KVA)	\$ 4,365,652
Public Street and Highway Lighting	\$ 8,527
Other Sales to Public Authority	\$ 706,163
Wheeling (WAPA)	\$ 81,352
TOTAL	\$ 15,989,932



YEAR END COMPARISON

	2023	2022
Active Services		
Residential	3,698	3,655
Irrigation	98	95
Small Commercial (1000 KVA or Less)	425	408
Large Commercial (Over 1000 KVA)	4	2
Public Street & Lighting	8	8
Other Sales to Public Authority	31	31
Total Active Services	4,264	4,199
Submeters	1,551	1,552
Miles of Line		
Overhead	1,253	1,273
Underground	561	543
kWh sold	141,028,296	136,848,099
Sales of Energy	15,908,580	15,428,822
Average Member Cost	11.28 ¢	11.27 ¢
Employees	21	21

MEET THE CANDIDATES

DARCY KLAIN – INCUMBENT CANDIDATE DISTRICT 4



Darcy Klain is a farmer/ rancher from Ruso. She first served on the MEC Operation Round Up board and has served on the McLean Electric Cooperative board of directors for six years. She has also worked for the South McLean Soil Conservation District and has been an ag loan officer for Dakota West Credit Union. She has an Associate Degree from Minot State University. She is married to Durnell and they have three adult children: Tyler (Carrie), Dalyce (Adam), and Trey (Kadey). She also has 2 granddaughters, Finley and Skylar.

She has been active in the TL-M FFA Alumni, St. Olaf's Church, McLean County 4-H, the North Dakota Simmental Association, the North Dakota Junior Simmental Association, and the McLean County Fair Board for 15 years. She enjoys gardening, traveling, and attending livestock shows and sporting events.

KAREN A. HANSON – INCUMBENT CANDIDATE DISTRICT 6



Karen Hanson has farmed with her husband, Richard, in the midst of the triangle between Turtle Lake, Washburn and Underwood for 34 years. She has represented District 6 on the McLean Electric Cooperative (MEC) board of directors for the past five years. She is still excited about learning something from this ever changing industry and contributing to the cooperative's success.

Karen has served on the MEC Operation Round Up board of directors and church council. She has volunteered her time as a Sunday school teacher, LYO leader, high school class advisor, and substitute bus driver. She enjoys quilting, cooking, and exploring new places!

Karen and Richard will have been married for 34 years this November and have three children: Rachel and Trevor Thomas (Turtle Lake), Joshua and Sarah Hanson (Spearfish, SD) and Jacob Hanson (Denver, CO) Karen just became a MeMa to Callie Thomas this March!

MISSION STATEMENT

“It shall be the aim of McLean Electric Cooperative, Inc. to make electric energy available to its members at the lowest cost consistent with sound economy and good management.”

McLean Electric Cooperative Founding Board of Directors, 1945

MCLEAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE EMPLOYEE RECEIVES COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD



Sonja Moe
Communications
Manager

The North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC) recognized Sonja Moe, communications manager of McLean Electric Cooperative (MEC), with the Community Service Award at its 81st annual meeting on Feb. 13. The award recognizes Sonja's commitment to promoting quality-of-life initiatives in Garrison and the surrounding areas.

"Sonja's drive to improve her community is admirable. Her efforts to promote community health and economic prosperity in McLean County have made an impact in the lives of many, and it's an honor to present her with this award," says NDAREC Executive Vice President and General Manager Josh Kramer.

Sonja has a strong history of serving her community. She's served as a Sunday school leader at her church and volunteered at local food pantries. She's also promoted economic development and community vitality through her involvement in the Garrison Area Improvement Association, Turtle Lake, and Garrison Chambers of Commerce.

Sonja served as the former president of the Garrison Chamber of Commerce, promoting the interests of Garrison's business community. In this role, she ensured open and transparent communication, providing information on upcoming projects, seeking feedback, and addressing concerns. This not only fostered a sense of trust and collaboration but also led to significant community betterment,

empowering residents and enhancing their quality of life.

Sonja also served on the Garrison Food Pantry's board of directors. A critical resource for low-income families in McLean County, the food pantry helps advance community health and improve overall community resilience. As the pantry's treasurer, Sonja conducted a comprehensive assessment of community needs, developed a strategic plan, and mobilized resources effectively. She secured grants, organized volunteers, and coordinated efforts to address hunger issues.

"Sonja is very community-minded and is always looking for ways to better the communities MEC serves. Whether through participation in the Chamber, volunteering at local food banks, pioneering events, or participating in programs, she's always willing to help," says MEC General Manager Mark Doyle.

Every year, NDAREC recognizes individuals for their generous contributions to North Dakota's electric cooperatives and the communities they serve. An eight-member committee of the NDAREC board of directors selects award recipients from nominations submitted by the association's members, which include 17 electric distribution cooperatives and five generation and transmission cooperatives.

NDAREC is the statewide trade association for 17 electric distribution cooperatives and five generation and transmission cooperatives operating in North Dakota. The distribution cooperatives provide electricity to nearly 250,000 North Dakotans. NDAREC services include legislative advocacy, line worker safety training, professional development, cooperative business development and communication services, including publication of the North Dakota Living magazine.

SERVICE AWARDS

50 YEARS OF SERVICE



Daryl Engel,
Meter Tech

25 YEARS OF SERVICE



Tonya Graeber,
Office Manager

15 YEARS OF SERVICE



Brian O'Shea,
Lineman

10 YEARS OF SERVICE



Kelly Schmaltz,
Warehouseman/Locator



Wendy Kinn,
Business Manager

5 YEARS OF SERVICE



Loren Desjardins,
Lineman



Keith Thelen,
Operations Manager



Julie Streich,
Customer Service Rep.



Karen Thompson,
Accountant

YOUR COOPERATIVE STAFF

MANAGEMENT



Mark Doyle,
General Manager/CEO
4 years

FINANCE & ACCOUNTING



Wendy Kinn,
Business Manager
10 years

ENGINEERING



Lucas Schaaf,
Engineering Manager
6 years



Karen Thompson,
Accountant
5 years



Austin Dillard,
GIS & CS Admin
6 years

COMMUNICATIONS



Sonja Moe
Communications Manager
7 years



Daryl Engel,
Meter Tech
50 years

BILLING & CUSTOMER SERVICE



Tonya Graeber,
Office Manager
25 years



Levi Kinn,
Meter Tech
2 years



Julie Streich,
Customer Service Rep.
10 years



Renee Fetzer,
Customer Service Rep./
Work Order Clerk
39 years

YOUR COOPERATIVE STAFF

OPERATIONS



Keith Thelen,
Operations Manager
10 years

GARRISON LINE CREW



Nathan Ruud,
Line Foreman
22 years



Lucas Dusek,
Lineman
16 years



Jesse Carter,
Lineman
9 years



Loren Desjardins,
Lineman
5 years



Conner Moe,
Lineman
2 years

TURTLE LAKE LINE CREW



Travis Voth,
Line Foreman
21 years



Brian O'Shea,
Lineman
15 years



Trevor Thomas,
Lineman
8 years

WAREHOUSEMAN/LOCATOR



Kelly Schmaltz,
Warehouseman/Locator
10 years

2024 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

As part of our commitment to community and area youth, McLean Electric Cooperative (MEC) is pleased to announce the 2024-25 student scholarship winners, whose families are member-owners of MEC. This year, six applications were received. All applicants were rated favorably, which is an indication of the quality of students we have in MEC's service territory

BASIN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE SCHOLARSHIPS

Basin Electric Power Cooperative provides two \$500 to McLean Electric Cooperative to be awarded as a scholarship to two qualified candidates. These scholarships were awarded based on academic excellence, which includes the following criteria: ACT scores, work experience, and participation in school and community activities.



ALYSSA HAAKENSEN

Alyssa will graduate from Parshall High School and is the daughter of Steven and Anita of Parshall. She will be attending Valley City State University pursuing a bachelor's degree in elementary education. She is active in golf, basketball, track, cross country, FFA, chess club, national honor society, and highest honors student.



MARA KRZMARZICK

Mara will graduate from Garrison High School and is the daughter of Karen and Jim Krzmarzick of Garrison. She will be attending the University of Mary pursuing a bachelor's degree in radiologic technology. She is active in volleyball, band, student government, and highest honors student, and volunteer at church, and food pantry.

MCLEAN ELECTRIC SCHOLARSHIP

Each entry had to include a short statement for an essay question to be eligible for the \$500 scholarship. This year's essay question was: What challenges face rural electric cooperatives in the coming years and how do you think challenges should be addressed?



JUSTIS KLABUNDE

Justis will graduate from Garrison High School and is the son of Robyn and Sheila Klabunde. He will be attending BSC and pursuing a career as a plumber. He plans on utilizing his degree to return to the community and work for Steve's Plumbing and farm with his dad.

YOUTH TOUR WINNER



NEELA SAND

Neela Sand is a junior and is the daughter of Darrin and Serena Sand of Garrison. She has been selected to represent McLean Electric Cooperative on the all-expense-paid 2024 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington D.C. this June. During the week-long tour, Neela and other students from across North Dakota will travel with the Montana youth delegates. They will tour sites, monuments, attractions, and congressional offices. They will learn about electric cooperatives and discuss issues facing their community and nation.

APPLY FOR A TRIP OF A LIFETIME

WHAT IS YOUTH TOUR?

- An all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., paid for by McLean Electric Cooperative.
- A week of visiting historic monuments, touring world class museums, learning about electric cooperatives and meeting elected officials.
- Developing lifelong friendships with delegates from across the country!



JUNE 15 TO 21, 2024

AN ALL-EXPENSE-PAID TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

ESSAY QUESTION

If chosen as a Youth Tour delegate, you will be traveling to Washington, D.C., to experience and learn about America's rich history. What moment in American history do you wish you had been a part of and what would you have contributed?



HOW TO APPLY

- To enter the essay-writing contest, you must be a sophomore or junior in high school, and you and your parents or guardian must be served by McLean Electric Cooperative.
- Email entries to Sonja Moe at sonjadm@mcleanelectric.com or mail a hard copy to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, 4031 Hwy. 37 Bypass NW, P.O. Box 399, Garrison, ND, 58540-9447.
- Questions? Call Sonja at 701-463-6700 during regular business hours.
- The deadline is Jan. 19, 2024.



LEARN MORE AT NDYOUTHTOUR.COM

MEMBER GIFT



Ten-dollar credit will automatically be applied to each valid member account when member registers at MEC's 2024 Annual Meeting. Credit will show on the member's next MEC bill. Actual certificate does not need to be sent to MEC. Limit of one bill credit per member account. Not redeemable for cash.

DOOR PRIZE # _____