

JANUARY 2018

MWEC

Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

WILLISTON
577-3765

STANLEY
628-2242

NEW TOWN
627-3550



Alex Vournas
(Williston) and his
daughter, **Julia**,
ring bells for the
Salvation Army.



Holidays
in our community

Williston's Parade of Lights float took second place.



Holidays

in our community



New Town's first-place float.

Each year, Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative (MWECC) employees volunteer time to show the area communities what they mean to them. This year, each office location participated in their area Parade of Lights, with Williston winning second place and New Town taking first place.

In Williston, three employees braved the cool temperatures and North Dakota wind to ring bells for the Salvation Army. Funds that are raised will go to Williams County residents who are in need.

In Tioga, employees, including General Manager Dale Haugen and his wife, Karen, helped treat the local children to a free Christmas movie and, of course, pop, popcorn and candy!

Williston employees also took some time and worked at the booth at the Spring Lake Holiday Lights Drive to raise funds for local nonprofit Elizabeth's Dance Studio. Eighty-six vehicles took in the light displays and participants had the opportunity to create a craft and co-op volunteers taught children about electricity.

MWECC would like to thank all of its employees for always taking time to support their local communities. ■



Five lucky kids won prizes after the free Christmas movie sponsored by MWECC.



**Urgent call from
a utility?
It could be
a scam.**



Look out for scams

BY MEGHAAN EVANS

Unfortunately, in today's world, scams are inevitable. Scammers can threaten you with everything from legal action involving the IRS to turning off power to your home.

Utility scams often involve an individual or group posing as an employee of your electric cooperative. The scammer may use threatening language to frighten you into offering your credit card or bank account information. Don't fall victim to these types of scams. Understand the threats posed and your best course of action:

- If someone calls your home or cellphone demanding you pay your electric bill immediately,

gather as much information as you can from that individual, hang up the phone and contact the local authorities. Scammers often use threats and urgency to pressure you into giving them your bank account number or loading a pre-paid credit or debit card. MWEC will never ask you to offer personal finance information over the phone. If you have any doubts about your utility bill, contact our member payment center either in person, or over the phone at 1-800-279-2667.

- If someone comes to your home claiming to be an employee of MWEC that needs

to collect money or inspect parts of your property, call us to verify they are, in fact, an employee. If they are not, call local authorities for assistance and do not let the individual into your home.

There are other types of scams consumers should watch out for:

- Government agencies like the IRS will never call to inform you that you have unpaid taxes or other liens against you. You will always receive this type of information in the mail. If someone calls claiming to be the IRS, hang up immediately.
- If you receive an email from an unknown sender; an email riddled with spelling errors and typos; or an email threatening action unless a sum of money is paid, do not click any links provided within the email, and do not respond to the email. Simply delete the email, or send it to your spam folder.
- If someone calls your home claiming to have discovered a virus on your computer, hang up. This caller's intent is to access personal information you may be keeping on your computer.

MWEC wants to make sure you avoid any and all types of scams that could put you or your financial information in jeopardy. If you have any questions or would like more information about how you can protect yourself from scammers, call us, or visit our website www.mwec.com. ■

Meghaan Evans writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.



MWEC accepting applications for scholarship program

Each year, Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative (MWEC) gives one, \$1,000 scholarship to a dependent of a member. Basin Electric Power Cooperative, our power generation cooperative, provides the funds to all of its member co-ops.

Applicants must be high school seniors enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time course of study at an accredited two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/

technical school.

Scholarship recipients will be chosen based on a combination of SAT/ACT scores and overall grade point average, work experience, participation in school and community activities, a personal statement of career goals, a written recommendation by a third party and an essay on the topic, "Describe how a cooperative can build a culture to best serve its members."

Applications are available

at www.mwec.com, at any of our three locations, or by emailing jessicam@mwec.com

All applications must be submitted no later than **Feb. 21, 2018**, to:

**Mountrail-Williams
Electric Cooperative
Attn: Jessica George
P.O. Box 1346**

Williston, ND 58802

-or-

jessicam@mwec.com ■

WRITE A WINNING ESSAY AND WIN A TRIP OF A LIFETIME!

JUNE 9-15, 2018

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

- To enter the essay-writing contest, you must be a sophomore or junior in high school.
- You and your parents or guardian must be served by Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative.
- If you have a question, contact Jessica George, Mountrail-Williams Electric, at the address listed below, or call 701-577-3765 during regular business hours.
- The deadline is **Jan. 31, 2018**. Emailed entries should be directed to jessicam@mwec.com, and hard-copy entries mailed to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 1346, Williston, ND 58802-1346.

TOP 3 REASONS

TO ENTER THE ESSAY-WRITING CONTEST

1. All-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., compliments of Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative.
2. A whole week to visit unforgettable historic monuments, museums and the U.S. Capitol.
3. A learning experience you'll never forget.

ESSAY QUESTION:

There are approximately 20 million military veterans in the United States today. How shall fellow U.S. citizens honor and look after these veterans, who have served and sacrificed on our behalf? Describe any special connection you may have to a veteran or active-duty member of the military.



CHECK OUT THE ESSAY-CONTEST GUIDELINES AT
www.ndyouthtour.com

Heat Your Home Safely

Fireplace safety

- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace to prevent embers or sparks from jumping out.
- Do not burn paper in your fireplace.
- Put the fire out before you go to sleep or leave your home.
- Put ashes in a metal container with a lid, outside, at least 3 feet from your home.



Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected each year by a professional.

Make Sure to Follow These Important Tips Before You Plug In

Make sure the heater has an automatic shutoff, so it shuts off if it tips over.

PLACE space heaters on a flat, level surface, away from high-traffic areas.



PLUG a space heater directly into an outlet and avoid using an extension cord.

NEVER LEAVE space heaters unattended.

ONLY USE space heaters with the certification label of a nationally recognized testing lab.

DON'T USE a space heater if the plug is broken or the cord is frayed, worn or damaged.



Four Home Heating Tips to Live By

1 **KEEP ANYTHING THAT CAN BURN** at least three feet away from a heating source.

3ft

2 **HAVE YOUR HEATING SYSTEM** inspected annually.



3 **KEEP VENTS CLEAR** of dust and debris.



4 **INSTALL CARBON MONOXIDE (CO)** alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning.



BRIGHTEN YOUR HOME, LIGHTEN YOUR ENERGY BILL

Saving money on your electricity bill is sometimes as simple as changing a light bulb. Upgrading 15 of the inefficient incandescent light bulbs in your home could save you about \$50 per year.

LEDs

Light-emitting diode (LED) bulbs use about 75-80 percent less energy than traditional bulbs.



What you should know:

- LEDs also last up to 25 times longer than the traditional incandescent bulbs they replace.
- They come in a variety of colors, and some are dimmable or offer convenient features such as daylight and motion sensors.
- LEDs work well indoors and outdoors because of their durability and performance in cold environments.
- While LEDs are more expensive, they still save money because they last a long time and have very low energy use.

CFLs

Compact fluorescent lamps (CFL) use about 75 percent less energy than traditional bulbs.



What you should know:

- Because they use less electricity than traditional incandescents, typical CFLs can pay for themselves in less than nine months, and then start saving you money each month.
- A CFL uses about one-fourth the energy and lasts 10 times longer than a comparable traditional incandescent bulb that puts out the same amount of light.
- If you are looking for a dimmable bulb, check the package to make sure you purchase a CFL with that feature.
- Fluorescent bulbs contain a small amount of mercury, and they should always be recycled at the end of their lifespan.

Choosing the Right Brightness & Color

[MORE LUMENS] = [MORE LIGHT]

Instead of watts, look for lumens to measure the brightness of the bulb.

Look for the light output you need to match the brightness of your old standard bulbs.

Watts measure the amount of electricity a bulb needs to operate. ENERGY STAR certified bulbs **provide the same brightness (lumens)** with less energy (watts)

Old Standard Bulbs (Watts)	Energy Star Bulb Brightness
100 watts	1,600 lumens
60 watts	800 lumens
40 watts	450 lumens

ENERGY STAR bulbs are available in a wide range of colors. Light color, or appearance, matches a temperature on the Kelvin scale (K). Lower K means warmer, yellowish light, while higher K means cooler, bluer light.

**Unofficial minutes
of regular board meeting
Nov. 29, 2017**

Directors present: Sorenson, Lynne, Johnson, Hartsoch, Lahtinen, Ludwig, Lalim, and Jorgenson.

Directors absent: Grant.

Others present: Manager Haugen, in-house counsel Johnson-Ellis, attorney Foust, Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) representatives and staff members.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. at the Train ND building, Williston. Minutes of the Oct. 25, 2017, regular board meeting were approved as presented. The agenda was approved as presented.

CFC FINANCIAL FORECAST PRESENTATION: CFC is Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative's (MWEC) sole lender. CFC representatives discussed plans for future operations

Staff from this cooperative and CFC have had joint working sessions to exchange ideas on each of these areas. The load forecast, cost of power, plant growth and SPP contributions are key factors in trying to develop a revised policy related to the financial operations of the cooperative.

Options for a possible revision of the existing financial policy are being reviewed and will be further discussed at a later meeting.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT: In-house counsel Johnson Ellis reported on an alleged trespass matter concerning an underground electrical line.

In-house counsel Johnson Ellis and attorney Foust gave a progress update on the record title curative for the Osborn Substation land.

OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REPORT: The total margins for the year to date is \$17,752,867.00. OTIER is 2.22; TIER is 2.40; MDSC is 2.15; equity is 30.85 percent and SPP equity is 34 percent.

SPECIAL EQUIPMENT/WORK ORDER CLOSEOUTS: The board approved the closeout of the following special equipment/work order:

Closeout 682.....	\$139,562.05
Closeout 684.....	\$2,864.49
Closeout 685.....	\$23,651.98
Closeout 686.....	\$2,679,136.70
Closeout 687.....	\$3,200,322.22
TOTAL.....	\$6,045,537.44

CAPITAL CREDIT

RETIREMENTS: The board approved the retirement of the following capital credit accounts for November 2017:

Clinton H. Bergstrom estate.....	
Alice K. Lund estate	
Ethel Hegstad estate.....	
Merlin G. Lockwood estate	
Betty Bloom estate	

BAD DEBTS: The board approved the transfer of \$223.23 from accounts receivable to bad debts. Efforts will continue to collect these sums including the retention of capital credits.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

SAFETY – Manager Haugen reported there was one vehicular accident in November and the written safety report was made available.

RELIABILITY AND OUTAGE REPORT – The reliability and outage report was made available. There were 74 outages in October.

MWEC BUILDING UPDATE – The Nov. 21, 2017, owner's meeting notes were made available.

MEMBER CONCERNS: Manager Haugen reported he contacted a member who wrote a letter about a policy concern. The letter was also provided.

CHRISTMAS: A motion to give a Christmas bonus to MWEC employees and directors was approved.

MEETING REPORTS:

Upper Missouri Power Cooperative – Director Jorgenson reported on the strategic planning meeting he attended. The general manager update from Nov. 22, 2017, 2018 budget with power bill summary, PPT budget rates for November 2017 and SPP slides from Carl Monroe's presentation were made available.

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) – The NRECA annual meeting is

February 2018 in Nashville, Tenn. The board ratified the nominations for voting delegates and alternates for NRECA, National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC), CFC and Federated as follows:

NRECA – Director Lynne will serve as delegate and Director Johnson will serve as alternate

NISC – Director Johnson will serve as delegate and Director Lynne will serve as alternate

CFC – Director Sorenson will serve as delegate and Director Johnson will serve as alternate

Federated – Director Lynne will serve as delegate and Director Johnson will serve as alternate

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. ■



**MOUNTRAIL-WILLIAMS
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**
P.O. Box 1346
Williston, N.D. 58802-1346
P.O. Box 129
Stanley, N.D. 58784-0129

DIRECTORS

Roger Sorenson.....	Chairperson
Robert Grant	Vice-Chairperson
Cheryl Hartsoch	Treasurer
Blaine Jorgenson	Secretary
Larry Johnson.....	Director
Aaron Lynne	Director
Garrett Lalim	Director
Luke Lahtinen.....	Director
Dick Ludwig.....	Director
Neff, Eiken & Neff, PC.....	Project Attorney
Dale Haugen	General Manager

OFFICE PHONE NUMBERS:
Williston.....(701) 577-3765
Stanley.....(701) 628-2242
New Town.....(701) 627-3550
WATS.....(800) 279-2667

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative