

SEE PAGE 5 FOR  
HOLIDAY HOURS

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## MEC TRUSTEES

President  
Tom Alsaker  
District #2, Big Flat  
880-8801

Vice President  
Susan Thraen  
District #3, Florence  
240-6210

Secretary-Treasurer  
Ray Cebulski  
District #5, Seeley Lake  
677-2280

Terry Hoke  
District #1, El-Mar  
728-6221

Chuck Drinville  
District #4, Clinton  
825-4101

Dena Hooker  
District #6, Ovando  
793-5632

Peter Simonich  
District #7, Evaro  
740-1033

**MISSOULA ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE, INC.**  
1700 W. Broadway  
Missoula, MT 59808

406-541-4433  
1-800-352-5200

Office Hours:  
Monday-Friday  
8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Pay Online:  
missoulaelectric.com

Pay By Phone:  
1-888-477-7340

Questions:  
info@meccoop.com

General Manager  
Mark Hayden

## STRATEGIC PLANNING 2016

### *Charting our Course for the Future*

At Missoula Electric Cooperative (MEC), our Mission Statement is straightforward: "Our business is providing energy. Our mission is serving our members." Our Statement of Values further supports that mission by defining SERVICE in terms of Safety, Employees, Reliability, Value, Integrity, Community and Efficiency. To ensure that we are staying true to our mission, organizational values, and operational goals, your Board of Trustees and Management team conducts Strategic Planning sessions to set priorities, focus energy and resources, and strengthen our operations around intentional outcomes and results. In early November, we gathered to review our progress toward those common goals, and identify opportunities and challenges in the months and years ahead.

The results of our discussions reinforced many of the positive initiatives identified during our strategic planning session held in 2014. For example, our efforts to increase safety awareness and performance have yielded meaningful improvements in our operations. In fact, your MEC Safety Committee was recently invited to showcase their accomplishments on a national level at the NRECA Safety Summit in Fort Worth, Texas. Our strategic planning session recognized that this is, and will remain, a core value in all that we do going forward.

The cornerstone of our reliability efforts is our System Maintenance and Reliability Taskforce or SMART. The SMART program is an integrated maintenance program focused on proactive vegetation management, system-wide installation of wildlife

protection wherever possible, and routine equipment inspection and maintenance. This program has resulted in a significant reduction in nuisance blinks and outages, and future enhancements will include the incorporation of a formal Avian Protection Plan.

Technology advancements have certainly made serving our members more efficient, effective and convenient. Automated Meter Infrastructure (AMI) has revolutionized the gathering of monthly meter readings and created new opportunities for improved outage management and restoration. Similarly, the software we utilize to bill members, stake new services, and account for our utility's plant is both versatile and powerful. The evolution and integration of technology in our industry is not likely to reverse course anytime soon,

### MANAGER'S ARTICLE By Mark Hayden



and we recognize our obligation as stewards of an ever-increasing amount of data to put our members first by maintaining a robust cyber security program.

We also recognized that the needs and expectations of our members change over time, and our strategic initiatives must evolve to meet them. New opportunities for improved member engagement were identified and include the development of a comprehensive communications plan, the development of more powerful mobile tools for member convenience, and the implementation of prepaid metering to allow members increased flexibility in

*Continued on page 4*

managing their MEC account. In addition, we recognized the need to continually evaluate our rates and rate structures as new technology changes how our members use, or in some cases, generate power through distributed resources.

Finally, we know that our employees are our greatest assets, and I am proud to work alongside each of them.

We are committed to delivering excellence in all that we do by maintaining a well-trained workforce that understands our important role in the communities that we serve. I hope that everyone has a safe and enjoyable Holiday Season, and as always, give me a call at 406-541-6340 if you have questions or concerns.

## MEC SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

*Changes in effect for application and selection process*



December marks the start of the application period for MEC's scholarship program. This year, MEC will once again offer area students the opportunity to compete for one of fourteen \$1,000 scholarships. Scholarships will be distributed through MEC's service territory with two scholarships awarded for each district. All members of Missoula Electric Cooperative with an active account, or their dependents, may apply for scholarship awards. Applicants must include their account number when submitting their application.

Scholarship applications may be downloaded from our website at [www.missoulaelectric.com](http://www.missoulaelectric.com) where you will find a link on the home page. Make sure to complete all sections of the application. Be sure to attach school transcripts to your application (a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 is required). Don't forget to sign and date your application. Incomplete applications, or applications containing errors will not be considered.

One of the missions of MEC is to support and promote education. As a cooperative, we operate on a non-profit basis. This means each year, after all the bills are paid, we allocate all remaining margins back to the members in the form of capital credits. Capital Credits are retired (paid out) periodically with board approval after review of the Cooperative's financial status. Sometimes, the intended recipient cannot be located and the capital credits go unclaimed. After a period of time, unclaimed capital credits are turned over to MEC's education trust fund. The scholarships awarded by the Cooperative are funded by these unclaimed capital credits.

Completed scholarship applications must be received by 5:00pm on Wednesday, February 1, 2017. If you have questions, please contact Vickie at 406-541-4433.

## INVEST IN YOUR ENERGY FUTURE - TODAY

*Phase II MEC Solar Panel Subscriptions Limited*

If you have been thinking of investing in MEC Solar, now is the time. Panels are selling fast and won't last forever. Adding solar to your home's energy portfolio couldn't be easier with our community solar program. Members can add solar to their home's energy portfolio for as little as \$700. If you have questions about MEC Solar, visit our website at [www.missoulaelectric.com](http://www.missoulaelectric.com), or call the office at 541-4433.



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTION INFORMATION



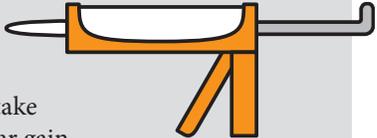
As a member-owned cooperative, Missoula Electric is governed by a democratically elected Board of Trustees. In 2017, Trustees for Districts #5 and #7 will be elected. Eligible members residing within these districts' boundaries are welcome to run for a Trustee position. If you are interested in running, please contact Missoula Electric Cooperative at 541-4433 to determine your eligibility. Board election packets will be available to pick up at the Missoula office beginning Tuesday, January 3, 2017. Completed packets will be accepted in the Missoula office until close of business Wednesday, February 1, 2017.

## MEC BOARD APPOINTS NEW TRUSTEE FOR DISTRICT #7



After evaluating a number of applicants for the vacancy in MEC's Trustee District #7, the Board has named Peter Simonich to fill the remainder of the term which expires in March, 2017. Peter is a retired employee of PPL Montana, where he served as Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. Peter brings nearly 35 years of experience in the power generation business to the Board. Prior to his employment with PPL, Peter worked for Montana Power Company as a startup engineer at the Colstrip plant. During his career at Colstrip, he worked as a maintenance supervisor, operations manager and production area leader before being appointed Vice President and Chief Operating Officer in 2009. Peter has a degree in chemical engineering from Montana State University and is a registered professional engineer in Montana.

## 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS – 12 ENERGY SAVING TIPS

1. Purchase LED Christmas lights – look for the ENERGY STAR logo to ensure savings.
2. Make sure the fireplace damper is shut when the fireplace is not in use.
3. Hire an HVAC professional to inspect your furnace.
4. Turn down your thermostat when company arrives – all those bodies will heat the space for free.
5. Purchase and install a programmable thermostat and save energy all year long. 
6. Put holiday lights on a timer that shuts off while everyone is snug in their beds. 
7. Purchase energy efficient electronics when giving as gifts.
8. Seal air leaks around doors and windows. 
9. Open blinds or drapes in the morning to take advantage of solar gain, close at night to keep the cold out.
10. Stuff stockings with rechargeable batteries and reduce the number which end up in the landfill.
11. Use the oven light to check what is going on in the oven – opening the oven door reduces the oven temperature and uses more energy.
12. Hire a professional auditor to do a thorough inspection of your home and suggest energy saving changes.

Source: NRECA

### HOLIDAY HOURS

MEC will be closed  
Monday, December 26, 2016  
and Monday January 2, 2017  
in observance of the  
Christmas and New Year's holidays.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY REBATES

Effective 10/1/2016

### APPLIANCES (New)

ENERGY STAR Clothes Washers	\$15.00-\$50.00
ENERGY STAR Clothes Dryers	\$50.00-\$175.00
Thermostatic Shut-off Valves	\$14.00-\$23.00
Pipe Insulation	\$5.00-\$25.00

### HVAC MEASURES\*

Ductless Heat Pumps*	\$800.00-\$1,000.00
Air-Source Heat Pump Upgrade*	\$500.00-\$700.00
Air-Source Heat Pump Conversions*	\$1,400.00-\$1,600.00
Geothermal Heat Pump Systems (new)*	\$3,000.00
Duct Sealing*	\$200.00-\$250.00

### NEW CONSTRUCTION\*

New ENERGY STAR Manufactured Homes	\$1,200.00
Montana House (v 2.0)*	\$1,500.00

### WEATHERIZATION

Insulation*	VARIES
ENERGY STAR Exterior Door*	\$40.00
Low-E Storm Windows*	\$2.00/Sq. Ft.
Prime Window Replacement*	\$2.00-\$8.00/Sq. Ft.

\*Restrictions apply, make sure to contact an Energy Sense representative to find out how to obtain your rebate. In cases of HVAC measures, new construction and window replacement and weatherization, pre-approval by MEC is generally required. For a list of qualified ductless heat pump installers or PTCS technicians, please contact Dan at 406-541-6333.



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

According to the Consumer Electronics Association, the average household owns 24 consumer electronics products, which are responsible for 12 percent of household electricity use. ENERGY STAR-certified audio/video equipment is up to 50 percent more efficient than conventional models.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

Energy Sense   
Together we can...Together we will

## PAYMENT SCHEDULING

Members using SmartHub can now schedule payments in advance. If you have ever wanted to set up a payment to come out of your bank account at some future date, but didn't want to set up reoccurring automatic payments, now you can. Payments can be scheduled to come out on the due date, or another date of your choice. Scheduling a payment is easy with SmartHub. Once logged in, click on the maroon "Make Payment" button, enter the amount you want to pay and click Pay Now button. On the next screen you can choose to make the payment today or schedule it for a future date and search for "SmartHub".

