

# F E R G U S

## FEATURES

Member Newsletter ♦ Fergus Electric Cooperative, Inc., Lewistown, MT ♦ [www.ferguselectric.coop](http://www.ferguselectric.coop)

## 85TH ANNUAL MEETING



### MANAGER'S MESSAGE

From Carson Sweeney

## CELEBRATING 85 YEARS

**O**UR 85<sup>th</sup> annual meeting was a success. Thank you to those who were able to take the time to attend. We enjoyed a wonderful lunch provided by the Central Montana Cattlewomen.

Our attendance was up this year, with 149 registered members and more than 300 total people in attendance.

President Paul Descheemaeker reviewed the state of affairs for our nation's electric grid and the concerning retirement of dispatchable power plants. Paul also updated everyone on the progress of the new building currently under construction in Roundup. The concrete pad was poured in early June during one of the few days when it wasn't raining. Project completion is currently scheduled for November.

I provided an overview of the work completed in 2022, as well as upcoming projects including a new transmission line in the Hilger-Winifred area. I also covered our plans for a revenue-neutral rate restructuring plan that we are developing.

### New Rate Structure

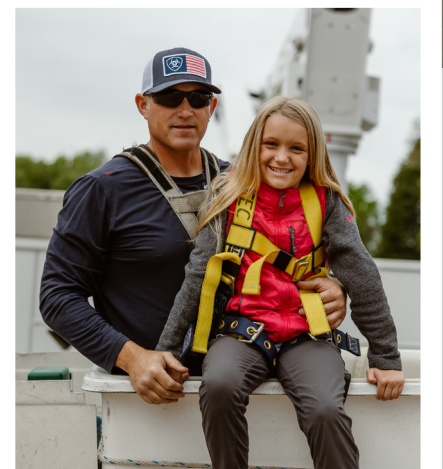
The new rate structure will include a monthly base charge, a lower energy charge, and a peak kilowatt (kW)



**ABOVE:** More than 300 people attended Fergus Electric's 85th Annual Meeting in June. **RIGHT:** FEC Foreman Tyson and his daughter Scottie Ann Ruff prepare to take a bucket truck ride. | **PHOTOS BY KATE LOOSE SEVEN DIAMOND PHOTOGRAPHY**

charge. The rate changes will be revenue neutral to Fergus Electric Cooperative but may increase or decrease your monthly bill based on your rate class and usage profile.

*See MANAGER'S MESSAGE, page 7*







Fergus Electric Auditor Cory Wheeler gives the annual financial report. | KATE LOOSE SEVEN DIAMOND PHOTOGRAPHY



FEC Foreman Tyson Ruff and Vice President Terry Frost take a bucket truck ride. | KATE LOOSE SEVEN DIAMOND PHOTOGRAPHY



All eligible student attendees were awarded a \$1,000 Luck of the Draw Scholarship.  
**Front Row, (seated L to R):** Reba Watson, Riley Obert, Amanda Sweeney, Brooke Weinheimer, Evelyn Miller, Jacy Ayers, Hayley Stahl, Allison Denton, and Tessa Gatz; **Middle Row:** Carson Barta, Ashton Moseman, Abram Friesen, Dakota Auck, Trinity Edwards, June LePage, Ella Shultz, Jayda Southworth, Danielle Horan, Callie Donaldson, Lexie Goettlich,



**ABOVE:** Fergus Electric President Paul Descheemaeker gave a report to the membership at the Annual Meeting. **RIGHT:** Fergus Electric General Manager Carson Sweeney addresses the membership. | KATE LOOSE SEVEN DIAMOND PHOTOGRAPHY







Jessica Horan, Megan Maxwell, Thomas Horan, Elizabeth Hickey, and Parker Donaldson; **Back Row:** Asher Edwards, Travis McAlpin, Layton Tucek, Caden Epperson, Levi Boyles, Cole Martin, Ashton Deegan, and Carter Derks | **PHOTOS BY KATE LOOSE SEVEN DIAMOND PHOTOGRAPHY**



Jill Wright with Central Montana Cattlewomen serves lunch to FEC members at the 85th Annual Meeting. | **KATE LOOSE SEVEN DIAMOND PHOTOGRAPHY**

## MANAGER'S MESSAGE

*Continued from page 5*

Many cooperative utilities in Montana have successfully implemented a three-part rate structure such as this. Our team is thoroughly reviewing our rate restructuring plan in a diligent and serious manner.

We understand that these decisions will impact our membership for many years to come. Our goal for fair and reasonable rates across all rate classes is our top priority. Strategic and intentional changes such as these will help a strong cooperative maintain stable and reasonable rates long into the future.

Our intention to implement these changes is occurring at a time when Fergus Electric's finances are stable and there is no need for a rate increase. As we finalize the details of our revenue-neutral rate restructuring plan, we will proactively communicate the information to our membership leading up to the anticipated effective date of January 1. As we provide additional information, I encourage you to contact our office with any questions you may have.

### *Chris Christensen*

This year we had a special guest speaker, Chris Christensen, past National Rural Electric Cooperative Association President and current board member of NorVal Electric Cooperative in Glasgow. Chris informed our membership on his experience as an executive officer at NRECA. Chris kept everyone laughing, as is typical with each of his speeches. We appreciate and thank Chris for taking the time to visit Fergus Electric and address our membership during our annual meeting.




Chris Christensen

### *Scholarships*

The Fergus Electric Board of Directors met prior to the annual meeting and approved awarding all eligible student attendees a \$1,000 scholarship. In 2022, the estate of Charlie Guinn and Susan Knedler donated approximately \$70,000 in capital credits to Fergus Electric to be used for scholarship opportunities. We certainly enjoyed seeing the students smile as Director Cathy Kombol announced that all eligible students would be receiving a scholarship.

### *Thank you*

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make our 85th annual meeting a success. I hope you are enjoying the warm summer weather! 



# 85TH ANNUAL MEETING



**ABOVE:** Tyson Ruff, Dakota Auck and Shawn Auck at Fergus Electric's 85th Annual Meeting. **LEFT:** Board Directors Bob Evans and Cathy Kombol. **BELOW:** Montana HD30 Representative James Bergstrom, center, attends FEC's Annual Meeting. | **PHOTOS BY KATE LOOSE SEVEN DIAMOND PHOTOGRAPHY**



## IDENTIFY ACCOUNT NUMBER\*

### WIN A \$32.50 CREDIT

If one of the following account numbers is yours, call Fergus Electric (406-538-3465) and identify yourself and your account number and you will receive a \$32.50 credit on next month's statement.

**Account 395227, Account 345282  
Account 397397, Account 397359  
Account 49610, Account 395849**

### CONGRATULATIONS!

**Roland Coon** of Moore was last month's winner!

\*NUMBERS ARE DRAWN MONTHLY

## Fergus Electric Cooperative, Inc. LEWISTOWN, MT

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

### FOR OUTAGES

**First:** Check the fuses or breakers in the building in which the electricity is off.

**Second:** Check the breaker below the meter.

**Third:** If electricity is still out, call a neighbor to see if they have electricity.

**Fourth:** Call 406-538-3465 day or night or:

Dale Rikala .....	406-366-3374
Bret Ophus .....	406-366-7523
Bret Nellerhoe (Roundup).....	406-939-0636
Carson Sweeney .....	406-366-0971
Melanie Foran.....	406-462-5650
Scott Olson .....	406-366-5822
Dan Balster .....	406-366-0975

### FERGUS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ferguselectric](http://www.facebook.com/ferguselectric)

**Carson Sweeney.....General Manager**

**Dale Rikala.....Line Superintendent**

**Sally Horacek .....Office Manager**

**Janine Rife Didier .....Editor**

Fergus Electric is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**District 1:** Paul Descheemaeker, President, Lewistown, 428-2417

**District 2:** Brett Maxwell, Lewistown, 538-9002

**District 3:** Brad Arntzen, Hilger, 462-5555

**District 4:** Cathy Kombol, Roundup, 428-2202

**District 5:** Terry Frost, Vice President, Roundup, 323-3415

**District 6:** Jason Swanz, Sec./Treas., Judith Gap, 473-2462

**District 7:** Bob Evans, Jr., Geyser, 735-4476

**Fergus Features is an award-winning newsletter.**

## INDEPENDENCE DAY

### CLOSURE

Fergus Electric Cooperative's office will be closed Tuesday, July 4

