



BIG FLAT NEWS



November 2024

www.bigflatelectric.com

REMINDER...REMINDER...REMINDER!!!

WIN A FREE TRIP TO WASHINGTON D.C.

ATTENTION High School sophomores and juniors:

Here's your chance to win a free trip to Washington, D.C., June 14 - 21.

More than 1,500 students from across America take part in the Youth Tour experience each year, and so can you! This unique trip will give you the opportunity to watch history come alive as you explore museums, memorials and monuments with students from your state.

Gain a personal understanding of American history and explore your role as a citizen by meeting your representatives and senators. Bottom line, you will make friendships that will last a lifetime, and be part of a group that has more than 50,000 alumni in every walk of life.

The student and/or a parent or guardian must be served by Big Flat Electric Co-op. Contest rules can be found at bigflatelectric.com, from your school counselor or stop by the Big Flat Electric office in Malta. The topic for the 2025 Washington, D.C., Youth Tour is:

What was the most important event to have occurred in our nation during your lifetime? How did it affect you?

Entry Deadline: December 2.

All applicants have a chance to win \$100 just for applying! RM

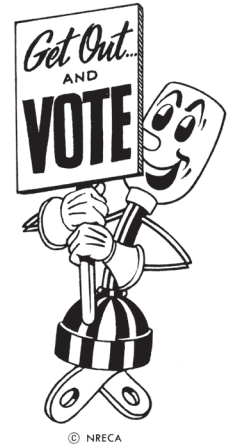


VOTING IS IMPORTANT YOUR VOICE MATTERS

In the United States, voting is a fundamental right and an essential part of being an engaged citizen. It allows each of us to have a say in shaping the policies and future of our communities, cities and country. Regardless of age (as long as you're 18!), ethnicity, or background, every person has the power to make a difference through their vote. Voting is important, and it empowers individuals to contribute to the betterment of society by:

- Having a voice in decision-making.
- Influencing policies and laws.
- Holding leaders accountable.
- Reflecting the will of the people.
- Honoring the struggle for suffrage.
- Fostering civic engagement.

Voting is not merely a right; it is a responsibility and privilege that each eligible citizen should embrace. By participating in elections, you play an active role in shaping the future of your community and country. Your vote carries the power to influence policies, hold leaders accountable and create a more inclusive society. It is essential to remember that voting is not only about your individual voice, but also about contributing to the collective voice of the people. By exercising your right to vote, you are strengthening democracy and ensuring that everyone has a chance to be heard. So, whether you are young or old, your vote matters — use it to make a positive impact on the world around you! RM



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ANNUAL MEETING

Big Flat Electric's 77th Meeting of the Members was a success!

Big Flat Electric Co-op's 77th Annual Meeting was quite successful! Here is a summary of the key highlights:

Attendance

Seventy members registered for the meeting, and there were 85 attendees overall.

President's Report

Alan Wasson, board president, announced that the board approved implementing a demand charge for peak usage to residential, stock well, small commercial and public building rate classes. The rate will be \$0.25 per kilowatt (demand), and go in to effect January 1. More details will appear in next month's newsletter.

Prizes and Donations

Several vendors generously donated prizes. Winners were Bill Anderson - PC News (yearly subscription); Loring Coloney and Mule Tracks - NWPPA ((2) \$50 gift cards); Klindworth Farms - Hardware Hank (gift basket); Luanna Longfox - Bank of Malta (Sacagawea Silver Coin); William French & Turner Colony - First State Bank ((2) 25 pound meat bundles); Wellen Jones Jr. - Border States Electric (Yeti Cooler); Phillips County Water & Sewer, Olsen Grain & Livestock, Max Muller - Ezzie's Wholesale ((3) cap & sweatshirt bundles); Curtis Reichelt - NISC (backpack); Craig Ottinger and Lee & Perri Jacobs - Central Avenue Pit Crew (goodie bag, cap and socks) - Eric Ottinger and Susan Davis - IBEW ((2) sweatshirt, T-shirt and cap bundles); and Helen Austin - HDR (home tool kit).

Cash Prizes, Meat Bundles

A \$800 cash prize was offered to members in attendance, but because



From left: Duane Klindworth, board member; Gary Wiens, Chief Executive Officer of Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association; Rober Solberg, board Vice President and Doug Hardy, General Manager of Central Montana Electric Power Cooperative hang out in the hallway at the Big Flat Electric's 77th Annual Meeting. | **BIG FLAT ELECTRIC PHOTOS**



2024 Youth Tour winners, Blaine Downing and Dawson Hammond talking about their experiences on the 2024 Youth Tour.

the member drawn was not present, the jackpot will increase to \$900 next year. A \$300 cash prize went to B&C French, LLC., and the \$50 young member prize went to Peigneux Bros.

There were nine pork bundles and 20 beef bundles given as door prizes. The winners of the pork bundles were Loring Women's Club, John & Jeanne Barnard, Jones Bros., Rhonda Preite, Steen McFadden, North 40 Bar & Café, Gene Billmayer, Olsen Ranch and Olsen Grain (both donated to River Bend Assisted Living). The winners of the beef bundles were Tori Snell, Dunbar Cattle Co., Ray McMullen, Edward Snider, Peigneux Bros., Dunbar Bros., Larry Smith, Jay Southwick, Alan Wasson, Richard Dunbar, Triple L Ranch, Christian Church, Sally Austin, Phillips County TV, John Meisdahlen, Betty Campbell, Whitewater Airport,



Big Flat Electric Cooperative Office Manager Kari Hammond was recognized with a 15-year service award, and Line Superintendent Darren Demarais received his 35-year service award at the Annual Meeting.

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Nanette Peak, Landusky Community Foundation, and Shari Solberg.

Employee Recognition

Two employees were honored for their dedication and years of service:

- Darren Demarais – 35 years of service
- Kari Hammond – 15 years of service

Guest Speakers

• Gary Wiens, CEO of MECA, discussed the efforts of the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA) Government Relations department and how it influences legislation and regulations. If you would like to learn more or to join the Grassroots Action Team, please go to www.mtcco-op.com to sign up.

• Blaine Downing and Dawson Hammond shared their experience as Youth Tour recipients to Washington, D.C.

Board of Directors

Duane Klindworth (District 1) retained his seat on the board of Big Flat Electric Co-op. RM



Big Flat Electric Board Member Kevin Koss stands with our \$300 Grand Prize winners, Bill and Corky French.



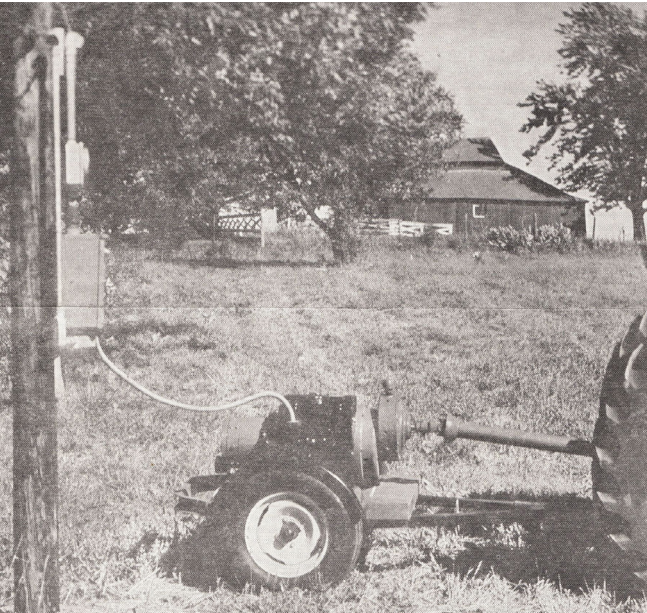
The Big Flat Electric Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting, from left: Standing is Alan Wasson, board president; sitting is Gretchen Boardman, general manager; Roger Solberg, board vice president; Betty Campbell, secretary/treasurer; Patty Quisno, board member; Kevin Koss, board member; Alan Van Voast, board member and Duane Klindworth, board member.



Working at the registration table for the annual meeting are Kari Hammond, office manager; Shawna Myers, work order and material clerk, and Debbie Kindle, billing clerk/member services.

FROM NOVEMBER 1963: BFEC NEWSLETTER

Auxiliary Power Plant



Have you ever experienced a power outage, or even considered what it could cost you? The ever-increasing use of electricity on the farm and ranch has also greatly increased the urgency of today's farmer protecting his home, family and farm investment with an adequate generator. Power suppliers do everything they can to give continuous service, but when a severe storm strikes or line accidents occur, it takes time for maintenance crews to restore power. Your most practical and economical electric power insurance is a tractor generator capable of providing power for lights, heating, cooking, radio and television. In addition to providing emergency standby power in case of power failure, a tractor generator, trailer-mounted, is also a convenient source of portable electric power for use anywhere on the farm.

Along Our Lines

November 1963 – BFEC Newsletter

- The Sun Prairie school south of Malta has a new coat of paint.
- Mr. and Mrs. Ben Math have purchased the Dillon Schmittou place north of Whitewater.
- Taps have been built to serve the Deerfield Colony north of Harem and Aaron Loco's stockwell near Hogeland.
- The Fred Miller place has been purchased by Floyd Eklund of Saco. Mr. Miller has moved to Billings to make his home.
- Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Morris are in the process of remodeling and installing electric heat in their home north of Dodson.
- Mr. and Mrs. B.O. Halvorson are new consumers on our lines, having moved to the Thomas Stirling house in Turner, which they recently purchased.

— 1963 CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA — Bureau of Reclamation, Malta, Montana

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann.
Precipitation	0.67	0.52	0.07	.80	1.81	4.00	1.54	1.25	.67	.42			
52-Year Average Precipitation	0.45	0.40	0.51	0.76	1.92	3.21	1.68	1.17	1.16	0.63	0.38	0.42	12.57
1963 Accumulative Precipitation	0.67	1.19	1.26	2.06	3.87	7.87	9.41	10.66	11.33	11.75			
Highest Temperature	56.	58.	73.	82.	87.	91.	103.	98.	90.	86.			
Average High Temperature	17.8	38.8	52.6	58.7	69.0	77.1	87.3	86.1	79.5	68.9			
Lowest Temperature	-36	-27	11.	20.	25.	41.	46.	43.	36.	51.			
Average Low Temperature	-9.1	15.9	25.	31.9	39.9	51.5	55.3	53.7	48.2	38.4			

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- District 1 Duane Klindworth
- District 2 Alan Van Voast
- District 3 Alan Wasson, President
- District 4 Betty Campbell, Sec. /Treas.
- District 5 Roger Solberg, Vice President
- District 6 Patty Quisno
- District 7 Kevin Koss

General Manager: Gretchen Boardman



BIG FLAT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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PAYMENT OPTIONS:
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