

SOUTHEAST ELECTRIC Cooperative



Toll Free: 1-888-485-8762

Box 369 • Ekalaka, Montana 59324 • Phone 775-8762

Website: www.seecoop.com



Manager's Notes - By Jack Hamblin

How can I become a Co-op Trustee?

The time for Southeast Electric Cooperative's annual meeting is quickly coming around. It will be held in Ekalaka on June 3rd at the Carter County High School gymnasium. An important part of the program is the election of trustees to the Board. As you know, this Board of Trustees, elected by the membership, directs Southeast Electric Cooperative. As manager, I have had the pleasure of working with many dedicated and committed individuals over the years. Serving as a Trustee for your co-op is not easy and involves much more than a once-a-month meeting. It's very time consuming, with significant travel, and has a very steep learning curve. Although travel expenses are reimbursed and a modest fee is paid for meeting attendance, service as a co-op trustee goes mostly uncompensated. Because of this level of commitment both in time and energy, not everyone is able to serve. In an effort to attract anyone who wants to help and feels they have the time and commitment, SECO bylaws have made it very easy to get your name on a ballot for election. There are basically three ways to do this:

- A nominating committee is appointed each year in April, well in advance of the Annual Meeting. This committee will nominate you simply by you communicating your desire to one of the committee members. Your name will then appear on the ballot.
- A petition signed by at least 15 other members can nominate a member. This petition must be presented to the Secretary at least 15 days prior to the date of the Annual Meeting. Their names will also be added to the ballot.

- A member can also be nominated from the floor during the business session of the Annual Meeting, but cannot be added to the printed ballot.

To inform the members of this process, we are printing the section of the Cooperative bylaws pertaining to the qualifications of prospective trustees:

SECTION 3. Qualifications. No person shall be eligible to become or remain a trustee of the Cooperative who:

- (a) is not a member and bona fide resident in the area served or to be served by the Cooperative; or
- (b) is in anyway employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the members of the Cooperative.

Upon establishment of the fact that a trustee is holding office in violation of any of the foregoing provisions, the board of trustees shall remove such trustee from office. Nothing contained in this section shall affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the board of trustees.

SECTION 4. Nominations. It shall be the duty of the board of trustees to appoint, not less than 30 days nor more than 60 days before the date of a meeting of the members at which trustees are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of not less than five nor more than 11 members who shall be selected from the districts for which trustees are to be elected. No member

Officers

Dave Hayden, President
Albert Paul, Vice President
Karen Kreitel, Secretary-Treasurer

Employees

Jerry Kalstrom, Line Foreman 775-6525
Mike Dalzell, Lineman 775-8758
Greg Erlenbusch, Lineman 775-6745
Jake Hammel, Lineman 581-0884
Adam Kuntz, Lineman 941-0861
Bill Kalstrom, Appr. Lineman 690-3379
Sam Erfman, Appr. Lineman 605-347-1687
Dave Johnstone, Groundman 775-6753
Robin Kuntz, Office Manager 775-6255
Rita Williams, Office Assistant 775-6616
Vicki Fix, Member Services 775-6296
Manager Jack Hamblin 775-6601

of the board of trustees may serve on such committee. The committee shall nominate one or more candidates for each district for which a trustee is to be elected, and it shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative, at least 20 days before the meeting, a list of its nominations for trustees, which may include a greater number of candidates than are to be elected. Any 15 or more members acting together may make other nominations by petition not less than 15 days prior to the meeting, and the Secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. The Secretary shall be responsible for mailing with the notice of the meeting or separately, but at least 10 days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of trustees to be elected and the names and addresses of the candidates, specifying separately the nominations made by the committee on nominations and also the nominations made by petition, if any. Nominations by petition, if any, received at least five days before the meeting shall be included on the official ballot. Later nominations by petition shall be treated as nominations from the floor.

The chairman shall call for additional nominations from the floor and nominations shall not be closed until at least one minute has passed during which no additional nomination has been made. No member may nominate more than one candidate.

In 2016, Trustees from the following Districts will be elected:
District 2 – (Francis Hayes-incumbent)
District 8 – (Dave Hayden-incumbent)

Southeast Electric Cooperative in 1953 . . .

Board Members were President Ed Sikorski, Vice President Irvin Richards, Secretary-Treasurer Lester Williams, Fay Tooke, Elsie T. Loken, Earnest Herbst, Carson Griffin, Frank Arbuckle and Chris Huber.

March 26, 1953 . . . The manager reported the purchase of a new F5 Ford 1½-ton truck and chassis from Mellor-North garage in Baker at the price of \$1,800, this price being \$35 below cost price, thus making a savings of nearly \$600 for the cooperative.

May 28, 1953 . . . Discussed was the matter of helping out the owners of the partnership light plant at Alzada, in the matter of an acquisition or of the disposal of their generating plant, since the cooperative is to serve the unincorporated village of Alzada. The owners, while realizing that no formal acquisition would be needed for the cooperative to serve the village, has a financial problem in disposing of their equipment at such time as they will no longer serve their customers in Alzada. It was the opinion of the board that the coop-



Pictured: Royal Sandy and George Schuyler



Pictured L-R: Royal Sandy, Dick Janssen, Tim Best, Frank Wical, Jerry Clem, Gladys Beazley, Bude Meade and George Schuyler.

erative would not be in a position to purchase the generator unless it had an actual use for it, and such is not the case. The board was willing to help in the finding of a purchaser for the generator, valued at about \$2,500 and to discuss the matter with REA officials at the next opportunity.

December 31, 1953 . . . Leonard Vaplon, mayor of Camp Crook, met to discuss with the board the possibility of our cooperative serving his town. He

told the trustees that Camp Crook was being furnished power by the MDU Co. and on direct current, and that the residents were not satisfied with this type of current. He stated that there were approximately 51 meters in the town. It was suggested to Mr. Vaplon that the residents of his town write to their Public Service Commission to see if they could get that body to request the MDU to furnish AC current.

Why are my winter bills so high?

Have you wondered why your bills are so high in the winter? Even though the cost is low, we all use our lights more in the winter as the days are much shorter. We also need to take into consideration what our thermostat is set at, are vehicles plugged in, do we have heat tape on the pipes or are we using a portable space heater? All of these can contribute to higher costs.

Below is an estimated cost per month for certain appliances. These are estimates and may vary depending on circumstances.

APPLIANCE OPERATING COST ESTIMATOR				
Appliance	Est. Wattage	Est. Hours/Month	Cost per	0.094
			Est. KWH	Est. Monthly Cost
Audio Entertainment System	250	60	15	1.41
Clothes Dryer	6000	17	102	9.59
Coffee Maker	1200	30	36	3.38
Computer, monitor, printer	365	75	27	2.57
Dishwasher-Drying	1200	25	30	2.82
Dishwasher-Washing	250	35	9	0.82
Freezer-Frost Free	440	744	327	30.77
Heater (Auto Engine, Winter)	1000	180	180	16.92
Heating System (Warm Air Fan)	312	288	90	8.45
Humidifier (Winter)	177	230	41	3.83
Lighting (Compact Fluorescent)	18	100	2	0.17
Lighting (Flourescent)	40	100	4	0.38
Lighting (Incandescent)	75	100	8	0.71
Lighting (Outdoor Floor)	120	90	11	1.02
Microwave Oven	1500	11	17	1.55
Range (Oven)	2660	20	53	5.00
Refrigerator/Freezer	250	744	186	17.48
Satellite Dish and Receiver	360	183	66	6.19
Sump Pump (1/2 HP)	500	20	10	0.94
Washer	512	17	9	0.82
Water Heater	4500	91	410	38.49
Window Air Conditioner-12,000 BTU	1500	200	300	28.20
Window Air Conditioner-6,000 BTU	825	200	165	15.51

Willie Wiredhand made his debut in the April 1953 Issue of High Voltage

Howdy Folks! Willie Wiredhand is the name...and you're going to be seeing a lot of me from now on. Fact is I've been selected as a kind of "mascot" for REA Cooperatives around the country. I've been knockin' around for quite some time, but haven't found time to show up among you folks. But from now on I'll try and show you how to use that good old electricity, so that it will make you money and save you time with the many things that can be done with it around the home and farm.



Also from the April 1953 Issue of High Voltage . . .

- Number of consumers - 666
- Average town residential bill - 146 kwh - \$7.03
- Average farm bill - 231 kwh - \$13.19

Jones: "I'm all in; I've been running around all day, trying to get something for my wife."

Smith: "Well, have you had any offers?"