A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR MIDSTATE ELECTRIC MEMBERS

FEBRUARY 2024

MIDSTATE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

MIDSTATE CONNECTION

Office Hours: 7:00 am-5:30 pm, Monday-Thursday
Closed Fridays & Holidays

Business Hours: 541-536-2126
After Hours Outages: 800-752-5935

Empowering Dreams

Enhancements to MEC's 2024-25 Scholarship Program Offers Increased Funding for Students

To support local students in reaching their career aspirations, we have enhanced our scholarship offerings. We are currently welcoming applications from students residing in our service area who plan to attend an accredited college, technical school, or lineworker school. Scholarships are available in the following categories:

Graduating Senior:

Four-year scholarships equaling **$10,000** will be awarded and distributed as follows:

- **Year 1: $1,500**
- **Year 2: $2,000**
- **Year 3: $2,500**
- **Year 4: $4,000**

Eligible seniors include those graduating from La Pine, Gilchrist, and North Lake County High School, as well as high schools in Klamath, Lake, and Deschutes Counties (including home school).

Continuing Education:

One-time **$2,500** scholarships for individuals residing in our service area who have completed high school and seek to continue their education.

Lineworker:

One **$20,000** scholarship is available for an individual in our service territory to attend lineworker school.

The recipient is required to contribute **$5,000** towards the remaining lineworker tuition, which will be reimbursed by MEC upon completion of schooling.

To apply, you can submit your application online. Additionally, paper applications are accepted in person at the Midstate office located at 16755 Finley Butte Rd in La Pine or via mail to Midstate Electric, P.O. Box 127, La Pine, Oregon 97739. For more detailed information, please visit our website at www.mse.coop/scholarship-programs or contact us at 541-536-7220.

Application Deadline: April 9th

Photos: 2023 Lineworker Scholarship recipient, Corbin Coulter, completed the Electrical Lineworker Program at Idaho's Northwest Lineman College in October.

Reminder: Rate Increase Effective on February Bills

Midstate's Energy Charge has increased by $0.0095 per kilowatt-hour for all rate classes, Street Lighting increased by $1.50/month, and Yard/Security Lighting increased by $1.00/month.

Despite this rate increase, MEC rates are well below the national average and are one of the lowest rates in the state of Oregon.

For more information about the rate increase and local assistance programs available to you, visit www.mse.coop/rate-increase.

Petitions for Districts 1, 2, and 8 Due March 7

Director positions on the Board of Midstate Electric Cooperative for Districts 1, 2, and 8 are up for election at our Annual Meeting on May 18, 2024. Candidates to represent those districts may be nominated for director by filing a petition signed by at least 15 members of the cooperative who reside in that district. More information regarding the districts up for election:

District 1 (Fall River) is described as: North boundary is Spring River Road and its extension east and west. West boundary is the Lane County and the Deschutes County line. South boundary is the south line of Township 20 South, which is about 1.5 miles north of the intersection of State Rec Road and Highway 97. East boundary is approximately eight miles east of Highway 97.

District 2 (South La Pine) is described as: North boundary is Burgess Road and its extension east and west. West boundary is the Lane County and the Deschutes County line. South boundary is the Deschutes County and Klamath County line. East boundary is eighteen miles east of Finley Butte.

District 8 (Christmas Valley) is described as: North boundary is approximately 24 miles north of the Christmas Valley Highway. West boundary extends due North from the centerline of the intersection of Oil Dry Road and the Christmas Valley Highway and due South down the centerline of the intersection of Oil Dry Road to Picture Rock Pass. Southern boundary is located approximately 10 miles south of the Christmas Valley Highway. East boundary extends to the eastern edge of Range 21.

Let's get connected on social media so you'll never miss an update on MEC activities, programs, and contests.

ICE ON POWER LINES IS A WEIGHTY SUBJECT

When it comes to getting electricity across power lines and into homes, ice can be a force to be reckoned with.

ICE ON DISTRIBUTION LINES

Ice can quickly lead to broken power poles and other pole equipment. Ice can also make falling tree branches 30x heavier and much more likely to break power lines.

ON A 300-FOOT SPAN OF 1-INCH-THICK POWER LINES

- 1/2 inch of ice adds 281 pounds of weight
- 1 inch of ice adds 749 pounds of weight
- 2 inches of ice adds 2,248 pounds of weight

WHEN ICE MELTS

Melting ice can cause power outages. If ice on the bottom (neutral) line melts before the lines above, it can cause the lines to touch.

OTHER ICE FACTS

- Damage can begin when ice exceeds 1/4 of an inch
- 1/2 inch of ice can cause a line to sag up to 12 inches
- Pressure can also be caused by a broken tree limb
- Both ice and melting ice can cause power outages

SafeElectricity.org®

Source: Jerri Imgarten-Whitley and Victory Electric Cooperative

Beware of *Galloping Lines*

How can galloping lines impact power transmission and distribution?

Galloping power lines are typically caused when ice and high winds occur at the same time. Freezing rain creates icicles and odd-shaped ice formations on power lines and conductors. The ice buildup changes how wind and air impact the now misshapen, ice-covered line. This change in airflow can cause the power line to start to bounce.

Once the lines get going, they can bounce and buck enough to hit another line, damage themselves enough to cause a power outage or even fall to the ground.

There is not much utility companies can do to alleviate galloping lines since the wild motion is caused by Mother Nature. To help prevent this, many power lines have special mechanisms, such as twisted wire or round or angular pieces of metal, attached to the line. While they can help, sometimes they are no match for severe ice and whipping wind.

Aside from ice storms, year-round storms can cause damaging winds, which can knock down power lines and blow trees and limbs onto power lines. Keep the following safety tips in mind:

When you see power lines on the ground, stay away, warn others to stay away and contact the electric utility or 911. Lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live.

Any utility wire, including telephone or cable lines that are sagging or down, could be in contact with an energized power line, also making it dangerous. Do not try to guess the types of lines —stay away from all lines.

Be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide electrical hazards. Downed power lines can energize objects around them, such as chain-link fences and metal culverts.

Keep in mind that a dead line could become energized during power restoration efforts or improper use of generators.

Never drive over a downed line. It could start a chain reaction and cause additional poles or other equipment to collapse.

If you are in a car that has contacted or is near a downed power line, stay in your vehicle. Wait until the utility crew has arrived and deenergized the line. Warn others not to approach the car.

Only exit a car or cab near or on downed lines if there is a fire. If this happens, cross your arms over your chest and make a solid jump out and away from the car with both feet together. Then hop away at least 50 feet or more while continuing to keep both feet together.

For more electrical safety information, visit SafeElectricity.org.