

# GLACIER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. HIGHLINER

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GLACIER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

## GLACIER ELECTRIC

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Bruce Bradley, President**  
Rural District

**Zita Bremner, VP**  
Browning District

**Brian Elliott, Treasurer**  
Browning District

**Darrol Berkram**  
Cut Bank District

**Willard Hjartarson**  
Rural District

**Lee Holden**  
Cut Bank District

**Miles Lewis**  
Rural District

**Dave Losing**  
Rural District

**Jim Newman**  
Cut Bank District

### OFFICES

**Cut Bank (406) 873-5566**  
410 East Main Street  
Cut Bank, MT 59427

**Browning (406) 338-5400**  
P.O. Box 609  
Browning, MT 59417

### GENERAL MANAGER

**Jasen Bronec**  
(406) 873-5566

## Safety is Everyone's Business

*By Jasen Bronec*

At Glacier Electric safety is everyone's business and your cooperative continues to be committed to achieving safety excellence. The electricity Glacier Electric provides day-in and day-out, is a phenomenal resource, powering our modern lifestyles in a safe, reliable, and affordable way. But, as we all know, electricity must be respected. If electrical safety isn't a priority, what changes our lives for the better could change our lives for the worse in an instant.

Glacier Electric recently renewed its commitment to safety by completing the Rural Electric Safety Accreditation Program (RESAP). This national program assesses and grades the safety culture within cooperatives. The program focuses on assuring that: proper policies and procedures are in place, facilities and equipment are properly maintained, organizational communication and leadership promotes safety, and that a safety improvement plan is developed and implemented.

Glacier Electric is proud to announce that we passed the RESAP and are considered a best in class cooperative for safety. Safety has been a part of the fundamental culture at Glacier Electric since day

one. Being an electric lineman is ranked by the U.S. Department of Labor as one of the top ten most dangerous jobs, on the same list as fisherman, farmers, loggers, and military serviceman. We require that, not only our linemen, but all employees, make safety a top priority.

Glacier Electric's safety mission is to:

- Build a strong leadership safety culture that engages and empowers employees to take ownership in preventing accidents and injuries.
- Apply safety best practices to reduce exposure to risk of injuries and to achieve sustainable safety improvements.
- Create leadership at all levels of the organization with clear expectations for safe work practices.
- Foster teamwork, communication, and trust across the organization with active participation and engagement of employees. Our actions demonstrate care for fellow employees and the public.

At Glacier Electric we believe that each employee must do all he or she can do every day to prevent accidents and losses. The newest apprentice lineman in the field must lift heavy material in a safe manner to avoid back strain; just as the Board of Trustees must ensure that

the equipment budget does not skimp on safety gear. Everyone within the cooperative has a role and responsibility to safety.

Our desire at Glacier Electric is to have a safe cooperative and a safe community. Each year we offer safety presentations at schools within our service territory and distribute safety booklets to children at local events. Also, Glacier Electric linemen donate many hours conducting safety demonstrations for the local volunteer fire departments, EMS, and large commercial members. Please contact us if you know of an organization that would like the cooperative to conduct a safety demonstration.

As General Manager, I hope that the next time a member asks an employee what the cooperative is all about, the response would be, "We're all about safety." When safety is the culture of an organization, you will find good things happening like high morale, more productivity, good customer relations, and a lot of pride. Having a strong commitment to safety benefits the cooperative members and ensures that our employees return home safely every night.

-Be Safe  
Jasen Bronec



Glacier Electric Cooperative, Inc.



## Take Part, be CO-OP smart.

The board and management of Glacier Electric invite you to attend a Member Forum on board elections and the nominating processes. Join us to learn more about running for the board and your voice as a voting member! We will hold two identical forums, please attend which ever meeting you prefer.

### Browning

Tuesday, February 18 at 7 p.m.  
Glacier Peaks Casino  
Upstairs Meeting Room

### Cut Bank

Thursday, February 20 at 7 p.m.  
Glacier Electric Office  
410 East Main

All members who attend will receive a \$10 credit toward their Glacier Electric account (one per membership), and will be entered to win door prizes. Light refreshments will be served.

## ENERGY for Tomorrow SCHOLARSHIP



Each year Glacier Electric Cooperative awards ten \$1,000 scholarships to deserving seniors. The 2014 Energy for Tomorrow Scholarship applications are now available to high school seniors whose parents or guardians are members of Glacier Electric.

### HOW TO APPLY

#### Applications are available at:

- Browning High School
- Cut Bank High School
- Heart Butte High School
- Glacier Electric Office (Browning)
- Glacier Electric Office (Cut Bank)

**Applications are due,  
at Glacier Electric, by  
March 3, 2014.**

Call 873-5566 if you  
have any questions.

## GLACIER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE Board Room Report

The Glacier Electric Board of Trustees' regular board meeting is held on the last Wednesday of the month.

Action items from the December Board meeting:

-Approved donation to: the local Distinguished Young Women scholarship program; the Glacier County Library for the summer reading program; and the MT 4H Foundation.

-Approved loan from the Glacier Electric Revolving Loan Fund to Gerald Lunak with Heavy Shield Weed Spray.

|               | 11/30/2013   | 11/30/2012   |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| kWh Sold      | 152,433,074  | 153,208,592  |
| Revenue       | \$13,618,354 | \$13,449,469 |
| Cost of Power | \$5,372,741  | \$5,353,870  |
| Margins       | \$764,567    | \$608,013    |

## 60 Plus Program

### 2014

Members ages 60 and older,  
turn in this form to GEC for  
your chance to win \$100.

Last month's winner was:  
**Elizabeth Auguare**  
of Browning

Bring your entry to one of our  
offices or mail it to:

**Glacier Electric Co-op  
P.O. Box 2090  
Cut Bank, MT 59427**

## 60 Plus Entry Form

Name

Address

City

Phone Number

Age

# Fall in *Love* with Valentine's Day

By: Ceanna Johnson

It is hard to imagine the month of February without the celebration of Valentine's Day. You know you are supposed to buy roses and chocolate, but do you know how this day came to be? Contrary to popular belief, Valentine's Day was not created by retail organizations just to profit from the sell of candy, cards, and roses. In the middle ages, Europeans believed that February 14 was the day that birds chose their mates. This may explain why Valentine's Day is celebrated today; we are recognizing our own chosen sweethearts. Most people relate Valentine's Day to Saint Valentine, a third-century Roman saint associated with love. There are many differing accounts of Saint Valentine, the only fact that can be agreed upon is that he died on February 14.

One intriguing, but unverifiable, legend of Valentine dates to 268-270 AD Rome under Claudius II. The Emperor believed that men were not joining the military due to their attachment to their loved ones and families. Claudius II then denied all marriages in Rome in an effort to gain more soldiers. Despite the demands of Claudius II, Valentine secretly performed marriages. According to the legend, when Valentine was discovered and thrown in jail he met a young girl and they fell in love. On February 14, the day of his execution, Valentine signed a farewell note to the girl with the words "From your Valentine."

Whether fact or just legend, these words and the significance of February 14 are still with us today. Because this date is celebrated year after year, it can sometimes be difficult to come up with new and exciting dates for you and your "Valentine." Rather than the monotonous dinner and a movie, here are some unique Valentine's Day date ideas to make this Valentine's Day your most memorable one yet.

Glacier National Park, as always, contains many exciting places to go to and see. Taking your Valentine on a snowshoeing or cross-country skiing adventure might be just the ticket for a perfectly peaceful and genuine Valentine's Day memory. The Izaak Walton Inn located in Essex offers cross-country ski lessons, guided ski tours, and guided snowshoe tours throughout Glacier National Park. For the boldest couples, Glacier National Park even

offers winter camping, perfect for snuggling in the cold.

If enduring the cold does not sound romantic, the Izaak Walton Inn offers plenty of unique lodging options. Cabins, luxury railcars, and lodge rooms are available. The historic railcars offer a new and exciting change of scenery. Also, to escape the everyday bustle, there are no telephones or televisions in the railcars; just the loving company of your Valentine.

For another exciting outdoor date, try ice fishing! Sitting next to one another while reeling in a trophy Walleye, Northern Pike, or Trout at Duck Lake, Mission, Lake Francis or one of the many other great ice fishing spots nearby, could be the perfect way to celebrate Valentine's Day. After hauling in a day's catch, you and your Valentine could cook an extravagant victory dinner. If you are unsuccessful at catching fish, you will still have the memory of the day when each of you were skunked on the ice. In the event of being skunked,

there is always the option of going to enjoy a delicious meal at one of our many great local restaurants.

If traveling and dining out aren't in your budget, there are plenty of more budget-friendly options. Simply planning and cooking a meal with your significant other is a meaningful experience. Cooking something new and never attempted could really heat up your Valentine's Day. Maybe choose a country you would love to visit and prepare a dinner themed around that country. You

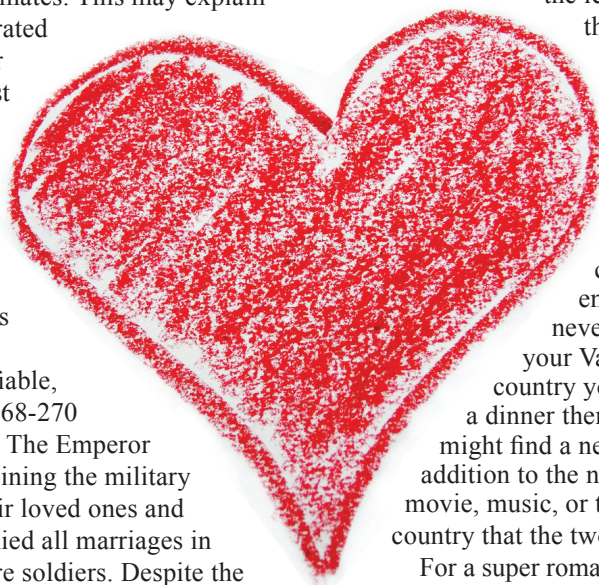
might find a new meal that each of you love. In addition to the new international meal, try to find a movie, music, or traditional activity from your theme country that the two of you can enjoy together.

For a super romantic evening, consider recreating your very first date. Even if your first date was a simple cup of coffee at the local cafe, it is meaningful and shows that you do indeed remember your very first date. Reliving the first date is a sweet gesture that is a cost efficient way to show your significant other how much you really care.

Everyone seems to believe that roses truly show how much a person cares. However, a less costly alternative could be buying a bouquet of the flowers that were used at your wedding. This will show that you still remember specific details about your special day. Or create a bouquet based on the traditional meaning of the flowers: orchids mean rare beauty, hyacinth means constancy or sincerity, myrtle means true love, red salvia means forever mine, yellow tulips mean hopelessly in love, and the violet means faithfulness. You can find flower meanings in the *Farmer's Almanac* or at [www.aboutflowers.com](http://www.aboutflowers.com). Just think of the fun you could have creating that special bouquet!

This year, instead of falling into your typical routine, make Valentine's Day special, unique, and meaningful.

Sources: [www.morristown.com](http://www.morristown.com), [inventors.about.com](http://inventors.about.com), [www.izaakwalton-inn.com](http://www.izaakwalton-inn.com), [www.aboutflowers.com](http://www.aboutflowers.com), and [www.almanac.com](http://www.almanac.com)





# Interested in Serving on Our Board?

*Learn More About GEC Elections at Our February Member Forums*

With the Glacier Electric annual meeting coming up on April 12, we would like to remind members about board elections and running for the board. Below, you will find the sections of the GEC bylaws that pertain to elections and nomination of trustees. If you would like to see the full GEC bylaws, please visit, [www.GlacierElectric.com](http://www.GlacierElectric.com) click on “my cooperative” then follow the link for bylaws. If you have any additional questions about elections or running for the GEC board, come to one of our Member Forums: Browning on February 18 at Glacier Peaks Casino or Cut Bank on February 20 at the Glacier Electric Office.

## **ARTICLE IV TRUSTEES**

**SECTION 2.** Election and Tenure of Office. The persons named as trustees in the Articles of Incorporation shall compose the board of trustees until the first annual meeting or until their successors shall have been elected and shall have qualified. Trustees shall be elected by secret ballot by those members voting in person or by mail at the annual meeting of the members. Trustees shall be elected for terms of three (3) years, with one-third of the terms to expire each year.

There shall be nine (9) trustees who shall serve from the following districts: Cut Bank District: Three trustees. Browning District: Two trustees. Rural District: Four trustees.

Three trustees shall be elected for a term of three years to replace those trustees whose terms have expired, with the nominee receiving the largest number of votes to be declared elected. If an election of trustees shall not be held on the day designated herein for the annual meeting of members, or at any adjournment thereof, the board of trustees shall cause the election to be held at a special meeting of the members within a reasonable time thereafter. Trustees may be elected by a plurality vote of the members, provided however, that should there be a tie in the number of votes cast for any candidate, the winner shall be determined immediately after the votes are canvassed by a flip of the coin. Trustees shall serve until their successors are elected and shall have qualified. The election of a trustee shall be submitted to the entire membership of the Cooperative attending the annual meeting or voting by mail.

**SECTION 3.** Districts Defined. The territory to which the Cooperative supplies electric energy to its members shall be divided into three (3) trustee districts, named the Cut Bank District, the Browning District and the Rural District, respectively.

Cut Bank District: The Cut Bank District shall include all of that portion of the Cooperative’s service area within the city limits of Cut Bank, Montana.

Browning District: The Browning District shall include all of that portion of the Cooperative’s service area within the city limits of Browning, Montana and within Township 32 North, Range 11 West, Glacier County, Montana, SECTION 3, E1/2, E1/2W1/2, SECTION 2, W1/2W1/2, SECTION 11, W1/2W1/2 and SECTION 10, E1/2, E1/2W1/2.

Rural District: The Rural District shall include the rest of the Cooperative’s service area not included in either the Cut Bank or Browning Districts.

**SECTION 4.** Qualifications. No person shall be eligible to become or remain a trustee of the Cooperative who: (a) is not

an active member receiving service from the Cooperative and a bona fide resident in the district nominated from and who has not resided in his said district for at least one year preceding the time when he shall be nominated for said office; or (b) is in any way 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 appliances, fixtures or supplies to the members of the Cooperative. (c) is a member that has been an employee of the Cooperative for any length of time within the immediately preceding three (3) years. (d) is a member of his or her immediate family (“immediate family” meaning one’s spouse, parents, grandparents, grandchildren, children, or spouses of children) that is, or becomes, an employee 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 effect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the board of trustees.

**SECTION 5.** Nominations. Not less than sixty (60) nor more than one hundred twenty (120) days before the date of a meeting of the members at which trustees are to be elected, it shall be the duty of the board of trustees to appoint a nominating committee consisting of nine (9) members. Three (3) members of the committee shall be selected from the Cut Bank District, two (2) members of the committee shall be selected from the Browning District, and four (4) members of the committee shall be selected from the Rural District. No member of the board of trustees may serve on such committee. At least forty-five (45) days before the meeting, the committee shall prepare and post at the offices of the Cooperative in Cut Bank and in Browning, a list of nominations for trustees which may include one or more candidates for each Board position to be filled by the election. In the Rural District, keeping in mind the principle of equitable representation, candidates shall be selected from different quadrants of that district, to the extent possible and practicable.

The board of trustees shall designate one member of the nominating committee as the chairman whose duty it shall be to call and preside at meetings of the committee, to prepare and post the list of nominees and to deliver the report of the committee at the annual meeting of members. Members of the nominating committee shall be given reasonable notice of all committee meetings. A majority of the committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, providing that a majority of those present may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice.

Any fifteen (15) or more members acting together may make other nominations by petition not less than thirty (30) days prior to the meeting, and the Secretary shall post such nominations at the same places where the list of nominations made by the committee are posted. At least ten (10) days before the meeting, the Secretary shall mail with the notice 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 nominating committee and also the nominations made by petition, if any.