

# 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

## Why I am Thankful for My Co-op

*By Jasen Bronec*

At my family's Thanksgiving dinner each year, we all take turns saying something we're grateful for. My list is pretty typical—good health, loving family and friends, and a job serving the people of Glacier County and the surrounding area.

I'm thankful to be a part of Glacier Electric Cooperative. Our employees and board members are some of the hardest workers I know. We strive to provide affordable, reliable, safe electric power, but we also aim to improve the quality of life in the communities we serve. It's a mission we all take seriously.

I'm thankful for Glacier Electric because our employees live alongside those we serve. The beauty of a cooperative is that it's locally owned and operated; there are no distant shareholders pulling the strings behind the scenes. Our members elect members to serve on the

board and govern the co-op. We are your neighbors, your friends, your family.

I'm thankful for my co-op because it serves as a vibrant force in the local economy. Glacier Electric is invested in the future of its communities. We provide more than 30 full-time jobs in our communities. Each year we donate more than \$50,000 to support local causes that are near and dear to all of our members: NAID, the Lewis and Clark Festival, scholarships to support local students, 4-H, the food banks, local volunteer fire departments, chambers of commerce, and much more. Each year we pay hundred's of thousands of dollars in energy efficiency rebates to our member-owners who work to improve the efficiency of their homes and businesses. I'm thankful for my co-op because we care.

I am also thankful for our members who are involved in their cooperative. In September and October we

held our first ever Member Forums. I am thankful to each and every member who attended. Thank you for taking time out of your busy day to be involved with Glacier Electric and help make our cooperative even better. I am thankful for the many members who help our crews when they are working in terrible weather to restore power. I am thankful for the members who care enough about our cooperative to attend the annual meeting and vote in the elections each year. I am thankful for the members who show their support for the cooperative each Christmas by bringing home made goodies to our crew! Your support is greatly appreciated and without you there would be no Glacier Electric.

To honor our many members who take time to send their letters of thanks to us, we have included some of their messages on page 5. Please take time to read these messages from members like you, who support their local cooperative and recognize the value we bring to their lives and their communities. Thank you for your support!

Happy Thanksgiving from all of us here at **your** electric co-op.

### November Office Closures

The GEC offices in Cut Bank and Browning will be closed as follows:

November 11- All day for Veterans' Day  
November 21- Closed from 8-12 for Safety Meeting  
November 28 & 29- All Day for Thanksgiving



GLACIER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.



#### Contest Rules:

- Applicant must be a sophomore or junior in the current school year (2013-14)
- Applicant's parent or guardian must be a member of Glacier Electric Cooperative, Inc. and applicant must attend school in the GEC service territory
- Essays should be no longer than two single-spaced pages using 12 point type and **MUST** be on the statewide topic listed below
- Essays and completed applications must be received at Glacier Electric no later than 5 p.m., November 15, 2013
- The participant's name, address and telephone number, as well as the name of the sponsoring cooperative, must be on the cover sheet of the essay
- The applicant information sheet must be properly completed

#### Essay Topic:

"Describe how electric cooperatives operate based on the seven cooperative principles. Tell which of the seven cooperative principles you think is the most important and why?"

#### Additional Information:

- Tour Dates: June 12-20, 2014
- Applications are due at the Glacier Electric office by **Friday, November 15, 2013.**
- Applications are available at the Glacier Electric offices, on our website, and at your school's counseling center.



# member VOICES

## Letters of Thanks and Support from Our Members

Every month Glacier Electric receives letters of appreciation and support from our members. We share these letters with our Board of Directors and many times with our employees. However, we haven't been in the habit of sharing them with the rest of our membership. What better time to start sharing these messages than during November, the month of thanks?

We will continue to spotlight letters from our members each month in the *member voices* feature in your *Rural Montana* magazine. We do occasionally receive letters from disgruntled members. While we do not plan to print these, please be assured that if you have a complaint or concern we will review and address it as quickly as possible.

Mr. Jasen Bronec:

I would like to thank the Glacier Electric Cooperative employees for assisting me with an issue I was having with electrical services at 371 Starr School Road. I would like to bring the service of your employees to your attention and thank you for the work that they provided to me.

As a long-time member of Glacier Electric Cooperative I appreciate the time that Mr. Mike Pyette, Jill in the Cut Bank office, Casper Rutherford, Rusty Sharp, and Ron Cross Guns Jr. took in assisting me with understanding my options and resources for the projects I have planned.

Being able to count on our Glacier Electric Cooperative member employees to assist members and deliver the highest level of support is important. I especially appreciate strong customer service and a friendly attitude.

Again, I would like to thank you for the service of our Co-operative member employees.

-Lester R. Johnson, III

Glacier Electric:

Thank you for everything you do to help make the 4H fair a success, and for purchasing a 4H banner.

-Charging Home Stampede

Glacier Electric:

Thank you so very much for your donation to the Business Appreciation Days. It defiantly sends a message of gratitude for their support of our outstanding community. Your contribution is greatly appreciated!

-Cut Bank Area Chamber

Dear GEC,

Thank you so much for the great opportunity this summer. I learned so many new things, and did so in a gracious environment. I look forward to returning this winter/Christmas season.

-Ceanna Johnson  
GEC Summer Intern

Dear Virginia:

Blackfeet Housing would like to thank you for the energy efficient shower heads, light bulbs, power strips and the window rebate. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. It has been a pleasure working with you on these projects.

Our goal is to provide our tenants with affordable housing and Glacier Electric's assistance has improved the energy efficiency of our homes. The 2500 energy efficient light bulbs will be installed in four projects.

Again, thank you for your support. Your commitment to your job is such a benefit to our communities. If you need further assistance with your energy efficient projects, it would be my pleasure to assist you.

-Margie St. Goddard  
Blackfeet Housing

Dear Glacier Electric,

On behalf of the City of Cut Bank, I would like to extend a Thank You for your assistance in hanging the summer banners. We appreciate your willingness to give not only the time of your crew, but also the use of Glacier Electric equipment. It is people and businesses such as Glacier Electric that make Cut Bank a great place to live.

-Emmet D. Embody  
Mayor of Cut Bank

Glacier Electric:

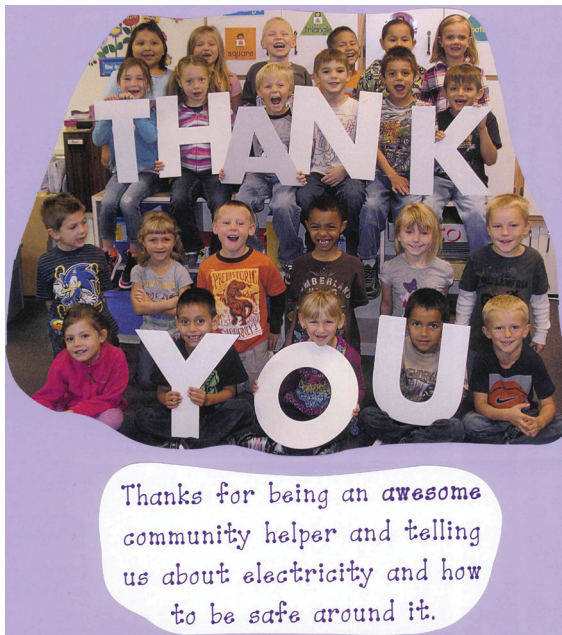
Thank you for your recent donation to Hi-Line relay for Life. It is because of generous people like you that our community can benefit from the programs that the ACS has to offer. You truly are making a difference!

-Hi-Line RFL Committee

Glacier Electric:

Thank you so much for awarding me your Energy for Tomorrow Scholarship. The money will be a great deal of help in pursuit of my educational goals. Your continued support of local graduates is to be commended.

-Amber Nielsen



# Protect Electronics, Prevent Hazards

By: the Electrical Safety Foundation International

**B**ig-ticket electronics, such as televisions, computers, and gaming consoles, are at the top of many holiday wish lists—but safety may not be. Purchasing, installing, and operating these items safely protects not only the expensive equipment, but also your entire home. The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) offers the following tips.

## Electronics safety tips

- Always purchase electrical devices from a reputable retailer that you trust.
- Check that all electrical items are certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Canadian Standards Association (CSA), or Intertek (ETL).
- Read and follow manufacturer's instructions before use.
- Send warranty and registration forms for new items to manufacturers in order to be notified about product recalls.
- Never install an exterior television or radio antenna close enough to contact power lines if it falls.
- Never remove the ground pin (the third prong) to make a three-prong plug fit into a two-prong outlet.
- Appliances and cords should be kept in good condition.
- Keep cords out of reach of children and pets.
- Make sure entertainment centers and computer workstations have enough space around them for ventilation.
- Keep liquids, including drinks, away from electrical devices. Spills can result in dangerous shocks or fires.
- Unplug equipment when not in use to save energy and reduce the risks for shocks or fires. Power strips or surge protectors make a good central turn-off point.
- Always unplug electrical items by grasping the plug firmly rather than pulling on the cord.

• If you receive any kind of shock from a large appliance or any other electrical device, stop using it until an electrician has checked it.

• If an appliance smokes or sparks, or if you feel a tingle or light shock when it's on, stop using it. Discard and replace it or have it repaired by an authorized service provider.

## Using extension cords safely

- Extension cords are meant to provide a temporary solution. They should not be used as a long-term or permanent electrical circuit.
- Never use a cord that feels hot or is damaged in any way. Touching even a single exposed strand can result in an electric shock or burn.
- Only use weather-resistant, heavy gauge extension cords marked "for outdoor use" outside.
- Keep extension cords clear of snow and standing water.
- Arrange furniture so that there are outlets available for equipment without the use of extension cords.
- Do not place power cords or extension cords in high traffic areas or under carpets, rugs, or furniture (to avoid overheating and tripping hazards), and never nail or staple them to the wall or baseboard.

## Surge protector or power strip?

Although surge protectors and power strips both allow you to plug several devices in one location, it is important to understand that they are not interchangeable. A true surge protector includes internal components that divert or suppress the extra current from surges, protecting your valuable electronics from electrical spikes, while a power strip simply provides more outlets for a circuit.

Glacier Electric sells both surge protectors strips and whole house surge protectors. Visit us today for more information.

## GLACIER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

### Board Room Report

The Glacier Electric Board of Trustees meets each month, typically on the last Wednesday of the month, for their regular board meeting.

Action items from the September Board meeting:

- Approved a donation to the annual Cut Bank Volunteer Fire Department's Fireman's Fling fund raiser.

- Approved membership to the Glacier County Historical Society.

	8/31/2013	8/31/2012
kWh Sold	111,270,858	112,744,513
Revenue	\$9,817,459	\$9,870,656
Cost of Power	\$3,851,817	\$3,945,019
Margins	\$272,005	\$489,484

## 60 Plus Program 2013

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

Last month's winner was:  
**Lawrence Kennedy**  
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 \_\_\_\_\_