

FLASHES

Committed to safely and economically provide reliable energy and other services which bring value to its membership.

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ENERGY PARTNER SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

Congratulations to Tanner Huff of Teton for being awarded the first-ever \$1,000 Energy Partner Scholarship. Tanner is a recent graduate of Teton High School in Driggs. The scholarship was created because of the overwhelming number of highly qualified students that submitted scholarship applications. This new scholarship was awarded in a random drawing at the Co-op's annual meeting. The scholarship was funded directly by CEO/General Manager Bryan Case, who contributed the \$1,000 personally.

Annual Meeting – A Gathering Of Members



A damp and rainy Saturday morning greeted more than 800 members that attended Fall River Electric's 2018 annual meeting held at Teton High School in Driggs on Saturday, June 16.

A free breakfast of eggs, pancakes, sausage, bacon, hash browns, and assorted beverages was served, while nearly two dozen exhibitors were on-hand at the Cooperative's Health, Energy, & Community Expo. Although the rain forced kids' activities indoors, they enjoyed face painting and other arts and crafts projects.

The annual business meeting was attended by more than 350 members that heard presentations from many of the twelve board candidates running for the three board positions up for election. Owner-members also heard from special guest Elliot Mainzer, administrator of the Bonne-

ville Power Administration (BPA), and Board President Doug Schmier.

At the conclusion of the business meeting, several thousands of dollars in prizes were given away to members in attendance. On Monday following the annual meeting, additional prizes were awarded to members who attended each of the exhibits conducted by the Co-op's engineering, operations, member services, and conservation departments as well as a booth hosted by sister company Fall River Propane. The following members were awarded prizes from those booths:

- **A professional grade Husqvarna chain saw** – Charles & Linda Jones of Lyman (Rexburg area);
- **A \$265 value home energy audit** – Jay & Jenniene Kauer of Island Park;
- **A NEST smart home thermostat** – Randy & Laura Curtis of Driggs;
- **A \$100 energy credit** – Todd & Kelly Waller of Driggs; and
- **A portable propane gas barbecue grill** – Randy & Deanna Talbot of Felt.

Congratulations to all our prize winners!

By-Law Approval Permits Patronage Capital To Be Retired Early

Fall River Electric members voted in favor of the Co-op's annual meeting to make a change to the by-laws regarding Patronage Capital. As you know, all revenue exceeding the cost to provide electric service is allocated back to you in the form of Patronage Capital. Once allocated, your Patronage Capital is held by the Cooperative (currently for 20 years) as a resource to rebuild aging infrastructure, increase capacity, maintain reliability, and to operate the Cooperative. This system helps keep your rates low and your services reliable.

The by-laws allow the board, at its discretion, to have Patronage Capital redeemed (paid out) for the following current reasons:

- At any time, upon the death of any member;
- When a member reaches the age of 75; or
- When a member has retired and their gross



income for the past two years has been less than an amount determined by the board.

The new by-law addition, approved in June, now allows a member that "has, for all intents and purposes, permanently left the service area of the cooperative" to receive an early redemption (pay out), at a discounted rate of their Patronage Capital. If you intend to move permanently from Fall River Electric's service territory, please contact the Co-op to request the necessary form that must be submitted and approved by the board.

Member Questions Answered

At Fall River's annual meeting, owner-members were given the opportunity to submit questions to the board. The board committed to providing all members with those questions and answers in upcoming issues of the *FLASHES* newsletter.

Question: Any thoughts on the development of wind farms in the area and region?

Answer: Regionally, there are some planned installations of additional wind generation. However, there is more interest in large utility-scale solar generation.

Question: Start or return to putting contact info, phone, and email for board members in the newsletter and on the website – FR needs more transparency!

Answer: Fall River is very transparent; Board contact information is easily accessible to all members on the Cooperative's website. Contact information includes phone numbers and email addresses. Mail can be sent to 1150 N. 3400 E., Ashton, Idaho, 83420 and addressed to the Attention of the Director you wish to reach.

Question: The renewable energy policy from 2009 (on your website) talks about a requirement for liability insurance up to \$300k. Is this still valid?

Answer: Fall River doesn't have a requirement for liability insurance for any renewable or distributed generation connected to Fall River's system. To find the guidelines for a member to connect to Fall River's system for a net metering arrangement, go to the following link on the Fall River website for information on net metering: www.fallriverelectric.com/net-metering-savingenergy/.

More questions and answers will be provided in the next *FLASHES* newsletter.

Cybersecurity: A Top Priority

By Shannon Hill, Information Technology Manager

Fall River Electric is committed to, and takes very seriously, the protection of members' information, electric grid infrastructure, and cybersecurity assets. Recently, Fall River received valuable aid from the Department of Energy in formulating strong and current cybersecurity policies to protect information and assets. A third-party information technology vendor vigorously tested Fall River's firewall and other security systems using an external penetration test. After this test, results and findings were provided and simple remediation steps were taken to further strengthen the Co-op's security systems. In addition to these types of tests and audits, Fall River Electric has implemented and maintains strong anti-virus programs and email firewall systems to further protect from unwanted threats, including ransomware.

Currently, Fall River is undergoing another security audit and external penetration test by a different third-party IT consulting firm that specializes in trying to 'hack' into corporate networks. The results of this audit and test will provide additional information and findings so that Fall River can stay ahead of the game as far as cybersecurity goes. The Cooperative continues to educate their employees to look for ways to spot 'phishing emails' in forms of malware and ransomware that may threaten the Co-op's security. Employees are trained to use hardened passwords and/or phrases in their computer use, which are changed every three to six months. Fall River will continue to be diligent in protecting and safe-guarding all sensitive and important member information, electric grid infrastructure, and cybersecurity assets.



Schmier, Robson, Draper Elected As Board Of Director Officers

At the Board of Directors regularly scheduled July meeting, board members re-elected Doug Schmier as Board President and Dede Draper as Secretary/Treasurer. Brent Robson was elected Vice President. According to the Cooperative's by-laws, the President is the principal executive officer and presides at all meetings, the Vice President performs all the duties of the President when he is not available, and the Secretary/Treasurer is responsible for the minutes and safe-keeping of the corporate books, records, and the funds and securities of the Cooperative. Officers are elected by the full nine member board annually.

Doug Schmier
Board President

Brent Robson
Vice President

Dede Draper
Secretary/Treasurer





FALL RIVER
Rural Electric Cooperative
Where Service Matters

800-632-5726
208-652-7431

ASHTON

1150 North 3400 East
Ashton, ID 83420

DRIGGS

1605 N Highway 33
Driggs, ID 83422

WEST YELLOWSTONE

436 Madison Ave
West Yellowstone, MT 59758

All Our Offices Are Open
Monday - Friday
8:00am - 4:30pm

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Husk Crowther
District 1
Rexburg/Rigby



Jay Hanson
District 2
West Victor



Georg Behrens
District 3
East Victor



Debbie Smith
District 4
East Driggs



Brent Robson
District 5
West Driggs/Tetonia
Vice President



Dede Draper
District 6, Ashton
Secretary/Treasurer



Ron Dye
District 7
South Island Park



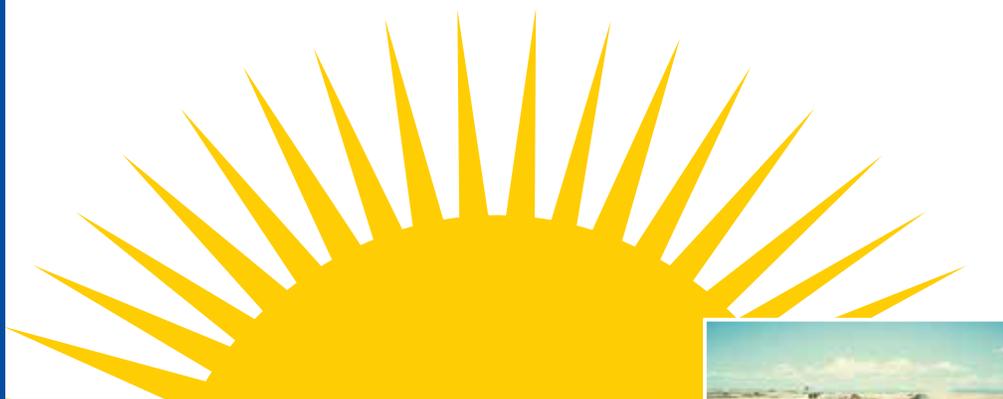
Ralph Burton
District 8
North Island Park



Doug Schmier
District 9
West Yellowstone
Board President



Bryan Case
Fall River Electric
CEO/General Manager



Through the Years: Reflecting On Milestones

The 1960s and 1970s marked a transitional period at Fall River Electric Cooperative. Palisades Dam had just been completed, and the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) took over marketing of the power generation from the Bureau of Reclamation. In September 1963, Fall River entered into a contract with BPA, an exciting change that brought a large-scale, established power-marketing agency into Eastern Idaho and Western Wyoming.

The need for power lines continued along with the region's growth. Shortly thereafter, power was sent from Swan Valley to just south of Victor. Reaching the south end of Teton Valley enabled Fall River to extend beyond the Tetons to West Yellowstone, Montana, eventually. The continued growth elevated Fall River Electric to become a competitive cooperative with neighboring investor-owned utilities, allowing for reduced costs in wholesale power from BPA.

A historic winter hit the region in 1969, testing the strength of Fall River's system. Residents likened the massive storms to that of the record-setting 1948 winter. Linemen braved the storms to repair damage to the distribution system and keep power running. The snow was welcomed, however, in Alta, Wyoming, where Grand Targhee Resort was preparing to kick off its inaugural season. Local farmers and ranchers conjured up a vision for a ski hill on Fred's Mountain to help boost the local economy. In the fall of 1969, a three-phase under-

ground cable was installed from the resort to a location on the valley floor, connecting to Fall River Electric's power system. Grand Targhee Resort also envisioned securing power from the resort's base area to the top of the mountain. To do so required an underground power line running up the face of a steep slope known as the bowl.

By the mid-1970s, Fall River Electric was continuing to expand services and provide more power to neighboring towns. A dam was under construction on the Teton River. Crews began work on two miles of line to connect the power from the Felt Power Plant to a newly planned substation on the Teton River. On Saturday, June 5, 1976, Fall River crews were taking a lunch break when a local farmer drove by. He told them the Teton Dam had burst, flooding Wilford, Sugar City, and onto Rexburg. The crew turned on the radio and confirmed the news. Sadly, eleven residents died during the flood. The Bureau of Reclamation took responsibility for the dam collapse and stepped in financially to help the region recover. Neighbors helped neighbors, and utility companies from nearby came to help rebuild. In the spirit of community—a value held still today—everyone chipped in to help. Fall River Electric's work to build new and improved systems, including new power lines, better poles, and the use of larger wires remains a value today in maintaining a reliable power system.



DANGER:

Do you have a back-up generator?

By Trent Yancey, Operations Manager

Throughout Fall River Electric's extensive service territory, our members have numerous back-up generators. At Fall River, we pride ourselves in having among the most reliable system in the industry. But in our system, as well as everyone else's, outage, do occur.

Some back-up generators are used in commercial industries and by emergency providers. City, county, state agencies, and Fall River facilities all utilize back-up generators. Many home-owners also have generators for back-up when outages occur.

Every generator needs to have a transfer switch that will disconnect their location from our system. Many people do not recognize the danger associated with connecting a generator into their home or business and not isolating it from Fall River's system.

For the most part, our distribution voltage is 7200 volts. When we provide a member with power, the 7200 volts goes through a transformer that reduces the voltage to a 120/240-volt circuit. The problem, and the possibility for danger with a generator, is that a transformer will transform voltage both up and down. When a generator is running without a transfer switch, that voltage is going backwards through the transformer and a 120-volt standard generator will feed back through the transformer and energize the primary line at 7200 volts!

Fall River Electric lineman will isolate themselves from the line source by means of a positive visual open on the source, feeding the line they are working on. Generators without a transfer switch create another source that will energize the line

by back-feed to 7200 volts, creating an extreme danger to our line crews.

There are several types of transfer switches, some mechanical and some electronic. They all provide the same function. Before the generator can provide back-up power, they open from Fall River's system. They are required by law and must be inspected by the State Electrical Inspector. In the event of an accident members that put outside generation on our system without an inspected transfer switch assume liability for injury and damages.

Fall River line crews always isolate from the voltage source and then the lines are grounded. When grounds are installed on primary distribution lines, the HOT lines are connected to the neutral conductor, which is grounded all the way back to the substation. If a generator turns on and there is not a transfer switch installed, the generator is feeding into a dead short. This can cause significant damage to the generator.

One situation that occurs often happens when there is an outage and a member has a generator with an extension cord and a double plug-in. Once they start the generator and insert the double plug-in into an electric socket without a transfer switch, it will back feed the transformer and cause an extreme danger for our crews. It is imperative to NEVER do this.

Please do not connect any generator that is not equipped with a transfer switch. If you need assistance or have questions about proper generator use, call Fall River Electric's operations department at 800.632.5726.



OFFICES CLOSED LABOR DAY

Fall River Electric offices will be closed Monday, September 3, to recognize the contributions of American workers of all industries to the U.S. economy. It is also meant to give workers a well-earned day off to relax at home or recreate. To many, Labor Day marks the end of the summer season!

As with all holidays, Fall River crews are on stand-by in case of a power outage. Should an outage occur, please call 1.800.632.5726 and a crew will be dispatched immediately.



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