

## FLASHES

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

## IN THIS QUARTERLY ISSUE

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### SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 24TH

Scholarship applications are now being accepted through Friday, March 24, 2023, for the children of members of Fall River Electric seeking financial assistance toward college or technical education classes in the fall. Applications are available on the Fall River Electric website at [www.fallriverelectric.com/scholarships](http://www.fallriverelectric.com/scholarships). Each scholarship is valued at \$2,400.

Students who have previously received a scholarship from Fall River Electric are reminded that they need to re-apply if they plan to continue their education later this year.



## Members To Receive \$1.5 Million Instant Owner Rebate

### Board Approves Fourth Rebate to Owner-Members



For only the fourth time in Fall River Electric Cooperative's history, your elected board members approved a \$1.5 million instant owner rebate for active owner-members of the Co-op that received power in 2022. The first rebate was awarded in 2018 with additional owner rebates the last two consecutive years.

"This rebate is possible because of our great growth of new customers in our service territory, which allows us to spread our fixed costs over greater numbers of members plus better than

anticipated kilowatt hour sales due to AirBnB use and the ability for people to work remotely from our beautiful service area," says Fall River Electric's CEO/General Manager Bryan Case. "This rebate comes on the heels of a record \$2.6 million patronage capital retirement paid to members in December, which together provides some great relief for our members from inflation."

This year's owner rebate will come as a credit on your February billing statement and is based on the amount of energy you used in 2022. Check your statement to see how much your share of this rebate is—you will experience first-hand one of the many benefits of belonging to a cooperative.

## New Board Member From Victor To Be Elected



Jay Hanson, from District 2, the west Victor area, has reached his term limits and will not be eligible for re-election in 2023. Fall River Electric's nominating committee is seeking new candidates from that area of the Co-op's service territory.

The west Victor boundaries are west of State Highway 33 and north to Bates Road, including the areas of Bates, Cedron, Teton Springs, and the west side of Victor. Additionally, the current seats occupied by Georg Behrens in District 3 in east Victor and Jeff Keay in District 8 in northern Island Park are up for election.

One of the seven guiding principles of Fall River Electric Cooperative is democratic member control, meaning your Co-op is controlled by its owner-members. The elected representatives of Fall River's Board of Directors actively participate in setting the policies, guiding long-term strategy, and are accountable to the membership. The three seats up for election this year are part of the nine seats that constitute the board.

The nominating committee will make candidate selections and a notice regarding the eligible candidates for each district will be posted at the Ashton, Idaho, office of Fall River Electric on April 28, as required by the Co-op's bylaws. This information will also be included in the "Notice of Annual Meeting," which will be mailed to all active members on May 18, 2023. This will include a ballot to allow members to vote by mail or online. Although these candidates come from specific geographic areas of the Cooperative's service territory, they represent all members and thus all owner-members of the Co-op vote for these seats.

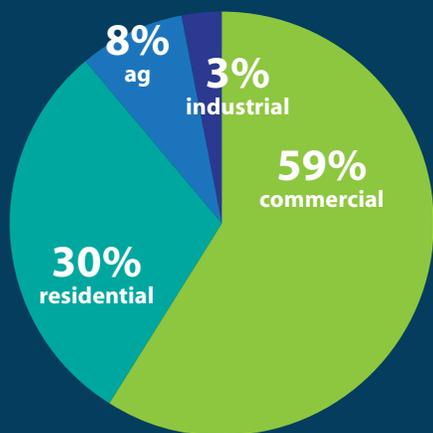
If you are interested in being considered as a board candidate, please contact Bryan Case by Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at [bryan.case@fallriverelectric.com](mailto:bryan.case@fallriverelectric.com) or call 800.632.5726 and ask to speak with him during normal business hours, Monday through Friday. Qualifications and expectations for board members can be found in our bylaws, which are located on our website at [www.fallriverelectric.com/bylaws](http://www.fallriverelectric.com/bylaws). Election winners will be announced at the Cooperative's annual business meeting on June 17, 2023.





## DON'T MISS IT! Tesla EV Available For Member Test Drives Again

Once again owner-members of Fall River Electric who are interested in driving an electric vehicle will have another chance to take the Co-op's Tesla Model 3 for a test drive for up to three days in March, April, and May. Interested members in the Ashton and Upper Valley area can log onto our website at [www.fallriverelectric.com/test-drive-sign-up](http://www.fallriverelectric.com/test-drive-sign-up) to reserve their preferred dates in March, while dates are available in April for Teton Valley members and future May dates will be available for members living in Island Park and West Yellowstone. If you have taken our Tesla previously, we ask that you allow other members this opportunity. There is no charge for our Tesla rentals.



Graph showing the categories where energy rebates were paid in 2022.

## Members Received Nearly \$100,000 In Energy Rebates

Fall River Electric's energy conservation rebates have paid Co-op members \$93,840 toward their cost of making energy saving improvements at the businesses, farms, and residences in 2022. The graph shows the percentages toward each area of rebates available to members. Members also saved over 1,230,000 kilowatt hours of energy, which also means lower power bills. The great news is that Fall River Electric still has funds available for your projects in 2023!

available for irrigation systems, pumps, and potato storage. Visit [www.fallriverelectric.com](http://www.fallriverelectric.com) and click the tab "My Energy Savings" for the details and applications and let Fall River Electric help you pay for your energy saving projects!

New federal tax credits included in the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 are now available for consumers.

These tax credits are available for heat pumps, electrical panels, and energy-efficient windows and doors. The credits are available through 2032 and offer up to \$3,200 per year.

For the full list of tax credits available as of January 1, 2023, visit: [www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2022-12/Tax%20Form\\_12.22.22v2.pdf](http://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2022-12/Tax%20Form_12.22.22v2.pdf)

Always consult your tax preparation provider to ensure these tax credits can apply to you.



Above from left: Brent Gamett, Randy Farmer, CEO Bryan Case. Below from left: David Peterson, Mark Chandler, Bryan Case.

## Saying 'So Long' Is Hard To Do

After 37 years as a lineman and fifteen of those as line foreman in Teton Valley, Randy Farmer retired at the beginning of 2023. Tuc Atchley of the Driggs line crew was named foreman.

Mark Chandler also retired recently as the Co-op's hydro plant supervisor. Chad Johnson was selected as the new supervisor of Fall River Electric's four hydroelectric power plants. Chad had fifteen years of experience in hydro plant operations before coming to Fall River. Thank you, Randy and Mark, for your years of service!



## NEED HELP PAYING YOUR WINTER ENERGY BILL?

If you are struggling to pay higher winter energy bills, help is available. The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance program (LIHEAP) is available to qualifying Fall River Electric members however, time is running out to apply. To inquire, call the office in the state you reside in:

IDAHO – 208.522.5391 [healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/](http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/)

MONTANA – 406.587.4486 [dphhs.mt.gov/](http://dphhs.mt.gov/)

WYOMING – 800.246.4221 [lieapwyo.org/](http://lieapwyo.org/)



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  
Vice President



**Jay Hanson**  
District 2  
West Victor



**Georg Behrens**  
District 3  
East Victor  
Board President



**Anna Lindstedt**  
District 4  
East Driggs



**Brent Robson**  
District 5  
West Driggs/Tetonia



**Dede Draper**  
District 6  
Ashton



**Jodi Stiehl**  
District 7  
South Island Park  
Secretary/Treasurer



**Jeff Keay**  
District 8  
North Island Park



**Doug Schmier**  
District 9  
West Yellowstone



**Bryan Case**  
Fall River Electric  
CEO/General  
Manager

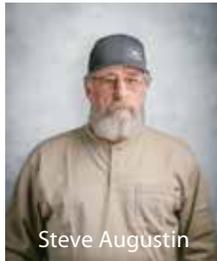
## It's always fun for the entire family when Fall River Electric hosts its annual Energy Expo!

Save the date: **Saturday, June 17, 2023**

**North Fremont High School in Ashton**

Enjoy a FREE breakfast starting at 8a.m., prizes for all attendees, kids activities, Tesla test drives, vendors with more prizes, and the annual business meeting with even more prizes, and announcement of the election of three members to the Co-op's board.

## Welcome These New Members To The Fall River Family



Steve Augustin



Brayden Shaffer



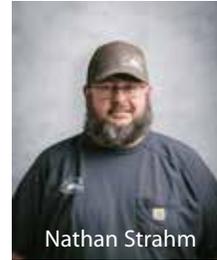
Phil Byman



Conner Lenz



Chad Johnson



Nathan Strahm

A lot of fresh faces have joined Fall River Electric's staff in the past few months. Steve Augustin, Brayden Shaffer, and Phil Byman are new linemen. Connor Lenz is the new hydro operator, Chad Johnson is the new hydro supervisor. Nate Strahm joined the information technology department.

## TAKE SAFETY HOME – February Is Heart Month

During the month of February, give your heart a little love. Eat better for your overall heart health by following these steps:

- Stay within a reasonable daily calorie limit;
- Cut back on red meats, sugary foods and drinks, saturated fats, and sodium;
- Eat more fish, vegetables, and fruits like bananas, oranges, and raisins;
- Add whole grains and low-fat dairy to your diet;
- Regularly check your blood pressure (120 over 80 or less is best) and cholesterol; and
- Get an annual physical and add a little exercise into your routine at least three times per week.



**American Heart Association®**

life is why™



[www.fallriverelectric.com](http://www.fallriverelectric.com)



# Boyce Joins Fall River Propane Board

Island Park business owner Amber Boyce has been named to the six-member Fall River Propane Board of Directors, filling the position held previously by David Moore who moved away from the area.

In 1995, Boyce began her career in the construction industry starting as an apprentice electrician and moving on to a master residential electrician. Her love for construction developed into becoming a general contractor in both Utah and Idaho. In 2006, Amber, her husband, Lance, and two small children moved to Island Park, Idaho, to pursue their dream of building custom cabins. In 2008, she and her husband developed an insulated monolithic concrete form used for frost protected shallow foundations. This new construction product is patented and now distributed nationwide through their company, Mono Slab EZ.

Fall River Propane is a locally owned and operated full-service residential and commercial propane provider offering the highest quality propane at competitive prices in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. Fall River Propane is a wholly owned subsidiary of Fall River Electric Cooperative and all profits generated by this subsidiary are returned to Fall River Electric members through the Co-op's Patronage Capital Program.



# Food Drives Deliver Much Needed Food To Local Food Banks, Pantrys

During the past holiday season, Fall River Electric's staff conducted four food drives at area grocery stores in support of local food banks. A total of nearly 3,000 pounds of food was delivered to four regional food banks, including Teton Valley Food Pantry in Driggs, North Fremont Food Pantry in Ashton, the social services office in West Yellowstone, and to the food pantry in Rexburg operated by Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership.

In addition to the nonperishable food donated, the food pantries received more than \$4,000 in cash donations from individuals and local businesses with significant donations from Leishman Electric in Rexburg and 98 Electric in Driggs. Fall River Electric members contributed another \$2,000 in cash, which is extremely helpful in allowing the food banks to purchase food that is not normally donated.

Fall River Electric delivered food to the Teton Valley Food Pantry. Pictured here from left to right: Lineman Kade, Foreman Tuc, Pantry staffers Anne, Charmayne, Sue, Sarah and Tim. Lineman Jace up top.



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Want your Fall River FLASHES faster? Click [www.fallriverelectric.com](http://www.fallriverelectric.com) and then select the tab "My Cooperative" followed by the drop-down menu "Fall River Electric Newsletter."

Keep up to date, including on power outage information, by "liking" Fall River Electric on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/fallriverrec](http://www.facebook.com/fallriverrec).

