

Watts Up?

www.ravallielectric.com
service@ravallielectric.com

Volume 23, No. 5

Ravalli Electric Co-op

Corvallis, Montana



At the Co-ops first Annual Meeting in October 1936, the “stockholders/members” elected the first directors. They were President T.R. Glass, Vice President Oswin Glidewell, Gomer Lockridge, Paul Knaak and Guy Hall. Charles C. Horak was appointed Secretary/Treasurer and quasi-Manager. Lee Metcalf was attained as the Co-op’s first attorney. In November of that same year, C.B. Johnson and Charles Edson were added as directors.

In the January 20, 1938 edition of the *Western News*, the following appeared on the front page: “Electricity flowed through the newly constructed lines of the Ravalli County Electric Cooperative Association at 6:40 PM Friday... When the light was unexpectedly turned on in the scores of homes connected with the Co-op’s lines, the people of the district staged numerous impromptu celebrations. Startled, some of the housewives dropped supper dishes; telephones were kept busy while neighbors conversed as to how the electrical gadgets worked.”

These words convey the excitement felt in Ravalli County and throughout rural America when electric service was finally established. Please come help us celebrate on June 12, 2010!

Following are the unapproved minutes from the 2009 Annual Meeting.

2009 ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS MINUTES

The Annual Meeting of Members of the Ravalli County Electric Cooperative, Inc. [hereinafter referred to as the “Cooperative” or the “Co-op”] was held at the high school gymnasium in Corvallis, Montana, on June 13, 2009, at 10:30 am.

Following an invocation by Trustee Robert Bailey, the meeting was called to order by Board President Stacy Bartlett. President Bartlett welcomed the Members to their 74th Annual Meeting, and expressed thanks and appreciation to the Members on behalf

of the Board of Trustees for attending the meeting. She also congratulated the Members on their cooperation and participation in the business affairs of the Cooperative, and introduced a number of guests attending the meeting. Robert Bailey then led a memorial “moment of silence” in honor of former Trustee, Leland Thompson.

Rick Matusiak of the accounting firm of Summers, McNea & Co. (independent auditor for the Co-op) presented the Auditor’s Report. Mr. Matusiak directed the

Members to the 12/31/08 “Financial Report” contained in the Notice of Annual Meeting. He pointed out that the utility plant in service was now approximately \$36,000,000 (before considering accumulated depreciation). There were 120 new services in 2008, which represented a slowdown in growth when compared to prior years. Nevertheless, during the past ten years, the utility plant has grown

(Continued on page 2)

7890



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Ravalli Electric Co-op

(Continued from page 2)

Brown stressed that money needed to be put into new and innovative technologies and that technology needed to be kept in front of mandates relating to power issues.

Mr. Brown then addressed questions from the Membership. He followed with an introduction of the employees of the Cooperative and subsequently called for the President's Report.

Before providing her report, President Bartlett (from District 1) introduced the remaining Members of the Board of Trustees, namely: Wayne Olson (Vice President and Trustee from District 2); Larry Trexler (Secretary/Treasurer and Trustee from District 6); Robert Bailey (Trustee from District 3); Charles Swanson (Trustee from District 4); and Kevin Frost (Trustee from District 5).

President Bartlett, in her address, pointed out that the Board's primary focus this past year has been to secure a power supply post 2011, a task which was nearly complete. She reported the contract with Bonneville Power has been signed, but costs will be increasing from what they had been over the past ten years. The most difficult part has been securing the right resource for future load growth. In that effort, the Co-op has teamed up with six other Western Montana Cooperatives to absorb some of the risks involved in acquiring a resource.

President Bartlett also explained efforts which had been made by the Co-op to improve on its communication with Members. Those efforts were recognized through awards given to the Co-op this past year; Ms. Bartlett gave particular credit to two employees, Jim Maunder and Patty Goosey.

Finally, President Bartlett explained that there is now a Board vacancy available due to former

Trustee Mike Deveraux having moved from the community. The Members' special attention to this vacancy and the importance of the Board election was stressed.

President Bartlett called the business portion of the meeting to order and introduced Gail Goheen, Co-op attorney, who then conducted the business portion of the meeting. Larry Trexler, Secretary of the Cooperative, arranged for the minutes of the meeting to be kept. The meeting Chairman announced a list had been prepared of the Members present at the meeting. That list is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and by this reference has been made a part of these minutes. The Members present constituted more than a quorum of the Cooperative, a quorum being 50 Members or 5% of the Membership, whichever is less. The total Cooperative Membership was 7,772 Members as of May 19, 2009 (the date of mailing of the Notice of Annual Meeting); 233 voting Members were counted as being present at the meeting. The Chairman reported that at a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, held immediately prior to the giving of the Notice of the Annual Meeting of Members, all applicants for Membership in the Cooperative had fulfilled all requirements therefore, were receiving service from the Cooperative, and had been accepted as Members.

The Chairman then referenced a copy of the Notice of Meeting, which is attached hereto as Exhibit "B," and as well referenced a "Certificate" and "Affidavit of Mailing" (both attached hereto as Exhibit "C") confirming mailing of the Annual Report and Notice of Meeting to each and every Member of the Cooperative as of the date of mailing. Upon motion

duly made, seconded, and carried, it was ordered that the Certificate, Affidavit of Mailing, and Notice of Meeting be annexed to the Minutes of the Meeting. Discussion of the intended agenda for the meeting was also presented and after motion duly made and seconded, the Membership approved the meeting agenda.

The Financial Statement of Revenue and Expenses for the year ending December 31, 2008, contained in the Annual Report and Notice of Meeting was pointed out to the Members. A motion was made, seconded, and carried that the Financial Reports be approved and ordered to be filed in the records of the Cooperative.

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Members of the Cooperative held on June 7, 2008 were made available to all Members attending the meeting. In addition, they appeared in the May Co-op Magazine which was sent to all Members. In conformance with the option under the Bylaws, the Board earlier determined that it was not necessary to read the Minutes to the Members at the meeting. From the Membership, a motion was then made, seconded, and carried that the Minutes of the 2008 Annual Meeting be approved and entered into the records of the Cooperative.

The Chairman of the meeting announced that the next order of business was the election of Trustees from Districts 3 and 7, with each to serve for a term of three years. The Members' attention was directed by the Chairman to the maps and definitions of the Districts provided to the Members. Bylaw provisions relating to the quali-

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

fications for a Member of the Board of Trustees and the procedures for their nomination and election were then outlined.

Thereafter, nominations were opened for District 3 Trustee, and Robert Bailey was nominated. No further nominations were made, and a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried that the Trustee nominations for District 3 be closed.

Nominations were then made for District 7 Trustee. The following persons were nominated: Bob Cooke, Mary Lemon, Jenny Forbes, and Rex Griffin. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried that the Trustee nominations for District 7 be closed.

The Board candidates each confirmed that they met the By-law requirements (Article III) to serve as a Board Member. Each candidate was given an opportunity to briefly present his/her other qualifications. The election of the incumbent Trustee from District 3 (Robert Bailey) was then separately and unanimously confirmed by an oral vote of the Members, as that election was uncontested.

The meeting was briefly adjourned so that the ballots could be counted for the election of the District 7 Trustee. During the interim, qualified high school senior candidates for Co-op scholarships were presented to the Membership, twelve of

whom were randomly selected and presented with a scholarship of \$1,000 each by Trustees Charles Swanson and Robert Bailey. Thereafter, the meeting was called to order again, at which time the winner of the election for District 7 Trustee was announced – Rex Griffin.

There were no additional ballot issues. There was no old or new business for consideration, and the Membership offered none. There being no further

business to come before the meeting, by motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the meeting was then adjourned.

Thereafter, Trustees Larry Trexler, Wayne Olson, and Kevin Frost supervised the awarding of door prizes to those Members attending the meeting.

[Note: Exhibits mentioned in the above minutes are available at the Cooperative office upon request.]



May marks National Electrical Safety Month

so it's a time to take steps to prevent electrical fires, injuries and fatalities in the home and at work.

"Eliminating electrical hazards begins with education and awareness," says the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) President Brett Brenner. "National Electrical Safety Month is a time for all of us to reexamine our surroundings and determine what steps we can take to prevent the hundreds of deaths, thousands of injuries, and billions of dollars in economic losses that occur each year because of electrical hazards.

According to the National Safety Council, electricity is the cause of over 140,000 fires each year, resulting in more than 500 deaths, 4000 injuries, and \$1.6 billion in property damage in the United States.

Be sure to educate your children in the safe use of electricity, i.e. don't fly kites near power lines, never climb trees near any power lines, and never use electrical items near water. Electrical accidents in an office environment usually occur as a result of faulty or defective equipment, unsafe installation, or misuse of equipment – so now is the time to do an electrical safety inspection at your office. It's also a good time to check around your home for any electrical hazards, such as faulty cords on power equipment and household appliances.

The Electrical Safety Foundation International is dedicated exclusively to promoting electrical safety in the home and the workplace. ESFI proudly sponsors National Electrical Safety Month each May. For more information about ESFI and National Electrical Safety Month, visit www.electricalsafety.org.

Find the Hidden Number



We will hide three account numbers this month in our "Watts Up?" pages. If you find your account number, call the office at 961-3001 by the 20th of the magazine month and you get a \$30 credit on your electric bill. Good luck!

Ravalli County Electric Cooperative, Inc.

P.O. Box 190
Corvallis, MT 59828

Phone (406) 961-3001
Fax (406) 961-3230

Richard J. Brown
General Manager

Board of Directors

Stacy Bartlett, President
Wayne Olson, Vice President
Larry Trexler, Sec./Treas.
Robert Bailey, Trustee
Charles Swanson, Trustee
Kevin Frost, Trustee
Rex Griffin, Trustee