

Big Skylights



An internal newsletter of the STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

A report from your Chief Executive Officer Dave Wheelihan

April 1, 2010

Schedule set for MECA board and committees

A schedule for this spring's MECA board and committee meetings has been set for April 6-8.

On Tuesday, April 6, MECA is planning to hold a Computer Basics Workshop. The workshop will be held from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Following is the tentative schedule for committee meetings on Wednesday, April 7: 9-10 a.m., Audit Committee; 10-11 a.m., MECA Managers' Group; 11-12 Noon, Communications Committee; 12 Noon-1 p.m., Lunch & Pre-briefing for all prospective Montana delegates to the 2010 NRECA Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C.; 1-2 p.m., Climate Change Legislative Subcommittee; 2-3:30 p.m. Policy and Bylaws Committee; 3:30-4:30 p.m., Legislative Committee; 5 p.m. Cocktail Hour; 6 p.m. MECA Dinner. Please remember that committee meetings may begin before their scheduled time if the preceding meeting ends early.

The MECA board meeting will be held on Thursday, April 8, beginning at 8 a.m.

Official notices for the board meeting, agenda and committee schedule were mailed March 26.

Registrations needed for NRECA Management Courses

The Education & Training committee of Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association is sponsoring two back-to-back workshops focusing on effective management skills. Anyone who supervises employees is welcome to attend. Both courses are offered through NRECA. Tools for Effective Performance Management will be held April 20 from 8:00 – 12 noon while the Motivating Employees course will be held from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Performance management involves daily activities to help the employee and supervisor create and meet development goals for both the individual and the co-op. Effective performance management involves coaching, evaluation, and discipline. *Tools for Effective Performance Management* discusses the best way to conduct a performance appraisal and how to use disciplinary action. Motivation can lift your employees' level of performance, increase job satisfaction, and promote teamwork. The Motivating Employee course will explore the co-op supervisor's role, value, and rewards in motivation. You'll review a self-evaluation tool to help identify your motivational strengths and weaknesses. Contact Sharon McDonald at the Statewide office for more information.

CALENDAR

April

6	MECA Computer Skills Workshop	Great Falls, MT
7	MECA Committees' Meetings	Great Falls, MT
8	MECA Board of Directors	Great Falls, MT
10	Glacier Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Cut Bank, MT
16	Marias River Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Shelby, MT
20	Tools for Effective Management & Motivating Employee Workshops	Great Falls, MT

May

2-5	NRECA Legislative Conference	Washington, DC
8	Northern Lights Annual Meeting	Sandpoint, ID
12	Western Montana Electric G & T Cooperative Annual Meeting	Missoula, MT
15	Hill County Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Havre, MT
25	Emotional Intelligence at Work workshop	Great Falls, MT
26	Conflict Is Seminar	Great Falls, MT