

# HILL COUNTY ELECTRIC'S 77<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

May 14th, 2022 - MSU-N SUB Ballroom

Registration at 9am - Business Meeting at 10am

HILL COUNTY ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE





## Message from Our President

*Shane Barrett*

*District 1*

It looks like 2022 is the year we are finally going to be able to get back to a little normalcy in our world here at HCE. We are looking forward to being able to hold our annual meeting after 2 years without getting together with our members. It will be our 77th annual meeting, and my first as a trustee for HCE. I was elected to the Board in 2019 and it has been an interesting time since. I have learned so much about the electric industry, and cooperatives in general. Covid-19 made things a little difficult, but also interesting. We held many meetings through Zoom and other platforms and teleconferences. I would like to thank our sister cooperative, Triangle Communications, for providing us the means to make these meetings possible.

As many of you know, we have seen some changes in the board for your cooperative since we last met. In June of 2019, Stu Smith passed, leaving a void within the board. I never was able to get to know Stu, but the remaining board and associate board all speak highly of the job and contribution he provided to not only HCE, but also the other organizations HCE is involved in.

After Stu's passing his wife Leslie was appointed to fill out his term, and then was elected by the members to remain as a trustee. Leslie has been a great asset and is very active in keeping up to speed with all the changes and getting to know the industry. She has also received her CCD Certificate, (Credentialed Cooperative Director) from NRECA, and continues to participate in education opportunities and

is an active participant in our meetings as well as our member organizations. HCE was shocked by the sudden passing of Fritz Keller, which left a huge hole in knowledge, especially historical knowledge of HCE and its member organizations. Fritz had a wealth of knowledge, that is greatly missed. At the MECA annual meeting in October before he passed, Fritz received the Director Cooperative Spirit Award for all his years of service not only to HCE but also MECA, CMEPC, and other cooperative organizations around the state. Fritz was definitely a cooperative member at heart and provided his time to HCE for over 41 years. We are grateful for his contributions and miss him dearly.

We also saw the retirement of Merle Belcourt in 2020 after 30 years of service. Merle's contributions to the cooperative were incredibly important, and he is missed on the board. His knowledge of the local area, especially the Rocky Boy Indian Reservation, are matched by none. After the passing of Fritz, Merle was gracious enough to finish out Fritz's term and help keep things moving forward. We appreciate his work while on the HCE board. Upon Merle's retirement, Trevor Standing Rock was elected to represent District 2. Trevor has done a great job and has acquired his CCD in his first term. He has been an active participant in meetings and brings great information on the activities and growth within his district.

At the end of Fritz's remaining term (which had been finished out by Merle), Nick Siebrasse was elected to be the trustee for the "At- Large" seat. Nick hit the ground running and has received his CCD designation as well. Nick is very engaged at meetings and always looking to grow his knowledge of the cooperative and the industry. Gerald Rutledge was re-elected to represent District 4, and he brings a wealth of knowledge to those of us that are still learning and getting our feet under us. Thanks to our members for electing a Board of Trustees that has the best interest of its members in mind.

The board and management would also like to give a huge shout out and thank you to our lineman and staff. They have worked extremely hard over the last 3 years through constant change to keep our lights on and things running smooth. Covid has been a challenging time, and our employees really went the extra mile to make sure our members were taken care of, and things were as seamless as possible. We also appreciate our memberships' patience as we dealt and continue to deal with these ever-changing times.

I look forward to meeting with all of you at our upcoming annual meeting. I encourage all of you to join us and meet your new trustees, enjoy a meal together, learn the state of your cooperative, and enjoy some fellowship.

*Thank You,*

**Shane Barrett**



**Message from  
Our Secretary/  
Treasurer**

*Nick Siebrasse*

You are the reason we are here! Since 1945 your Hill County Electric Cooperative has been here to serve You- the member. Many things have changed through the years, but the commitment of HCE's board, staff and employees to supply our members with safe, reliable electricity at the best value possible is still our number one priority. Materials and equipment have evolved but our Line Crews still brave storms, cold nights, heat and adversity to keep our power on. Staff and management strive to

keep costs down and satisfaction up. Over the years we've had many great employees come and go, all with one thing in mind, we are here for you, and because of you, the member.

Springtime in north central Montana means it is time for our annual meeting. If you have been to an Annual Meeting, you know the value of learning what is happening at HCE, electing and visiting with your trustees, in addition to sharing fellowship with friends old and new. If you have never been to your cooperative's Annual Meeting, I think you will be glad you came for the information, participating in the future of your co-op, having a meal with friends and neighbors and maybe taking home a nice door prize or two.

I hope to see you there.

**Nick Siebrasse**  
*District 5*

**Other Board Members**



**Leslie Smith**  
Vice President  
District 3



**Gerald Rutledge**  
District 4



**Trevor Standing Rock**  
District 2



## Message from our CEO

*Craig Gates*

I am sure glad that 2021 is over. It will be nice to see everyone in person on Saturday, May 14th for Hill County Electric's 77th Annual Meeting of Members.

Every year for the last 70 plus years we have been able to get together annually to hear about the cooperative and hear from our Trustees, CFO and myself. As you know we have a relatively new Board of Trustees. Four of the five board members have less than 3 years. We lost Clarence "Fritz" Keller last year and we miss Fritz every day.

The Trustees we have today are moving fast to understand the industry that they have been elected to be trustees over. All 5 of our Trustees have received their Board Credentials from NRECA. This is outstanding, because our bylaws require that Trustees achieve this status within 6 years of becoming a Trustee. I stated earlier that the four new Trustees have less than 3 years and have completed this goal, amazing and shows their dedication to the cooperative. This is a result of a lot of schoolwork and education seminars that are necessary to obtain their credentials, congratulations!

Our linemen, electricians, office staff and management team are incredible and, in my opinion, second to none. The team works together day and night to make

sure you have power year around, no matter the weather.

Safety is always #1 for all our employees. We also saw the retirement of Todd Solomon in 2021; Todd was our Safety and Loss Prevention Specialist who did an incredible job for the cooperative. Jim Sands has taken on the responsibility in the interim until we can get a replacement named; I want to thank Jim specifically for helping the cooperative even more than he already does. Everyone on our team does their part to always keep themselves and their co-workers safe. It really is everyone's responsibility, and I am glad to say the team ensures that everyone is safe every day!

Please respond by mail or mark your calendar and join us on Saturday, May 14th for food, prizes and be part of your cooperative's future. HCE would not exist with you, the members!

*Thank You,*

*Craig Gates*

# Official Notice of Annual Meeting

The 77th Annual Meeting of Members of Hill County Electric Cooperative, Incorporated of Havre, Montana, will be held on Saturday, May 14th, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. in the Ballroom of the Student Union Building on the campus of Montana State University Northern in Havre, Montana, to take action on the following matters:

- The election of one trustee of the Cooperative. Voting may occur via mail or in person.
- Proposed Bylaw Amendments.
- Passing upon reports of officers, trustees and committees for the year 2021.
- Transacting such other business as may come before the meeting and any adjournments thereof.

In connection with the election of one trustee scheduled for this meeting, the following members have been nominated for the trustee positions by the committee on nominations, pursuant to the Bylaws:

District 1            Shane Barrett

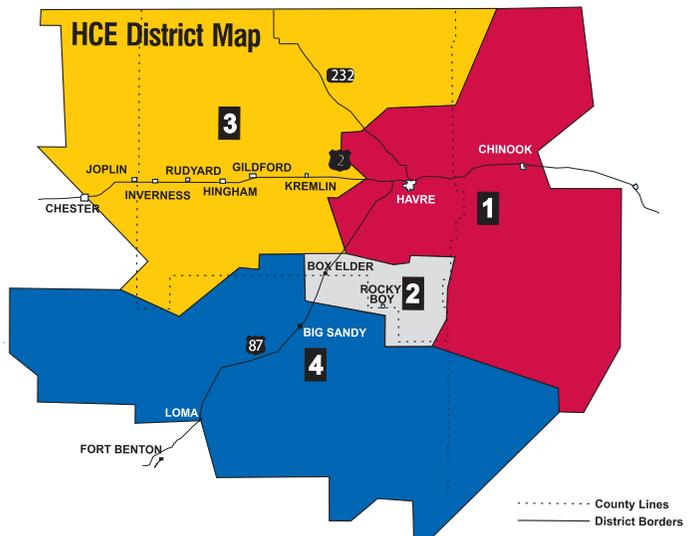
Additional nominations for trustees may be made at the meeting. The person or persons to whom this notice is addressed indicates the name in which the membership is carried. Voting must be done by the member, or in the case of joint membership, by only one of the joint members.

Registration for the business meeting begins at 9:00 a.m. in the MSU-Northern Student Union Building. The business meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. and a buffet lunch will begin immediately following the meeting.

## Nick Siebrasse

### District 5

Secretary & Treasurer  
May 4, 2022



# Financials

## 2021 Balance Sheet

### ASSETS

The cost of our electric system is	\$52,951,027	
We estimate that it has depreciated	<u>\$22,519,089</u>	\$30,431,938
We also have:		
Cash in checking accounts	\$411,722	
Investments in Cash Equivalents	\$4,823,564	
Short-term investments	\$115,716	
Accounts Receivable:		
Electric Services	\$1,587,570	
Other Services	\$304,832	
Interest Receivable	\$7,157	
Materials & Supplies	\$681,670	
Prepaid Expenses:		
Dues & Subscriptions	<u>\$175,611</u>	\$8,107,842
Invested in Associated Organizations:		
NRUCFC - Certificates	\$404,008	
NISC - Capital Credits	\$ 53,483	
NRUCFC - Capital Credits	\$12,016	
Cobank	\$79,931	
Membership & Capital Credits in various cooperatives	<u>\$89,598</u>	\$639,036
Notes Receivable		\$636,652
Invested in Long-Term Investments		\$896,935
Deferred Charges		\$102,625
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>\$40,815,028</u>

### LIABILITIES

We have mortgage notes to RUS & NRUCFC & CoBank	\$30,869,501	
Less unadvanced & repaid	\$13,213,132	
Less current portion owed	<u>\$918,606</u>	\$16,737,763
We also owe:		
Accounts Payable	\$2,361,288	
Current portion of long-term debt	\$918,606	
Consumer Advances for Construction	\$ 68,536	
Consumer Deposits	\$48,725	
Balance of 2021 property taxes	\$272,376	
Accrued payroll & payroll taxes	\$273,099	
Accrued vacations & holiday	\$207,346	
Accrued interest	<u>\$20,645</u>	\$4,170,621
Deferred Credits		\$179,385

### CAPITAL

Patronage capital & other equities		\$19,727,259
TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL		<u>\$40,815,028</u>

## 2021-2020 Comparative Operating Statement

	2021	2020
OPERATING REVENUE		
Electric energy sales	\$17,206,330	\$16,137,899
Other electric revenue	<u>\$434,249</u>	\$453,234
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES	\$17,640,579	\$16,591,133
OPERATING REVENUE DEDUCTIONS		
Cost of power	\$10,498,504	\$9,763,242
Electric plant operation expense	\$813,750	\$804,581
Electric plant maintenance expense	\$1,190,199	\$1,067,665
Consumer accounts expense	\$396,167	\$414,361
Customer service & sales expense	\$54,634	\$68,523
Administrative and general	\$1,210,529	\$1,203,564
Annual meeting expenses	\$13,605	\$13,078
Depreciation	\$1,515,845	\$1,536,981
Taxes	\$543,437	\$540,448
Interest	\$421,693	\$462,125
Miscellaneous	\$30,981	\$28,839
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE	<u>\$16,689,344</u>	\$15,903,407
Operating margins	\$951,235	\$687,726
Non-operating margins	\$389,122	\$275,037
TOTAL MARGINS	<u>\$1,340,357</u>	<u>\$962,763</u>

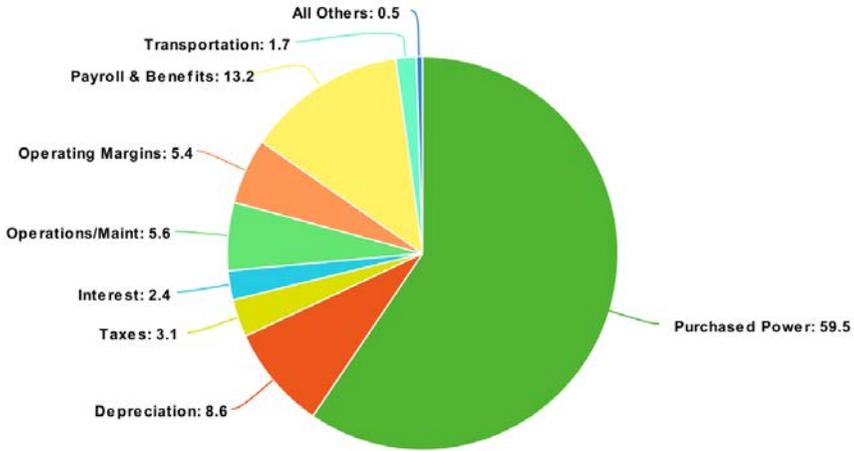
**USE OF YOUR 2021 - 2020 ELECTRIC DOLLAR**

		<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Purchased Power	59.5%	\$10,498,504	\$9,763,242
Depreciation	8.6%	\$1,515,845	\$1,536,981
Taxes	3.1%	\$543,437	\$540,448
Interest	2.4%	\$421,693	\$462,125
Operations/Maintenance	5.6%	\$981,654	\$829,828
Operating Margins	5.4%	\$951,235	\$687,726
Payroll & Benefits	13.2%	\$2,334,121	\$2,272,785
Transportation	1.7%	\$302,076	\$303,534
All Others	0.5%	\$92,014	\$194,464
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$17,640,579</b>	<b>\$16,591,133</b>

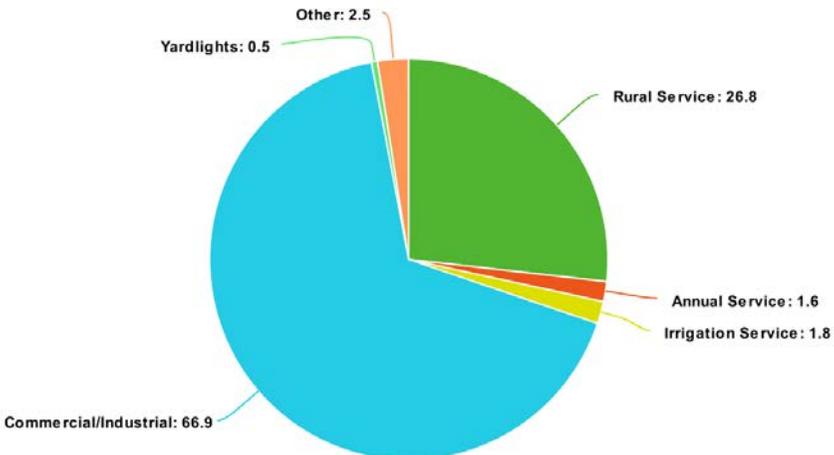
**SOURCES OF YOUR 2021 - 2020 ELECTRIC DOLLAR**

		<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Rural Service	26.8%	\$4,719,907	\$4,726,411
Annual Service	1.6%	\$285,197	\$298,195
Irrigation Service	1.8%	\$310,013	\$285,674
Commercial/Industrial	66.9%	\$11,800,604	\$10,736,574
Yardlights	0.5%	\$90,376	\$91,045
Other	2.5%	\$434,482	\$453,234
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$17,640,579</b>	<b>\$16,591,133</b>

Use of Your 2021 - 2020 Electric Dollar



Sources of Your 2021 - 2020 Electric Dollar



Hill County Electric board of trustees has the following bylaw amendments to present. Members will be able to vote for the presented bylaw amendments by mail or at the annual meeting. Each proposed bylaw change is stated below, first including a summary of the proposed change, followed by the changes to be made to the bylaw and then a new section showing how the bylaw will look if approved. The board is asking for all bylaws to be accepted in one vote.

Summary

**SECTION 3.01. Annual Meeting.**

This proposed bylaw change will allow the cooperative to call an annual meeting in any month of the year. Currently, the board has no plans to call an annual meeting in a different month than May; however, the pandemic made it clear that the board should have the flexibility to call an annual meeting in a different month if the meeting is unable to be held in May. In 2021, the board could have called the annual meeting in a month other than May; however, the board was not able to do so under the current language in the bylaws. The board respectfully request that you accept this bylaw change.

Bylaws

**SECTION 3.01. Annual Meeting.** The annual meeting of the members shall be held ~~each year on such date as the Board determines~~ during the month of May of each year at Havre, Montana, for purposes of electing Board members, passing upon reports for the previous fiscal year and transacting such other business as may come before the meeting. It shall be the responsibility of the Board to make adequate plans and preparations for the annual meeting. Failure to hold the annual meeting at the designated time shall not constitute a dissolution of the Cooperative.

**(NEW) SECTION 3.01. Annual Meeting.** The annual meeting of the members shall be held each year on such date as the Board determines at Havre, Montana, for purposes of electing Board members, passing upon reports for the previous fiscal year and transacting such other business as may come before the meeting. It shall be the responsibility of the Board to make adequate plans and preparations for the annual meeting. Failure to hold the annual meeting at the designated time shall not constitute a dissolution of the Cooperative.

\* \* \* \* \*

Summary

**SECTION 4.02. Trustee Districts.**

The proposed change in this bylaw is meant to coordinate with the requested bylaw change in Section 4.06 below. If it was necessary to alter the boundaries of the cooperative’s districts, then the members would need to be informed by the board at least 60 days before the annual meeting, so that any members submitting petitions for trustee nominations would have the proper information on the cooperative’s districts that are up for election. The board respectfully request that you accept this bylaw change.

Bylaws

**SECTION 4.02. Trustee Districts.** The Cooperative’s five (5) trustees shall be so nominated and elected as to provide one (1) trustee, qualified under Section 4.05 of these bylaws, from each of the following trustee districts (**Districts** or **District**):

- District No. 1, known as the Cooperative’s “Eastern Service Area” and generally comprised of the Havre North, Havre South, Chinook North and Chinook South areas;
- District No. 2, known as the Cooperative’s “Rocky Boy’s/Box Elder Service Area” and generally comprised of the Rocky Boy’s and Box Elder areas;
- District No. 3, known as the Cooperative’s “Northwestern Service Area” and generally comprised of the Kremlin to Chester and adjacent northwest areas;
- District No. 4, known as the Cooperative’s “Southern Service Area” and generally comprised of the Big Sandy, Loma, southwest and southeast areas; and
- District No. 5, known as the Cooperative’s “At-Large Service Area” and comprised of all of the Cooperative’s service areas.

The creation or subsequent alteration of District boundaries, alone, shall not have the effect of either lengthening an existing trustee’s term of office or, without the written consent of the affected trustee, shortening an existing trustee’s term.

In order to implement this Section 4.02, the members shall elect:

- (a) one (1) trustee from District No. 1 at the annual member meeting held in 2004; and
- (b) one (1) trustee from District No. 2 and one (1) trustee from District No. 3 at the annual member meeting held in 2005; and
- (c) one (1) trustee from District No. 4 and one (1) trustee from District No. 5 at the annual member meeting held in 2006.

The Cooperative shall maintain on file at the Cooperative’s principal office at Havre, Montana, a complete description and/or geographical representation of the Districts, a copy of which will be provided to any member upon request. The Board shall establish a reasonable method by which to identify the District boundaries based on geography, number of members, location and number of electric service connections served by the Cooperative’s electric distribution substations and any other equitable considerations, or any reasonable combination of such considerations, so as to divide the Cooperative’s general service area into four (4) Districts designed to equitably represent the members, as nearly as practicable, and one (1) additional District comprised of the Cooperative’s entire service area.

Commencing not later than January 1, 2009, and not less frequently than every six (6) years thereafter, the Board shall review the District boundaries, based on such foregoing considerations, to determine whether any District boundaries should be altered in order to equitably represent the members, as nearly as practicable. If the Board alters District boundaries as a result of any such review at any time, the Board shall inform all members, in writing, not less than **sixty (60) days prior to annual member**

~~meeting fifteen (15) days prior to the first meeting of the committee on nominations appointed in that year pursuant to Section 4.06 of these bylaws. Upon so providing such information to the members, the District boundaries shall be deemed amended accordingly.~~

**(NEW) SECTION 4.02. Trustee Districts.** The Cooperative’s five (5) trustees shall be so nominated and elected as to provide one (1) trustee, qualified under Section 4.05 of these bylaws, from each of the following trustee districts (**Districts** or **District**):

- District No. 1, known as the Cooperative’s “Eastern Service Area” and generally comprised of the Havre North, Havre South, Chinook North and Chinook South areas;
- District No. 2, known as the Cooperative’s “Rocky Boy’s/Box Elder Service Area” and generally comprised of the Rocky Boy’s and Box Elder areas;
- District No. 3, known as the Cooperative’s “Northwestern Service Area” and generally comprised of the Kremlin to Chester and adjacent northwest areas;
- District No. 4, known as the Cooperative’s “Southern Service Area” and generally comprised of the Big Sandy, Loma, southwest and southeast areas; and
- District No. 5, known as the Cooperative’s “At-Large Service Area” and comprised of all of the Cooperative’s service areas.

The creation or subsequent alteration of District boundaries, alone, shall not have the effect of either lengthening an existing trustee’s term of office or, without the written consent of the affected trustee, shortening an existing trustee’s term.

In order to implement this Section 4.02, the members shall elect:

- (a) one (1) trustee from District No. 1 at the annual member meeting held in 2004; and
- (b) one (1) trustee from District No. 2 and one (1) trustee from District No. 3 at the annual member meeting held in 2005; and
- (c) one (1) trustee from District No. 4 and one (1) trustee from District No. 5 at the annual member meeting held in 2006.

The Cooperative shall maintain on file at the Cooperative’s principal office at Havre, Montana, a complete description and/or geographical representation of the Districts, a copy of which will be provided to any member upon request. The Board shall establish a reasonable method by which to identify the District boundaries based on geography, number of members, location and number of electric service connections served by the Cooperative’s electric distribution substations and any other equitable considerations, or any reasonable combination of such considerations, so as to divide the Cooperative’s general service area into four (4) Districts designed to equitably represent the members, as nearly as practicable, and one (1) additional District comprised of the Cooperative’s entire service area.

Commencing not later than January 1, 2009, and not less frequently than every six (6) years thereafter, the Board shall review the District boundaries, based on such foregoing considerations, to determine whether any District boundaries should be al-

tered in order to equitably represent the members, as nearly as practicable. If the Board alters District boundaries as a result of any such review at any time, the Board shall inform all members, in writing, not less than sixty (60) days prior to annual member meeting. Upon so providing such information to the members, the District boundaries shall be deemed amended accordingly.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Summary

### **SECTION 4.06. Nominations.**

The board is proposing this bylaw change to make trustee nominations and elections more open, transparent, and accessible to all members. The board proposes doing this by only accepting written petitions for nomination and removing the options for nominations by committee or nominations from the floor. This will ensure that all candidates will have the same rights and path to be a trustee, while avoiding possible conflicts of interest in our elections. All candidates, including incumbents, will be required to collect 15 signatures and have those signatures verified before running for trustee. By having all candidates submit written petitions before the annual meeting, this ensures all trustee candidates will be listed on the mail-in ballots for those members voting by mail. Since all candidates will be listed on mail-in ballots, the board is also asking that petitions be received at least 45 days, as opposed to 30 days, before the annual meeting to make sure the ballots are delivered to members as soon as possible to give members the maximum amount of time to vote. The board respectfully ask for your support of this bylaw change that will make our elections open and fair for all members to run for trustee.

## Bylaws

**SECTION 4.06. Nominations.** (a) Nominations by committee. Not less than forty-five (45) days nor more than sixty (60) days before the date of the annual meeting of the members at which trustees are to be elected, the Board shall appoint a committee on nominations consisting of not less than five nor more than eleven Cooperative members in such a manner as to ensure, as nearly as practicable, equitable representation from each District from which a trustee is to be elected. No member of the Board may serve on such committee. The committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative, at least thirty (30) days before the annual member meeting, a list of nominations for trustees to be elected, listing such nominees separately by the District from which a trustee must be elected. The committee may include in such list a greater number of nominees for some or all trustee positions, provided that the committee clearly indicates, by District, those nominees who will oppose each other.

(b) Nominations by petition: Any fifteen or more Cooperative members, acting together, may make additional nominations by written petition containing the name(s) and address(es) of the nominee(s) and the District from which each is nominated, and the signatures, printed names and addresses of the petitioners. The petitioners must deliver the petition so that it is received at the Cooperative's principal office at Havre, Montana, not less than **forty-five (45)** ~~thirty (30)~~ days prior to the annual member meeting. The Secretary shall post such nominations **at the Cooperative's principal office** by petition at the same place where the list of nominations by committee is posted. The

Secretary shall mail, with the notice of the annual member meeting or separately, but at least seven (7) days before the date of the annual member meeting, a statement of the number of trustees to be elected from each District, the names and addresses of the nominees and the District from which each is nominated, specifying separately those nominated by the committee on nominations and those nominated by petition, if any.

~~(c) Nominations from the floor. At any meeting at which the members may or are required to elect trustees, and after announcing all nominations made by the committee on nominations and by petition as above provided, the chairperson of the meeting or the chairperson's designee shall invite additional nominations from the floor and shall determine and announce, after each such nomination from the floor, the District in which each such nominee from the floor is qualified and the names of the other nominees from that District whom the nominee from the floor will oppose in such election. Any member, present in person at such meeting, may nominate from the floor another qualified member for election as trustee. The member making such nomination from the floor shall designate the District from which the nominee is nominated. No member may nominate from the floor more than one person.~~

(d) Neither the committee on nominations nor the Members may not nominate a person, even if otherwise qualified under Section 4.05 of these bylaws, to stand for election as trustee for more than one District at the same trustee election. No person may serve or be elected to serve as trustee for more than one District at the same time.

**(NEW) SECTION 4.06. Nominations.** Any fifteen or more Cooperative members, acting together, may make nominations by written petition containing the name(s) and address(es) of the nominee(s) and the District from which each is nominated, and the signatures, printed names and addresses of the petitioners. The petitioners must deliver the petition so that it is received at the Cooperative's principal office at Havre, Montana, not less than forty-five (45) days prior to the annual member meeting. The Secretary shall post such nominations at the Cooperative's principal office. The Secretary shall mail, with the notice of the annual member meeting or separately, but at least seven (7) days before the date of the annual member meeting, a statement of the number of trustees to be elected from each District, the names and addresses of the nominees and the District from which each is nominated, if any.

Members may not nominate a person, even if otherwise qualified under Section 4.05 of these bylaws, to stand for election as trustee for more than one District at the same trustee election. No person may serve or be elected to serve as trustee for more than one District at the same time.

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Summary

**SECTION 6.02. Election and Term of Office.**

This is a parliamentary procedure change among the board that happens after the annual meeting, when board members are selected as officers. This allows for the board to re-elect the same officers as the last year if the entire board agrees. The board respectfully request your support on this bylaw change.

## Bylaws

**SECTION 6.02. Election and Term of Office.** At the annual regular meeting of the Board held immediately after the annual meeting of the members, the Board shall elect the officers of the Cooperative by and from the members of the Board. **A member of the Board may move to dispense with separate nominations for each office and elect the same officers to the same offices as the year prior, which the Board may approve by unanimous consent. Otherwise, the** Board may nominate and elect such officers by acclamation, without a secret ballot, except in the event more than one person is nominated for an office, in which case the Board shall conduct such election by secret ballot. If the election of officers is not held at such meeting, such election shall be held as soon thereafter as is practicable. Each officer shall hold office until the first regular meeting of the Board following the next succeeding annual meeting of the members or until such officer's successor shall have been elected and shall have qualified. A vacancy in any office shall be filled by the Board by appointment of one of the remaining trustees to serve for the unexpired portion of the term of office being vacated.

**(NEW) SECTION 6.02. Election and Term of Office.** At the annual regular meeting of the Board held immediately after the annual meeting of the members, the Board shall elect the officers of the Cooperative by and from the members of the Board. A member of the Board may move to dispense with separate nominations for each office and elect the same officers to the same offices as the year prior, which the Board may approve by unanimous consent. Otherwise, the Board may nominate and elect such officers by acclamation, without a secret ballot, except in the event more than one person is nominated for an office, in which case the Board shall conduct such election by secret ballot. If the election of officers is not held at such meeting, such election shall be held as soon thereafter as is practicable. Each officer shall hold office until the first regular meeting of the Board following the next succeeding annual meeting of the members or until such officer's successor shall have been elected and shall have qualified. A vacancy in any office shall be filled by the Board by appointment of one of the remaining trustees to serve for the unexpired portion of the term of office being vacated.



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**COMMITTED TO THE JOB.  
COMMITTED TO SAFETY.  
COMMITTED TO YOU, OUR MEMBERS.**





## Luck of the Draw Scholarships

HCE members or member-dependents who will be an undergraduate student enrolled in college for the fall of 2019 can win one of seven “Luck of the Draw” scholarships at the 2019 HCE Annual Meeting! We will draw for three \$500, two \$300, and two \$200 scholarships. \$100 scholarships will be awarded to those eligible and in attendance that have not already been awarded a scholarship.

Be sure to complete your entry form during registration or download it from [hillcountyelectric.coop](http://hillcountyelectric.coop) and bring it to the meeting.

Applicant and parent or guardian (if a member dependent) must be present to win. A \$100 minimum scholarship is guaranteed for each eligible applicant.

## Montana Electric Cooperatives’ Association (MECA) along with Hill County Electric Cooperative invite you to participate in the Today’s Members Program.

This two-day workshop is held at the Best Western Heritage Inn of Great Falls during the first week of October.

Members, member couples and their families are eligible to attend as guests of HCE. All meals, lodging and travel expenses are paid by the Cooperative! The full agenda includes guest speakers and panelists, presentations, demonstrations, entertainment, gifts and great accommodations. Members selected will be notified in early September.

During the workshop, attendees interact with other cooperative members and employees from around the state and learn more about electric cooperatives. Current issues, legislative concerns, alternative and renewable energy and technologies are just a few of the topics that will be presented.

Congratulations to Colton Spicher and Laynie Sattoriva for being selected to represent HCE on the trip of a lifetime to Washington, DC.



Hill County Electric Cooperative (HCE) is proud to announce two well deserving students will be representing HCE on the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Youth Tour to Washington, DC in June.

## Congratulations to our Scholarship winners!



**Laramie Peterson-**  
\$1000 Basin



**Rhett Wolery**  
\$500 Basin



**Riley Pleninger**  
\$1000 Basin



**Mary Gibson**  
\$1,000 Tell Us Your Story  
Scholarship



**Samantha May**  
\$500 MECA



**Choral Wicks**  
\$500 MECA

Teacher Appreciation Program Winner: Sheena Wortman, Bear Paw School



## Easy Payments with SmartHub® App

View usage, bill statements and make payments from your phone. Select HCE by location or name and register using your account number.

# 2022 Meeting Agenda

Registration • 9:00 A.M.

Business Meeting • 10:00 A.M.

Call To Order

Invocation

Pledge of Allegiance

Determination of Quorum

Reading of “Notice of Meeting” & “Affidavit of Mailing”

Members to Take Necessary Action on Minutes

Reports from Officers & Trustees

CEO/General Manager’s Report

Presentation of Financial Report

Reports from Special Guests

Video Presentation

Bylaw Changes

Nominating Committee Report

Election of Trustee

Scholarship Winner Drawings & Presentations

Youth Tour Presentation

Unfinished Business

New Business

Meeting Adjourned

Buffet Luncheon

Prize Drawings

## **ALL MEMBERS ATTENDING**

RECEIVE A CUSTOM  
SKILLET FROM ROCKY  
MOUNTAIN COOKWARE!



# Certificate of Voting Authorization of Corporation, Unincorporated Association, or School District Holding a Membership in Hill County Electric Cooperative, Inc.

The undersigned does hereby certify that he or she has been duly & regularly appointed to represent the below-mentioned corporation, unincorporated association or school district at the annual members' meeting to be held May 14, 2022 and to cast the vote for said corporation, association or school district upon each matter submitted to a vote of the members of the cooperative at said meeting.

Dated, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of May, 2022.

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Signature of Authorized Voting Representative

---

Name of Corporation, Unincorporated Association

or Number \_\_\_\_\_ & County \_\_\_\_\_ of School District.

Witnessed By: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Representative and witness must be officers, directors, trustees or official designees of the organization being represented.

Please bring completed form to your Annual Meeting if applicable.

P.O. Box 2330 • Havre, MT • 59501-2330



You could win \$500 towards a  
Generac Generator or a \$500 bill credit.