



BIG FLAT NEWS



August 2026

www.bigflatelectric.com



Big Flat Electric directors and management at the Loring Colony. | **BFEC PHOTO**

Directors Day

EACH year, the Big Flat Electric Cooperative Board of Directors and management team gather to tour different areas of our service territory and learn more about the areas we serve. On June 15, the group had the opportunity to visit the Loring Colony near Loring, Montana.

During the tour, the group learned about the colony's daily operations and were given an inside look at many of its facilities, including the impressive gardens, shops, slaughter barn, milking shed and several other buildings throughout the colony. The visit provided insight into the hard work, self-sufficiency, and dedication that contribute to the colony's success.

A special highlight of the day was a delicious homemade lunch prepared by the talented colony women. Their hospitality and generosity were greatly appreciated. We extend our sincere thanks to the Loring Colony for welcoming our group and providing such an informative and enjoyable experience.

The day concluded with a stop at the Big Flat Electric warehouse facility near Malta, where several important improvement projects are underway. The building is receiving much-needed upgrades, including the installation of insulation, new garage doors and a heating system. Overall, it was a productive and enjoyable day for all. **RM**



Pool day at Harlem swimming pool was sponsored by Triangle Communications and Big Flat Electric.

Pool Days were a success

YOUNGSTER'S were treated to a free day at the Malta and Harlem pools this summer. Big Flat Electric and Triangle Communications teamed together to sponsor the swim days. We hosted free admission and a popsicle at the Harlem pool on July 8, with 81 kids attending. At the Malta swimming pool, children received a free pass and a concession voucher on July 13, with 102 kids attending.

RM



Pool day at Malta swimming pool was sponsored by Triangle Communications and Big Flat Electric.



IN THEIR OWN WORDS

My experience in D.C.

By **EMERSON DOWNING** |
Youth Tour Participant

THIS summer I was privileged with the opportunity to tour our nation's capital, sponsored by my electric cooperative, Big Flat Electric. From the places I've been and the people I've met, I can undoubtedly say that this trip has changed my life.

When first arriving at orientation, I was flooded with anxiety about not making any friends. Little did I know, my equally shy roommate would soon become one of my best friends in the span of just one week. I remember being absolutely mortified to state my

name and a fun fact about myself, but as the trip unfurled, I found myself being a little more talkative with each passing day. I loved hearing stories from people all over Montana and seeing how much our daily lives contrasted one another.

With each new monument or historical site we toured, my jaw only dropped further. A printed picture within a textbook can never capture the immense size of the Washington Monument or the Lincoln Memorial, and could never begin to replicate the ache in my heart while walking through the Holocaust Museum. Along with touring these incredible sites and walking through some of the greatest museums in the country, we listened to a speech by Mike Schlappi. I, along with the hundreds of students in that building, would agree Mike's speech was nothing short of inspiring and helped me realize just how privileged my life is, and how fortunate I truly am.

This trip meant so much to me on numerous levels. I'll cherish the memories and friends I've made in D.C., for the rest of my life, and I'll never forget the people and cooperatives that helped me get there. Thank you, Youth Tour. RM



THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- **Find us on Facebook** under Big Flat Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- **Visit our website** at www.bigflatelectric.com.
- **Sign up for budget billing** and/or ACH (auto payments) by calling our office.
- **Bills** are generated on the 1st working day of each month, and are due on the 20th of each month.
- **Bills that are 60 days in arrears are subject to disconnect.** Once disconnected, a reconnect fee will be charged. The bill will then have to be paid in full to be reconnected.
- **We have a secure, automated toll-free phone number** for members making payments by credit card and/or bank account: 1-844-968-1965. You will need to have your account number and/or phone number that is on file with our office to access the automated system.
- **Take control of your electric account with SmartHub.** You can pay your bills; set up and cancel reoccurring payments; set up notifications; obtain duplicates of your bills; and view your monthly and yearly usage, all at your fingertips. Visit our website: www.bigflatelectric.com or download the SmartHub app from your Play Store on Android or the App Store on Apple devices.
- New service and service change quotes are only **valid for 30 days**.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH



"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

—ELEANOR ROOSEVELT



BIG FLAT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
SERVING BLAINE, PHILLIPS AND VALLEY COUNTIES
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79th ANNUAL MEETING

Drawings for cash, beef/pork bundles and gifts

*Progressive cash drawing is up to \$1000.
Must be present to win!*

Capital Credits checks
will be available for pickup!



10 October, 2026
10 am - 12 pm

LOCATION: MALTA HIGH SCHOOL

Registration - 9 A.M.

BFEC director nominations open

EACH year, Big Flat Electric Cooperative members have the opportunity to elect directors at the Annual Meeting. Directors serve three-year terms and are eligible for re-election.

The director positions up for election this year are:

- **District 3 (Loring/Whitewater/Saco area):** Alan Wasson
- **District 5 (Malta area):** Roger Solberg
- **District 7 (Missouri River area):** Kevin Koss

In accordance with the cooperative's bylaws, director candidates may be nominated either by the Nominating Committee or by petition.

The Nominating Committee will meet on **September 3, 2026, at 5 p.m.** in Malta to nominate candidates for this year's election.

The 2026 Nominating Committee members are:

- **District 3:** Jason Erickson, Mike Erickson and Pete Lumsden
- **District 5:** David Boothe, Cliff Merriman and Roy Wyse
- **District 7:** John Koss, Kevin Mitchell and Dennis Oxarart

Nomination by the Nominating Committee is one of two ways a candidate's name may appear on the Annual Meeting ballot. Members who wish to be nominated after the committee has met may also qualify by submitting a petition signed by at least **15 cooperative members**.

Petitions must be filed with the cooperative office no later than **15 days prior to the Annual Meeting** for the candidate's name to appear on the ballot. RM

FROM AUGUST 1961: BFEC NEWSLETTER

A Member - - -

is the most important person in our electric cooperative.

is a part owner of the cooperative — not an outsider.

is not just an account number. He is a flesh and blood human being with feelings and emotions like our own.

is entitled to ask for information about his cooperative, deserves a correct and definite answer to all inquiries.

should be notified of any changes in procedure that will affect him as a member of the rural electric cooperative.

is entitled to the most courteous and attentive attention we can give him.

should receive the best possible service from the rural electric cooperative at all times.

is the person who makes possible the existence of this rural electric cooperative. He is the life blood of this cooperative.

Along Our Lines

AUGUST 1961 – BFEC Newsletter

- Rex Ulrich and Martin Sandvick have purchased the Stanley Novak farm south of Regina.
- Melvin Jackson of Hogeland has purchased a beautiful new trailer home and has connected it to our service in Turner
- The spacious new home of Mr. and Mrs. Harlan Krass of Hogeland is rapidly taking shape. This home will be of the most modern design and an all electric Gold Medallion Home. This is truly a home of tomorrow — today.
- Mr. and Mrs. John Monroe have sold their ranch on Beaver Creek to W.C. Row, Jr., of Lemmon, South Dakota.

Standby Power

Any member interested in a standby portable power plant will be mailed literature upon request to the cooperative office.

In the event of line-snapping storms, when the highline power is cut off you can generate your own electric power by installing a Tractor Driven Generator and driving it with your own tractor. These heavy-duty, dependable generators supply you with the same 115/230 volt, 60 cycle, single phase, three wire current delivered by your highline. These complete, compact units are easy to install, simple to connect, ready-to-run and last a lifetime.

With one of these portable units you can get two benefits from one investment — standby power for emergencies and portable power anywhere to operate power tools, welding equipment, elevators, crop dryers, pumps, chain and masonry saws, floor sanders, drills, grinders and many other tools and appliances.

Dishwasher Does Best
When Water Is Hot

If an electric dishwasher is to be installed in the kitchen of a new house, make sure that it will be supplied with water of at least 140 degrees. One reason electric dishwashers get dishes cleaner than hand washing is that they use powerful jets of extremely hot water.

If no dishwasher is being installed at present, have the basic wiring and plumbing for it put in anyway. It will cost less as part of the total construction or remodeling job than as a separate project later.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District 1	Duane Klindworth
District 2	Alan Van Voast, Sec./Treasurer
District 3	Alan Wasson
District 4	Warren Morin
District 5	Roger Solberg, Vice President
District 6	Patty Quisno
District 7	Kevin Koss, President

General Manager: Gretchen Boardman

BIG FLAT ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE

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