



BIG FLAT NEWS



December 2023

www.bigflatelectric.com

SCHOLARSHIPS

Apply now for MECA and Basin scholarships

MONTANA Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA) offers a \$500 scholarship to any college-bound undergraduate student. The applicant's parent or guardian must be receiving electric service from Big Flat Electric Co-op.

The scholarships may be used at a Montana college, university or any out-of-state institution. Funds for these scholarships come from donations that honor the memories of deceased directors, managers and employees who

have served the electric cooperative.


MECA scholarship applications need to be turned in to Big Flat Electric by January 26.

Basin Electric Power Cooperative (BEPC) offers a \$1,000 scholarship to students enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time graduate or undergraduate course of study at an accredited two or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school.

The scholarships are awarded based on academic record, the potential to

succeed, leadership and participation in school and community activities, honors, work experience, a statement of education and career goals, and an outside appraisal.

Scholarships are due in the Big Flat office by January 26.

Applications are available online at bigflatelectric.com, from school guidance counselors and at the Big Flat Electric office. Don't miss out! 

NOTICE:

Alert system being implemented



Big Flat Electric is in the beginning process of implementing alerts to be sent to our members in the form of a text message and/or email in the event of a planned power outage. Please contact us with your cell phone number and email if you wish to be included in these alerts.



76th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS A SUCCESS

BIG Flat Electric held its 76th Annual Meeting on October 14, 2023. There was a great turn out, and we would like to thank those who attended. All three incumbent directors were re-elected to another term. **BM**



Director Alan Van Voast, NorVal Director Chris Christensen, Director Kevin Koss, Director Roger Solberg and member Ray McMullen pose at Big Flat Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting. | **BIG FLAT ELECTRIC PHOTO**



Malta High School student Elly Anderson sings the National Anthem at the Annual Meeting. | **BIG FLAT ELECTRIC PHOTO**



Big Flat Billing/Member Service Clerk Debbie Kindle, right, awards Katie Ottinger the \$50 Young Member Prize. | **BFEC PHOTO**



The Presentation of Colors and Pledge of Allegiance at the Annual Meeting was led by VFW members Jay Southwick and John Barnard. | **BIG FLAT ELECTRIC PHOTO**



From left, President Alan Wasson, General Manager Gretchen Boardman, Director Patty Quisno, Secretary Betty Campbell, Director Kevin Koss, Vice-President Roger Solberg, Director Alan Van Voast and Director Duane Klindworth head Big Flat Electric's 76th Annual Meeting. | **BFEC PHOTO**

MEETING



Big Flat Electric General Manager Gretchen Boardman, left, presents the grand prize of \$300 to Shari Solberg. | **BIG FLAT ELECTRIC PHOTO**



Lunch was provided to members after the Annual Meeting. | **BIG FLAT ELECTRIC PHOTO**



Newsletter Editor Shawna Myers shows off the awards Big Flat Electric Cooperative won at the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association Annual Meeting. | **BIG FLAT ELECTRIC PHOTO**

BIG FLAT ELECTRIC WINS AWARDS

THE Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association recently held its annual meeting in Great Falls. Big Flat Electric Cooperative was awarded the Excellence in Communications for Small Cooperatives Award, which is given to the small cooperative earning the most combined points in the various communications categories. Congratulations to newsletter editor Shawna Myers on receiving First Place Best Feature Story for the "Smokin' Bar Ox" article and Honorable Mention Best Feature Story for the "Miners Club Bar and Cafe" article. In addition, congratulations to Brenden Johnson for Honorable Mention in the Best News Photo Category and to Kari Hammond and Nick Daniels for Honorable Mention in the Best Annual Report category.

We are proud of the efforts of Shawna and staff contributors in producing great publications for our members. **RM**



DECEMBER 1964: BFEC NEWSLETTER**Be a Better Butter Buyer**

Holiday baking time is here — so know your butter. It's easy to compare quality and price when you shop by U. S. grades. U. S. Grade AA butter must have a fine, highly pleasing aroma, and a delicate sweet flavor. It is made from high quality fresh sweet cream. U. S. Grade A better is also made from sweet cream and possesses a pleasing and desirable flavor. Although it rates second to the top grade, it will satisfy even discriminating consumers. U. S. Grade B butter is generally manufactured from selected sour cream. It is readily acceptable to many consumers though it lacks the fine fresh flavor of the top two grades.

Turkey Time Tips

Worried how big a bird to buy? Allow $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 pound per person if your bird weighs less than 12 pounds; allow $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ pounds per person if it weighs 12 pounds or over. When you shop, look for the round USDA inspection mark to be sure the bird is wholesome. Look for the USDA grade shield to indicate quality. Turkeys best suited for roasting will carry the word "young" on the label. If you select frozen birds, be sure the wrappers are not torn or broken. For more tips on shopping, preparation, and cooking to party-perfection, send post card for "Turkey on the Table the Year Round — HG-45" to Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., 20250.

How to Get Smart With a Christmas Tree

Before you buy your Christmas tree, run your fingers through the foliage to see if it feels fresh to your touch. No needles come off? Then give the tree a shake, and again check to see if any needles drop. If it passes both these tests, tap it on the ground to see if it still holds its needles as well, U. S. Department of Agriculture forest experts say. If the needles are turning brown, the tree has already dried out and will be a fire hazard. If you're economy-minded, you might select a tree better developed on one side than the other. In a corner, it won't show anyway, and it may cost you less.

After you get your tree tussled home, store it in a cool, shady place with the butt end placed in water. Sprinkle the branches and foilage with water daily. Cutting the butt diagonally about an inch above the original cut will aid in the absorption of water. Then keep it standing in a container of water which you refill daily, so it will stay fresh.

Along Our Lines

December 1964 — BFEC Newsletter

Fire destroyed the Norman Dyrdaahl pump house on his farm near Loring in the early part of November.

A short tap has been built to serve another stockwell for Louis Modic near Hogeland.

The town of Turner is brightly lit up under 15 new mercury vapor lights which were recently installed to replace the old streetlights.

Mr. and Mrs. Harlie Waters and family are new consumers on our lines. A short tap was recently constructed to serve their home south of Malta.

The Big Flat crew has been doing service changes for consumers throughout our system — heavying-up their services for electric heating and larger loads.

Among new consumers on our lines are Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Wasson. They are living in the Wright house in Whitewater while Mr. Wasson is employed on the E. Clair Hotchkiss ranch.

The annual Christmas dinner for the Big Flat directors and employees and their wives will be held on the 17th of December at Sine's Night Club east of Malta.

Service has been extended to the Mountain States Telephone Mico-wave station near Wagner. This new service in in connection with the dial system that is being installed in Malta and vicinity.

The Big Flat Electric now has 181 Security Lights in operation on its lines, having installed 23 lights in the past month.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

General Manager: Gretchen Boardman

**BIG FLAT ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE**

SERVING BLAINE, PHILLIPS AND VALLEY COUNTIES

P.O. BOX 229 • MALTA, MT 59538 • WWW.BIGFLATELECTRIC.COM

A Touchstone Energy™ Partner
The power of human connections

CONNECT WITH US**OPEN WEEKDAYS 8 A.M. TO 5 P.M.**

333 S 7TH ST E
MALTA, MT 59538
(406) 654-2040

**AFTER HOURS
OUTAGE:**
(406) 654-7400

PAYMENT OPTIONS:
1-833-368-2470 or
bigflatelectric.com