



BIG FLAT NEWS



May 2023

www.bigflatelectric.com

MAY IS MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

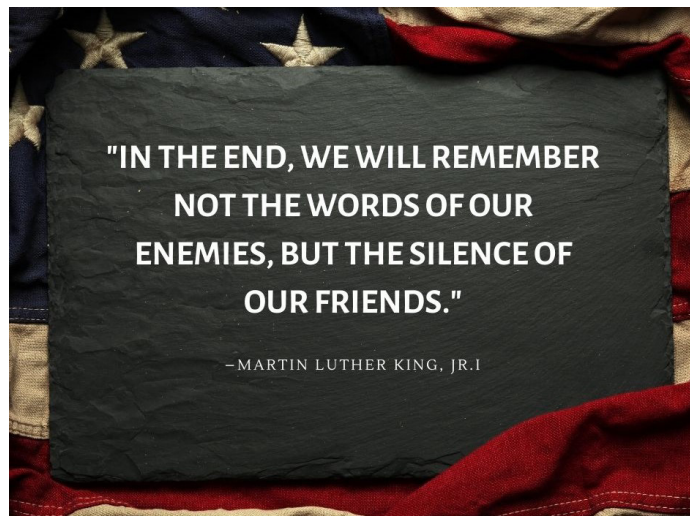
SERVICE. Mission. Country. You likely identified immediately (and correctly) that these three words describe our nation's veterans. They also succinctly describe a core co-op ethos.

While veterans are innately motivated to serve, in a similar vein, electric co-ops are guided by foundational principles that put their community first. After all, electric co-ops were founded to bring electricity to rural areas, where there was none. In doing so, they powered local economies and helped them to thrive.

We believe this close connection to an essential mission is why there are so many veterans in the utility industry, and why they are such a great fit for electric co-ops. Today's veterans are highly skilled because everyone who joins the military is either trained in a tech career field or exposed to advanced technology during their years of service. Many veterans have skills in advanced disciplines such as engineering, electronics or mechanics, which are all beneficial for the utility industry.


Big Flat Electric Co-op is proud to employ veteran Erik Simanton, and we're especially grateful for his contributions to the co-op and to our community. Erik joined the co-op equipped with training in leadership and teamwork. That's because while on active duty within their units, servicemen work closely together because they know their lives depend on each other's actions. This fosters a high level of self-discipline, sense of personal responsibility and passion for excellence.

The utility industry is increasingly complex, and is undergoing a profound transformation. While there is the traditional engineering and vegetation management aspect of the utility industry, it now also encompasses technology, cybersecurity, and the electrification of the transportation sector and other areas of the economy. Veterans are adept at responding to changing conditions, and learning and adapting to new technologies, which is essential in our evolving industry. Working for an electric co-op is more



than a job. There is a clear mission in the work — to help our consumer-members and the community. When you work so closely with the community, you can't help but feel a sense of commitment and responsibility to our members. It's similar to the sense of duty and responsibility that veterans experience in the military. They feel a deep, personal responsibility and commitment to their co-op team members and to the members we serve. Veterans are trustworthy, goal oriented, and want to do right for their co-op and their community.

At Big Flat Electric Co-op, we are grateful to have a veteran within our ranks, and we are proud to serve them and their families within our community. But beyond our gratitude, we demonstrate our deep appreciation through our actions and ongoing commitment to veterans and their families.

May is Military Appreciation Month, and we hope you'll join us in recognizing the sacrifices veterans have made to our great country — and the many contributions they continue to make to our wonderful community. Veterans, we salute you! 

MALTA AG DAY

Big Flat Electric Cooperative participated in Malta's annual Ag Day on March 24, and is a proud supporter of agriculture in our community.



Lincoln Bibbs was the winner of Big Flat Electric's door prize during Ag Day in Malta.



Debbie Kindel, member services/billing clerk, represented Big Flat Electric at Malta's Ag Day.



Member Services/Billing Clerk Debbie Kindel and Lineman Brenden Johnson represented Big Flat Electric during Career Days.

Big Flat Electric Co-op attends Career Days at Fort Belknap Agency

BIG Flat Electric Lineman Brenden Johnson and Member Services/Billing Clerk Debbie Kindel recently attended the Career Fair at Aaniih Nakoda College in Ft. Belknap. Brenden explained to students the career of a lineman, along with demonstrating his climbing gear, while Debbie shared information on other career options in the electric utility industry.

Things to remember when the power goes off

EVER-CHANGING weather conditions in Montana pose various challenges when it comes to keeping the power on. Here are a few things we encourage our members to remember when the power goes off:

First, you should go out to the electric meter and check for power there. If you can see the electronic display on the front of the meter, odds are there is a problem with your wiring. At that point, you should check your breakers, both at the meter and in the house. To check them, just flip them off and back on again. You may need to call an electrician if the power does not come back on.

Each year we respond to problems with our member's wiring. Unfortunately, we are unable to make repairs in these situations. Only a licensed electrician can work on private wiring. Linemen and electricians do not have the same jobs, and we do not have any

licensed electricians on staff. Big Flat Electric can only restore power to your meter.

If you do not see the electronic display on the meter, this means the issue is most likely on the power-supply side. Checking your breakers is still recommended, even after seeing a blank screen. After verifying that your breakers are all in, the next step would be to see if you can tell whether your neighbors are also out of power. This information can help speed up the restoration time.

After checking your breakers and your neighbors, the next step is to call Big Flat Electric. The best ways to reach us are during office hours at 406-654-2040, and after hours at 406-654-7400. If you notice anything that may have caused the outage, such as a tree through the line, a loud noise or an accident, please let the person taking your call know. It may

help speed up the restoration process. Notifying us if the power comes back on before the crew arrives is also very helpful. This can happen occasionally when the power to our substations goes out. By letting us know, you can save a great deal of the linemen's time chasing problems that don't exist.

Frequently people call in an outage after they have left the location of the outage. This can cause confusion if the power was restored between the time they leave and when they call. If you have left the location of the outage, please pass that information on when calling in.

Finally, don't forget to leave a good contact number so we can give you a call if we have more questions. With a little diagnosis and information on your part, we can save unnecessary expenses and possibly speed up the time it takes to get your power on. RM

REMEMBERING BUD JOHNSON

FORMER DIRECTOR WAS A BIG FLAT ELECTRIC
BOARD MEMBER FOR 26 YEARS

BUD Johnson passed away on March 20, 2023, at the age of 96, having lived most of his life in the south Malta area. He was elected to serve our members as Director of Big Flat Electric in 1957. Bud remained on the Board for 26 years, retiring in 1983. For many of these years he served as the secretary/treasurer, and was active in local and statewide cooperative meetings.

Bud is survived by children Ruth (Bill) Mitchell, Charles Johnson and Raymond Johnson, two grandchildren and a great-grandson.

Big Flat Electric sends condolences to the family of Bud Johnson.



Mother's Day
SUNDAY, MAY 14

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**Mother's love is
the fuel that
enables a normal
human being to do
the impossible.**

- Marion C. Garretty

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MAY 1966:*BIG FLAT NEWS*

BIG FLAT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

**OFFICERS AND
EMPLOYEES****OFFICERS**

Wellen A. Jones, TurnerPresident
 D. A. Depuydt, Whitewater.....Vice President
 Wm. A. Dorn, Malta.....Sec'y-Treas.
 Eddie Harmon, Turner Trustee
 Bud Johnson, Malta..... Trustee
 Frank Mohar, Hogeland Trustee
 B. M. Phillips, Landusky Trustee
 Ordell Klindworth, Hogeland..... Trustee
 Earl Wasson, Whitewater..... Trustee
 Willis McKeon, MaltaAttorney

EMPLOYEES

Lonnie E. Williams.....Manager
 Elsie A. FewerOffice Manager
 Morris MavencampLine Foreman
 Marcella McEwen Cashier
 George R. Hoynes.....Electrical Advisor
 Sigurd M. SalvessonLineman
 Dale E. ScofieldLineman

OFFICE HOURS

8 a.m. – Noon
 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.
 Monday through Friday

**IN CASE OF OUTAGE,
TELEPHONE COLLECT**

Office: 654-2040
 Manager, Lonnie E. Williams: 654-1126
 Line Foreman, Morris Mavencamp: 654-1528

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****AUGUST 1960:**
METER READ CALENDAR

RATE CHART FOR FIGURING BILL		1960 AUGUST 1960		RATE CHART FOR FIGURING BILL	
Read your meter on the 15th.		SUN. MON. TUE. WED. THU. FRI. SAT.		Postage stamps not acceptable in payment of bills.	
Bills not paid by the last day of month add 5% penalty.		1 2 3 4 5 6		OFFICE HOURS	
In case of payments mailed in, delivery date determines delinquency. Add 5% to your bill if paid late.		7 8 9 10 11 12 13		8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Monday thru Friday.	
Don't forget to mark the home record stub--you'll need it for next month.		14 15 16 17 18 19 20		In case of emergency on Holidays, Sundays or after hours:	
Save yourself and your Co-operative time and money by paying promptly--a "reconnect" costs \$15.00 this is in addition to the 5% penalty added.		21 22 23 24 25 26 27		MALTA call Lonnie E. Williams Ph. 204 Lowell Anderson Ph. 671	
		28 29 30 31		MALTA Office phone 561	

BIG FLAT ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC. MALTA, MONTANA		READ METER AND REMIT 15th.		ACCT. NO. _____	
HOME RECORD		NAME _____		ADDRESS _____	
Meter read 15th of <u>Feb</u> 19 <u>59</u>		To obtain the correct amount to pay consult your rate chart.		Meter read 15th of _____ 19____	
This month's reading <u>2335</u>		This month's reading _____		Last month's reading _____	
Last reading <u>2125</u>		Kwhrs. used _____		Amount for electricity from rate chart _____	
Kwhrs. used <u>210</u>		Add 5% penalty if not paid by last day of month \$ _____		TOTAL BILL TO PAY \$ _____	
Amount _____		Mail to BIG FLAT ELECTRIC CO-OPERATIVE, INC.		P.O. Box 1269	
Penalty 5% _____		MALTA		MONTANA	
Total Amount \$ <u>11.80</u>		Keep this stub. It's your record.			

**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 W
MALTA, MT 59538
(406) 654-2040**AFTER HOURS OUTAGE:**
654-7400