

# PARK SPARKS

APRIL 2020

PARK ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

 Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

## 2020 Youth Tour to Washington DC Winner

Congratulations to Keena Lewis, our Washington DC Youth Tour winner for 2020! Keena lives south of Emigrant with her parents and younger sister. She is a Sophomore attending Gardiner High School. Keena is active in many organizations in school including extemporaneous speaking, Academic World Quest, and FFA. When she isn't busy with school and related activities, she enjoys snowboarding.



## National Lineworker Appreciation Day



National Lineworker Appreciation Day is Monday, April 13th. These hard working people go out in all conditions to maintain and restore your power. Whenever you see them, give them a thank you for all their hard work to keep the lights on.

Our Crew: (Top L-R) Dane Bondurant, Cole Kimball, Bob Goodwine, Brady Zachmann (Bottom L-R) Ryan Harms, Dan Franck, Darrin Rockafellow, Josh Fatouros, Josh Wood. Not Pictured, Mark Bragg.

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

This spring, consider using a rain barrel to save energy. Rain barrels capture rainwater from a roof that can be used later for watering your lawn, garden or indoor plants.



## 5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Always call 8-1-1 first, because you never know what's below. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:

Source: call811.com

### 1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start.



### 2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



### 3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



### 4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They are your guide for the duration of your project.



### 5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project.



## Managers Comments *by* Matt Haggerty

In the January Parks Sparks, I wrote about the responsibilities and training requirements of our board of trustees. This month we'll review the seven board district boundaries and identify the board member representing each district. At the bottom of this article is an email address to contact your trustee if you do not know them.

But first there are a few topics the board of trustees and Park Electric would like to know your opinion on and request feedback. These topics concern how we currently conduct our Annual Meeting and the board of trustee election process and whether to change it to something different. Before asking these questions, let's review how we currently operate our Annual Meeting and elections.

Prospective board members are nominated by a Nominating Committee each summer. The Nominating Committee is made up of one member from each district who is appointed by the board of trustees and approved by the membership at the Annual Meeting. After being nominated by the Nominating Committee, the trustee candidates are voted on and elected by the membership at our Annual Meeting to serve three-year terms. The election for the seven board districts is done on a three-year rotation. The Annual Meeting is held on a Friday in late October.

The cooperative is proposing some future options in how we conduct our elections and the time and day our Annual Meeting is held. You can choose to keep things the same, or let your board members know that you support changing how we conduct our election and when our annual meeting is held.

**1. Would you support adding a mail-in ballot option for the members that cannot make it to the Annual Meeting?** We reached out to balloting companies for information on the estimated cost to conduct a mail-in ballot election as well as the ballot return rate. Their response was that the cost to the Park Electric membership would be approximately \$10,000 annually to conduct an election with mail-in ballots. The average return rate of an election by mail is about 25%. These numbers are based off of what other co-ops across the US have seen when using mail-in ballots. Currently we have about a 10% voting rate at the Annual Meeting.

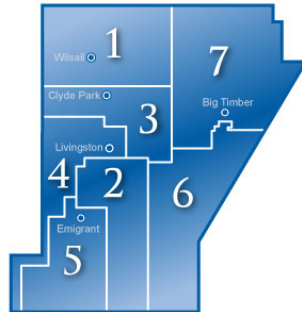
**2. Would you be more likely to come to an Annual Meeting if it was held on a Saturday or at night?** Currently, all Park Electric staff attend the Annual Meeting. They do the set-up, help with the election process and run the booths. If we changed the meeting

to a night or weekend, we would be required to pay overtime.

Park Electric's board is requesting feedback from the membership on whether you would prefer any of the changes listed above or to leave things the same. Please take the time to let us know your thoughts.

**The board can be reached at [info@parkelectric.coop](mailto:info@parkelectric.coop)**

Below are the seven voting district descriptions and the current trustee representing them.



**District 1** is represented by Alan Johnstone, board president. This area covers north of Rock Creek Road near Clyde Park, between the Bridger and Crazy Mountains including Wilsall, the upper Shields and the Sedan. This district includes parts of three counties (Park, Gallatin and Meagher) and the town of Wilsall.

**District 2** is represented by Dan Skattum which covers the north end of Paradise Valley, south to the Mill Creek area and west to the Gallatin/Park County line.

**District 3** is represented by Craig Yost, board Secretary/Treasurer. This area is south of Rock Creek road to nearly 2 miles north east of Livingston including Bracket Creek, Mission Creek, the Lower Shields and the town of Clyde Park.

**District 4** is represented by Brad Hanson, board Vice President. It covers west of Livingston to the Gallatin/Park County line including the Frontage Road, Bear Canyon, Mount Ellis, and portions of the Star Ridge Subdivision; the Livingston area to approximately 2 miles NE of Livingston, including Fleshman Creek, Meredith Ranch Road, and portions of the Star Addition; and south to the north end of the canyon that borders Paradise Valley at approximately Carter's Bridge.

**District 5** is represented by Bert Otis which covers the southern end of Paradise Valley from roughly Pray Rd to Tom Miner Rd.

**District 6** is represented by Melanie Roe which covers the Boulder River drainage and north to approximately 2 miles south of Big Timber. This district spans portions of Park and Sweet Grass Counties and includes the East Boulder side of the Stillwater Mine.

**District 7** is represented Perry Anderson which covers the Springdale area, areas west, north and east of Big Timber and south of Big Timber by approximately 2 miles. This district includes Melville and land bordering the Crazy mountains.