



# FALL RIVER FLASHES

*Committed to safely and economically provide reliable energy and other services which bring value to its membership.*

## 2017 Annual Meeting Scheduled For June 24th In Ashton

Mark it on your calendar! Fall River Electric's annual meeting of members will be held in Ashton at North Fremont High School on Saturday, June 24th, starting at 8am with a scrumptious breakfast. A variety of health and preparedness vendors will be on hand with free and helpful information, and dozens of FREE prizes will be given away. The annual business meeting with the announcement of new board members will commence at 10am.

## Watch for Power Poles While Ditch Burning

As the weather warms and spring approaches, soon it will be time to take to the fields! Each year, rural property owners burn ditch banks to allow for the free flow of water for irrigation. It is important for members burning ditch banks to take note of power poles in the same vicinity as the ditch banks, and protect them from ditch fires.



Fall River recommends removing vegetation growing within three feet of any pole prior to striking a match. Have someone monitor your ditch burning and be ready with dirt, water, or a fire extinguisher to put out any flames that approach a pole. If a pole catches fire, the potential exists for energized lines to fall on the ground and cause even greater damage. Remember, the person who starts a fire that damages a pole is financially liable. It does not take much damage to mount up to thousands of dollars in cost! If you see a ditch fire causing damage to a power line structure, please contact Fall River Electric immediately.

## Consider Becoming a Fall River Electric Board Member

### THREE BOARD SEATS UP FOR ELECTION IN 2017

One of the seven guiding principles of Fall River Electric is democratic member control, wherein our Co-op is controlled by members who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives of Fall River's Board of Directors are accountable to the membership. This year, three of those nine seats are set for election. The seats up for election include District 2, West Victor, presently represented by Jay Hanson; District 3, East Victor, where Boyd Bowles currently serves; and District 8, North Island Park, currently represented by Ralph Burton. Mr. Bowles in District 3 has reached his term limits and will not be eligible for re-election.



This month, a nominating committee will select prospective candidates for each of the three districts. A notice will be posted in the Ashton office of Fall River Electric on April 21st, providing candidate information to our owner-members. This information will also be

included in our Annual Report and Notice of Annual Meeting. If you are interested in being considered as a director, please contact Cathy Meeks by March 17, 2017, at [cathy.meeks@fallriverelectric.com](mailto:cathy.meeks@fallriverelectric.com) or call 800.632.5726 and ask to speak with Cathy. Qualifications and expectations for board members are detailed in our By-Laws, which may be found on our website [www.fallriverelectric.com](http://www.fallriverelectric.com). Click on "MYCOOPERATIVE" and then on the dropdown tab "By-Laws."

Members-at-large may also be nominated by submitting their name, along with fifteen signatures of members from within the district they are seeking to represent. Those names and signatures must arrive at the Ashton office of Fall River Electric by May 5, 2017, in order to be placed on the official election ballot. Remember, to be a qualified candidate you must live in the district you are seeking election to. Ballots and voting information will be mailed to ALL owner-members of Fall River Electric in June, and winners will be announced at the Co-op's annual meeting on June 24th in Ashton.

## Scholarships Now Available To Students Of Member Families

Last year, more than two dozen graduating high school students received Fall River Electric scholarships totaling over \$17,000; another 47 students received ongoing scholarship support that totaled more than \$40,000—all through Fall River Electric's college and continuing education scholarship program. The only requirement to qualify is that the applicant (student) must have parents or guardians who are members (customers) of Fall River Electric.

Scholarship applications are being accepted through March 24, 2017. The application is available at Fall River's website, [www.fallriverelectric.com](http://www.fallriverelectric.com) (click on the tab titled "MY COMMUNITY," and then on "Scholarships"). Scholarships are funded by unclaimed Patronage Capital.

Fall River is also pleased to announce a yearly scholarship of \$2,400 offered to an individual interested in a career as a utility lineman. This scholarship will be awarded to only ONE person who plans to enroll in a lineman college. Unlike the scholarships mentioned above, the lineman college applicant can be either an owner-member of the Cooperative or an individual whose parents or guardians are members of Fall River Electric.

Applications for lineman college will be accepted at any time and are also available on Fall River's website under "Scholarships."





RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Where Service Matters

800-632-5726  
208-652-7431

ASHTON  
1150 North 3400 East  
Ashton, ID 83420

DRIGGS  
1605 N Highway 33  
Driggs, ID 83422

WEST YELLOWSTONE  
436 Madison Ave  
West Yellowstone, MT 59758

All Our Offices Are Open  
Monday - Friday  
8:00am - 4:30pm

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Dan Skene  
District 1  
Rexburg/Rigby



Jay Hanson  
District 2  
West Victor



Boyd Bowles  
District 3  
East Victor



Debbie Smith  
District 4, East Driggs  
Board Vice President



Brent Robson  
District 5  
West Driggs/Tetonia



Dede Draper  
District 6  
Ashton  
Board Sec/Treas



Ron Dye  
District 7  
South Island Park



Ralph Burton  
District 8  
North Island Park



Doug Schmier  
District 9, West Yellowstone  
Board President



Bryan Case  
Fall River Electric  
CEO/General  
Manager



Fall River's FLASHES newsletter is printed on recycled paper and is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council. Products certified by FSC directly support responsible forest management.

Want your Fall River FLASHES faster? Click the Quick Link Newsletter on our website's home page at [www.fallriverelectric.com](http://www.fallriverelectric.com).

Keep up to date, including on power outage information, by "liking" Fall River Electric on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/fallriverrec](http://www.facebook.com/fallriverrec)

# Patronage Capital Summaries To Be Mailed Next Month



Next month, April, each member of Fall River Electric Cooperative will receive a summary of the Patronage Capital they have earned annually since becoming an owner-member. Patronage Capital is your share of the "margins" generated. Unlike for-profit businesses that generate profit, any excess revenue collected by Fall River is called margins and is paid back to our owner-members.

All Patronage Capital amounts earned are based on the amount of electricity you use. For more info on Patronage Capital, visit the QUICK LINK on our website at [www.fallriverelectric.com](http://www.fallriverelectric.com) or call a friendly Member Services representative during normal business hours at 800.632.5726.

# Easy Steps To Greater Energy Efficiency



Do you want to save money and electricity but have limited time, money, and/or patience? According to the Department of Energy, a "typical American family" spends nearly \$2,000 per year on their home energy bills. Much of that money, however, is wasted through leaky windows or ducts, old appliances, or inefficient heating and cooling systems. Luckily, there are several relatively easy ways to save energy without a substantial commitment of time and money. These efforts will help you save whether you own or rent an older or newly constructed home. So, where do you start?

According to *Money* magazine, "improving the envelope" of your home is a good place to start. Sunlight, seasonal temperature changes, and wind vibrations can loosen up even a tight home, increasing air leakage. Doors and windows may not close tightly, and duct work can spring leaks, wasting heated air. By placing weather stripping and caulk around windows and doors, you can keep cool air inside during warm months and prevent cold air from penetrating the indoors during winter months. Sealing gaps around piping, dryer vents, fans, and outlets also helps to seal the envelope and create greater efficiency.

Installing a blanket around your water heater could reduce standby heat losses by 25 to 45 percent and save you about 7 to 16 percent in water heating costs, according to the

Department of Energy. For an investment of about \$30, you can purchase pre-cut jackets or blankets and install them in about one hour. On a safety note, the Department recommends that you not set the thermostat above 130 degrees Fahrenheit on an electric water heater with an insulating jacket or blanket; the higher temperature setting could cause the wiring to overheat.

If you have a programmable thermostat, check it to make sure it was programmed for the current season and family schedule. This is one of the best energy-saving tools at your fingertips. It enables you to fine tune the temperature during particular hours of the day. Many models allow you to differentiate between weekday and weekend schedules. Most models come with an override option so you can make manual adjustments without losing overall programming. You can achieve these efficiencies and savings only if the thermostat is programmed correctly and adjusted periodically to keep pace with changes in household routines.

Remember, there are easy steps you can take now to improve the energy efficiency of your home. To learn about additional ways to save energy and money, call Fall River's conservation specialist at 800.632.5726 or visit our website [www.fallriverelectric.com](http://www.fallriverelectric.com) and click the tab "SAVING ENERGY." That's where you will also find info on rebates and applications for your spring remodeling projects!

