

# Sun River Electric Cooperative

# Ripples



**Office Hours:** 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.  
**Phone Numbers:** 406-467-2526 or 1-800-452-7516

**Website:** [www.sunriverelectric.coop](http://www.sunriverelectric.coop)

**After Hours & Weekend Dispatch:**  
**406-467-2526 or 1-800-452-7516**

If calling from a local number or cell phone –  
please use: 406-467-2526 or 406-467-2527

**Be sure to check your breakers before reporting outages.**

**MARCH 2023**

## New employee spotlight

BRANDI CONVERSE AND TAYLER DEBRUYCKER JOIN SREC

**W**E are pleased to welcome Brandi Converse and Tayler DeBruycker as our newest Sun River Electric Cooperative employees!

Brandi is our billing/collections clerk. She works with new members, assisting them with submitting paperwork and setting up their accounts, as well as with current members with account changes. She also is here to assist those who need help with their monthly bills, making payment arrangements or guiding them to get energy assistance. Brandi grew up and graduated from Fairfield. She currently lives in Choteau with her son Kayden. She enjoys camping, fishing and spending time with family and friends.

Tayler DeBruycker is our work order/purchasing clerk. She is responsible for accounting for labor, materials and other costs associated with construction projects, maintaining inventory records



Tayler DeBruycker and Brandi Converse joined SREC recently.

and coordinating material purchases. Tayler grew up in Helena, and graduated from Capital High School. She worked in the dentistry field for the last 11 years before joining Sun River Electric. Tayler lives outside Choteau, with her husband Adam on the family ranch. She enjoys hanging out with family and friends, lake days, fishing and hiking.

Welcome Brandi and Tayler to the Sun River Electric family!

## 2023 SREC YOUTH TOUR WINNER

**G**RACIE Hill is the Sun River Electric Cooperative 2023 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Washington, D.C., Youth Tour Essay Contest Winner! Gracie is from Augusta, and is a junior in high school. In June she will join 23 other Montana students on a trip to our nation's capital.



Gracie Hill

When they arrive in D.C. they will join kids from electric cooperatives from all over the United States. They will learn about co-ops, visit the sites and meet with legislators. Congratulations Gracie!

## SCHOLARSHIPS

**DON'T FORGET TO APPLY FOR THE SUN RIVER ELECTRIC SCHOLARSHIPS!**

**DEADLINE: APRIL 5, 2023**

Details available online:  
[www.sunriverelectric.coop](http://www.sunriverelectric.coop)

### HIDDEN NUMBER

If you find your account number hidden in this issue, it is worth a \$50 credit on your next statement. There is one number hidden in every issue. Give us a call if you are the lucky consumer. 276928

**406-467-2526 or 1-800-452-7516**

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

#### OFFICERS

Leonard Sivumaki, President.... 406-264-5482  
Robert Pasha, V.P. .... 406-799-2292  
Mitch Johnson, S/T ..... 406-467-2109

#### TRUSTEES

Russ Bloom ..... 406-431-0168  
John Burgmaier ..... 406-463-2522  
Chris Music ..... 406-600-8375  
Bryce Johns ..... 406-289-0730

#### MANAGER

Brad Bauman..... 406-467-2526

# ANNUAL MEETING IS MARCH 31

By **CHRIS CHRISTENSEN**  
Member Services Manager

**I**t is that time of year when Sun River Electric Cooperative prepares for our annual meeting. Mark your calendars for Friday, March 31, to join us at the Fairfield Community Hall. As we plan for that meeting, I would like to go over a few things that make Sun River Electric what it is. Let's start with our mission statement:

*The basic mission for Sun River Electric Cooperative, Inc., is to maintain a financially sound cooperative with systematic maintenance and create rate stability while promoting growth, board and employee education, and maintaining good consumer relations.*

We try to follow our mission statement by following the seven cooperative principles. Open and Voluntary Membership; Democratic Member Control; Members' Economic Participation; Autonomy and Independence; Education, Training, and Information; Cooperation Among Cooperatives; and Concern for Community. Your board of directors know these principles and use them as a guide to make Sun River Cooperative, your cooperative, the best it can be. The employees have a copy of the company's mission statement on each one of their desks.

2022 was a challenging yet successful year for Sun River. A lot of new services were installed, which was great for growth, but it also had its challenges. Material availability was limited, not to mention a hefty increase in the prices of those materials.

More service installations means more linemen out in the field building

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**ANNUAL  
MEETING**  
MARCH 31

those services, and still responding to outages and maintenance as needed.

There was an increase in irrigation services and mother nature was good to us by allowing a good amount of water to keep the sprinklers going and the crops growing. When employees are outside working on the system, then naturally everyone in the office is doing their part to keep everything moving smoothly as well.

There are many things that must happen to remain a successful business. I would like to talk about three things that I believe contribute to the success of Sun River Electric.

First are the employees, there are 22 of us, each with a unique responsibility. In fact, everyone wears many different "hats." A lot of our members might not know this, but Sun River Electric ranks in the top percentage of growing co-ops in Montana. That being said, it is pretty impressive that it takes only 22 dedicated, hard-working employees to make everything happen each day. We all work for you, our member/owners, so please let us know how we are doing, and what we can do to better serve you.

The second is the board of directors for Sun River Electric. They do


more than just meet every month. All directors belong to other boards and committees, which takes up a considerable amount of their time.

The board is very diverse. There is a wide range of ages, professions and backgrounds that make up the board of trustees. Each brings a different perspective, and their different professional backgrounds add to the success of their decision making. The directors are forward-thinking, while remaining fiscally responsible to the members. They have trust in their management team and the employees, and look for their input when looking for the right answers.

Trust, that's an important word when it comes to success. Marriage, sports teams, businesses, schools, community leaders, the list goes on and on, but they all require a certain level of trust to be successful.

That brings me to my third point of what makes Sun River Electric successful, and that is you, our members, and the trust you put in us. That trust is not just automatically given, it is earned and not just once, but every single day. We will work hard for you so that trust will remain. We want you to be successful and happy in whatever path life takes you. We want to contribute to the success of our youth. We want our communities to be strong through unity and hard work. If we can help, we will (maybe that should be our new motto.)

To use part of a tag line from Motel 6, "at Sun River Electric we do more than just keep the lights on."

Please join us on March 31 to be a part of your annual meeting. 

## REMINDER:

Bills not paid by the 10th of the month will be charged a \$10 late fee.

Pay as you go with  
**prePAY**  
electricity from SREC. It is easy!  
Call SREC to get started.

