

# Sun River Electric Cooperative



**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.**

# Ripples

MAY 2023

## FENCING OUR TERRITORY: CYBERSECURITY

In our area we are familiar with good fencing practices, keeping our animals on our own lands and keeping the neighbors on theirs. These barriers serve to keep our neighbors and ourselves happier. We find it necessary to do the same in our electric cooperative because of bad actors who think our data and members information should be theirs. Let me delve deeper.

Data continues to grow and become a bigger part of all industries. The more data that is generated and stored, the more time and energy is expended analyzing and protecting this data. At Sun River Electric Cooperative we ask for member information that is necessary for communication, bill settlement and account usage. We no longer store credit card information month to month because outside actors may like to sneak a peek into our software systems to use this information to access other accounts of our members.

### MESSAGE

FROM THE CEO

COLUMN BY **BRAD BAUMAN**



The new buzz word is “cybersecurity.” A recent term that means nothing more than bad actors trying to put their nose under our tent to access information that is none of their business. This activity has required us and others to “fence” our data banks to keep the “neighbors” out.

It would be wrong of me to detail how that is being accomplished because why would we want to share our battle plan with an enemy to encourage them to make an attempt at

catching us with a “gate open?” I can share that our practices have changed over the years, and we take protecting your information and our data very seriously. The use of the “cloud” is a practice that most entities are using now. The cloud is nothing more than offsite storage with backup in more than one location. The redundancy hopefully will allow for less recovery time from one of the ransomware attacks that may come our way. We are told it is not a matter of if a ransomware attack will occur, but when. Being able to isolate and reconfigure our system is on our minds, and is one of our internal objectives.

In a perfect world, the resources we are needing to invest in these defenses could be used in a more productive manner; but the times have changed, and we find ourselves needing to make

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### 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.

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

ALWAYS CALL | BEFORE YOU DIG



### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

#### OFFICERS

Robert Pasha, President ..... 406-799-2292  
Mitch Johnson, V.P. .... 406-467-2109  
Chris Music, S/T ..... 406-600-8375

#### TRUSTEES

Russ Bloom ..... 406-431-0168  
John Burgmaier ..... 406-463-2522  
Bryce Johns ..... 406-289-0730  
Leonard Sivumaki ..... 406-264-5482

#### MANAGER

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

# HIGHLIGHTS

**T**HANK you to our members who were able to attend the 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting!

Members who attended received a registration gift and a delicious lunch prepared by Hot Dang Ninja. This year we had tri-tip roast and salmon. The gift was a handy lantern with a tool set inside.

Board President Leonard Sivumaki was unable to attend, so Vice President Bob Pasha led the meeting.

Two Sun River Electric Cooperative (SREC) employees were recognized for years of service. Shelley Batson received a plaque for 35 years, and Mike Faith received a 15-year plaque.

Melissa Soldano from Douglas Wilson & Co. gave the yearly audit report. Joe Sullivan from Davis, Hatley, Haffeman & Tighe Law Firm conducted the election of board members and the voting for the proposed by-law change.

Two districts were up for re-election. District 2 (Upper Sun River, Augusta, and Simms) and District 7 (Highwood, Armington and Stockett). Both Russ Bloom and Bob Pasha retained their seats for another three years.

The proposed bylaw change was to amend the section regarding nomination and election of trustees. It eliminates both the three-person nominating committee in each trustee district, and the nomination of candidates from the floor at the annual meeting, and replaces those provisions with a single means of putting trustee candidates before the membership for a vote. Any person wanting to be put on the ballot



The recent Sun River Electric Cooperative's 86th Annual Meeting of the Members was a success. | **SUN RIVER ELECTRIC PHOTO**

as a trustee candidate must obtain 10 signatures from members in that district on a nominating petition, and submit that petition to the cooperative no less than 30 days prior to the annual meeting.

The membership voted to amend the bylaw.

Manager Brad Bauman gave a report for the year 2022. The system performance was good, with an average of less than one hour for outages and no widespread outages. Financially, sales were good, and all goals were met, making it possible to do a December bill credit to the members. He talked about the increases in wholesale power rates and the slight increase in our rates.

The guest speaker this year was Mark Lambrecht, director of government relations for the Montana Electric

Cooperatives' Association. He gave the membership an update on House and Senate bills that affect the cooperatives in Montana. One specific bill — House Bill 320 — the Move Over Bill, will be signed by the governor in April, and there will be several cooperative representatives in attendance.

The capital credit retirement this year was for the years 2002 and 2003.

There were drawings for 30 door prizes, including several nice things such as small electric appliances, tools, extension cords and gift certificates. 255461

At the conclusion of the meeting there was a drawing for \$100 cash. The winner was Walter Coffman.

The meals were served by the Fairfield FCCLA and SREC linemen. Clean-up was done by the Fairfield High School golf team. **RM**



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

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sure our "fences" are secure and maintained.

We will continue to work hard to "keep the lights on," and we will also do our best to keep your information secure and within our "boundaries." Thank you for your trust in us and our mission; we work for a membership that is second to none. **RM**