



Ripples

FEBRUARY 2025

2025 NRECA YOUTH TOUR ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

Congrats to Makenzie and Conor, they won a free trip to D.C.

In June of 2025, all of the electric cooperatives in Montana and the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA) will sponsor high school students to participate in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. The students must be sophomores or juniors, live on the cooperative system, and write an essay to be chosen. This year the topic was *"What was the most important event to have occurred in our nation during your lifetime? How did it affect you?"*

Sun River Electric Cooperative has selected two outstanding students! Makenzie Kujava from Conrad and Conor Barrett from Augusta.

Makenzie Kujava

Makenzie is a Conrad High School sophomore, she is the class secretary, and participates in FFA, pep band and softball. She was also chosen to do Honors Band and had the opportunity



to go to Europe last summer for music. She has been a member of the Sandrockets 4-H club

for eight years and is currently the vice president. She raises steers and competes in the statewide archery project. This year she was selected to be a part of the Teen Library Advisory Board. Makenzie wrote her essay about the COVID-19 pandemic. She is the daughter of Matt and Becky Kujava.

Conor Barrett

Conor is an Augusta High School junior, he is very active in athletics and has achieved academic all-state honors in football, basketball and track. He is the class vice-president and student body treasurer. He is currently the vice president of his FFA chapter and a member of Skills USA, as well as being the treasurer of the National Honors



Makenzie



Conor

Society and is a Principal Cup participant. Conor also wrote his essay on the COVID-19 pandemic. He is the son of Will and Megan Barrett.

In June, Makenzie and Conor will meet in Great Falls with the other Youth Tour participants from across the state. They will travel to Washington, D.C., and spend a week seeing all of the sites, including the National Monuments, the Capitol, White House, Arlington National Cemetery, Mount Vernon, the Holocaust Museum and the Smithsonian Museums. They will meet with the Montana legislators and have the opportunity to ask them questions. The trip also includes a visit to Gettysburg, the U.S. Naval Academy and a Nationals baseball game. And, most importantly, they get together with electric cooperative kids from across the United States and learn about how cooperatives work and why it's great to be a part of the cooperative community! RM

REMINDER:

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ANNUAL MEETING IS MARCH 28

LOOKING FOR BOARD OF TRUSTEE NOMINATIONS

THE start of a new year has begun, and it is time to remind the membership of the Annual Meeting to be held at the end of March. Cooperatives are democratic organizations that maintain their strength and success through membership participation. Sun River Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting will be held at the Fairfield Community Hall on Friday, March 28th.

Two districts are open for nominations this year: District #1, consisting

of Lower Sun River, Fort Shaw and Sun River; and District #6, consisting of Choteau, Pendroy and Bynum.

Leonard Sivumaki, the board of trustee representative from District #1, has informed his fellow trustee members that he does not plan to run for re-election. Leonard has served since 1998, a commitment of 27 years to the cooperative. Leonard will be missed and his commitment to the success of Sun River Electric Coopera-

tive has been immense. Please plan to attend this year's annual meeting to thank Leonard for his years of service on your behalf.

If anyone wishes to petition to become a trustee, they can pick up a nominating petition at the Sun River Electric office. The requirements to become a trustee are listed below, and can also be found listed in the bylaws.

RM

Article III Section 7: Nomination and Election of Trustees

No member of the Cooperative can petition to become a trustee of the Cooperative unless he or she has been a paying member for five consecutive years and a resident and property owner in the district he or she is to represent. In the year in which a trustee position shall be voted upon at the annual meeting of the members, a person desiring to be elected or re-elected to that trustee position shall submit to the Cooperative a nominating petition. Each nominating petition shall consist of the printed name, address, and telephone number and original and dated signature of no less than ten (10) members of the cooperative, and they must reside in the district described in Section 6 above for which such a trust position is to be elected. In order to be eligible to run for the Board of Trustees, a candidate's nominating petition shall be submitted to the cooperative no less than thirty (30) days before the annual meeting. The petitioned members name must be posted at the principal office of the Cooperative no less than twenty (20) days prior to the meeting and the Secretary shall mail with the notice of the meeting or separately but at least ten (10) days before the date of the meeting a statement of the number of trustees to be elected and the names and addresses of the candidates whom petitioned. The ballot to be used at the election shall list the names of the candidates who completed the requirements. Each member of the Cooperative present at the meeting shall be entitled to vote for one candidate from each district. The candidate from each district receiving the highest number of votes at the meeting shall be considered elected as trustee.

Article IV: Qualification and Tenure

At the annual meeting of the members for the year 1940, the trustees from districts 3, 4, and 5 shall be elected for a three year term, trustees from districts 2 and 7 for a two year term and trustees from districts 1 and 6 for a one year term. In the years thereafter, beginning with the board members next term, all trustees shall be elected for a three year term. All trustees elected shall hold office during the respective terms for which they were elected and until their successor shall have been elected and shall have qualified. 234264. No person shall be eligible to become or remain a trustee or to hold any position of trust in the Cooperative who: (a) is not a member of the Cooperative and a bona fide resident of the particular district which he or she is to represent or (b) is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the Cooperative or is an employee of the Cooperative. Upon establishment of the fact that a trustee is holding office in violation of any of the foregoing provisions, it shall immediately become incumbent upon the Board of Trustees to remove such trustees from office. Nothing contained in this section shall affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the Board of Trustees.

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