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I appreciate the opportunity to serve

WELL, I skipped my first month, and a lot of people took former Manager Jack Hamblin's advice and let me know. As of January 1st, the Board of Directors named me general manager of Southeast Electric Cooperative. Two of our large transmission and substation projects are starting to take off again, so Jack will be working on those projects to ensure their success.

As this is my first article as general manager, I would like to share a bit about me. My parents are Greg and Rita Williams, and we moved to a ranch north of Ekalaka in 1991. I graduated from Carter County High School, and then went to Montana State University to study mathematics. After graduating in 2006 from MSU, it was very difficult to find work with a math degree. Once the recession of 2008 started, I moved back to Ekalaka temporarily and began working in the Bakken Oil Field as a roustabout.

While working in North Dakota, I lived in Dickinson and met my wife, Jennifer. After working for a few years as a roustabout, I began working for Kadrmas, Lee & Jackson (KLJ) as an



Tye Williams, general manager at Southeast Electric Cooperative, recently completed the six-week Management Internship Program sponsored by NRECA. Tye has gained management knowledge, but more importantly, made lasting relationships with other cooperative managers in the United States. Pictured is Tye Williams (L) and Gary Pfann, director, Executive and Staff Education | **PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION**

engineering technician. From there, my wife and I moved to St. Paul, MN, so she could attend law school. While we lived in the Twin Cities, I also went

back to school and graduated with a Master of Electrical Engineering from the University of Minnesota.

After we finished school, we moved back to Dickinson, ND, where I took a position as an engineer working for Medora Corporation (previously Solarbee). While working in Dickinson and attending graduate school, I did a lot of compliance, research and development on different projects. I believe the skills I learned there will help to guide Southeast Electric through the many changes that are coming to the electric utility business.

Roughly two years ago, I started the process of applying and interviewing to come to work at Southeast Electric and take over for Jack.

I would like to thank the Board of Directors for giving me the opportunity to work for Southeast Electric and serve the community I grew up in.

I would also like to thank Jack for the mentorship he has given me the last two years, and into the future. Last, but not least, I am very grateful for the staff I have, they are hard-working people with a lot of experience, who deeply care about the members. RM

PRESIDENTS' DAY CLOSURE

Southeast Electric Cooperative's office will be closed on Monday, Feb. 21

YOU'RE OUR VALENTINE

FEBRUARY may be the shortest month, but it's packed with special observances such as Groundhog Day, Presidents' Day, Black History Month and Valentine's Day, in addition to a host of unofficial "national" days you've probably never heard of such as "National Walking the Dog Day." But they all have something in common. They were created to draw attention to a particular issue or theme.

Valentine's Day may seem like an observance originally created by a greeting card company, but over time, it's become a widely celebrated day generating millions of dollars spent on flowers, candy and, of course, greeting cards professing our love. But Valentine's Day isn't just for the lovebirds. It's also the perfect time to let our friends, family, co-workers and other special people in our lives know we care about them.

This is our list of top five reasons why we love serving you, the members of Southeast Electric Cooperative.

1. We love serving our members because without you, the co-op wouldn't exist. Our purpose is to provide you with reliable, responsible and safe electricity. Simply put, Southeast Electric exists to serve you. That's why we were formed in 1946 – to bring power to our local area when for-profit utilities would not.

2. You enable us to complete our mission by supporting our efforts to

give back. A major part of our mission is to serve our community and look after the greater good. With your assistance, we offer rebate programs, scholarships, local grant funding for energy-efficient lighting and low-income assistance.

3. Members of our co-op also serve on the board of directors. They provide guidance for setting co-op priorities and helping make big decisions. Because our board members live in the area, they're able to serve as the pulse of the larger community and identify immediate and long-term needs. The broader co-op membership provides helpful input through their vote on director elections and by weighing in on co-op and community issues.

4. You help us get it right. Southeast Electric Cooperative members are great about keeping us in the know. We do our best to avoid power outages, but Mother Nature can

occasionally throw us a curveball; our members are quick to report any power disruptions and are patient as our crews work to safely restore power. We know outages are frustrating, and your support as we work through storms means so much to our employees.

5. You and other Southeast Electric members make up the community we serve – and for us, it's all about community. Our employees live and work here, too, and care about our community the same way you do. We're invested and work to help it thrive. You'll see our employees volunteering at local schools and other charitable and community endeavors.

As a co-op, our mission is to enhance the quality of life in our community and look after its long-term interests. We love serving our members and our local community and, just like you, want to see it continue to thrive. RM

SOUTHEAST ELECTRIC Cooperative
Your Tomorrow's Energy Cooperative

- REDUCE STRESS
- ROUTINE CHECKUPS
- MOVE MORE
- EAT SMART

BE HEART HEALTHY!

Super Bowl Energy Savings

Here are **3** easy ways to save if you're hosting a Super Bowl party.

Before guests arrive, lower the thermostat. (extra people = additional warmth indoors)

Cook with smaller countertop appliances to save energy.

Taking the party outdoors? Use solar lights (free energy!) to enhance the ambiance.

Have fun watching Super Bowl LVI. (and the commercials!)