



You're more than just a customer

THANK YOU

By **VICKI FIX** | *Member Services*

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AUTHOR Anthony J. D'Angelo observed that, "Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community."

To a large degree, this reflects Southeast Electric Cooperative's philosophy toward our consumer-members and the broader service territory that we serve. As a cooperative, we have a different "bottom line." While our priority is always to provide reliable and safe energy, there is another equally important part of this equation. Your well-being and that of the larger community that we serve are of paramount concern.

Seventy-five years ago, Southeast Electric Cooperative was founded to fulfill a vital need in our community that would not have otherwise been met. Concerned local leaders came together to build this co-op and bring electricity where there was none.

At that time, members of the community understood we were different because they likely knew someone who helped create Southeast Electric. For most people, our founding and its circumstances have been long forgotten. Over time, folks in the community may have come to think of us as simply their energy provider. But we are not. We are a co-op that is constantly evolving to meet the needs of the communities we serve, and we are able to do this because of members like you.

Since our inception, we have sought feedback and engagement from you and that of the larger community to guide our long-term decisions. We hold annual meetings to engage with you and obtain your feedback.

We strive to find new ways to help you use energy more efficiently. We are always seeking to keep pace with the changing energy environment, evolving technology and shifting consumer expectations.

Southeast Electric members help guide important co-op decisions that improve and enrich the community. We value the perspective of our board members, who are members of the co-op and community – just like you.

As a local business, we have a stake in the community. That's why we support local charitable organizations such as Carter County High School and Plevna High School After Prom Parties, Ekalaka Bump & Run, Carter County Chamber of Commerce, Carter County Museum, Carter County Sheep & Cattle Co., Ekalaka Track & Arena, Miss Montana Scholarship Program, Sagebrush Service Club Shakespeare in the Park and Baker Community Fund, just to name a few.

Through matching funds from Basin Electric Power Cooperative and CoBank we have also been able to give sizeable donations to the Positive Choices Program.

When your cooperative supports these efforts, you are supporting the community and making it a better place for everyone.

While the times may have changed, our mission and outlook have not. We view our role as a catalyst for good. Working together, we can accomplish great things for our community now and in the future.

To us, you are not just a customer; you are a *member* of our co-op and without you we would not exist. RM

Congrats to scholarship winners

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SOUTHEAST Electric Cooperative is excited to announce that Kenzie Tooke is the winner of the Southeast Electric's 2021 Youth Tour Scholarship. This \$1,500 scholarship has been offered in place of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Washington DC Youth Tour.

There were too many unknowns to schedule a tour this year, so the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA) decided to offer a \$2,500 scholarship to the statewide winner. Southeast Electric followed suit with a \$1,500 scholarship. Kenzie's application will be submitted to MECA to compete with other essays from Montana cooperatives. Kenzie Tooke is the daughter of J.O. and Kim Tooke of Ekalaka.



Kenzie Tooke is the winner of Southeast Electric Cooperative's 2021 Youth Tour Scholarship | **COURTESY PHOTO**



Wilson Venhaus

It has been four years since Southeast Electric has received any applications for the Vernon Emery Memorial Line-men Scholarship.

This scholarship is funded by Southeast Electric and the Vernon Emery Memorial. We are happy to announce that Wilson Venhaus has been awarded a \$1,500 scholarship to attend Highland College of Montana Tech in Butte Montana.

He will be pursuing a career in power line construction and maintenance. **RM**

SMART HUB launches in March

SOUTHEAST Electric Cooperative office personnel has been promising members that soon, very soon, they will be able to pay their bills online with a credit card.

Members were probably starting to believe "soon" was a long time down the road. Well look out folks, here we go. In March we will be starting SMART



HUB. It will be open to employees first to test the waters.

Instructions will be mailed to each member. We will not be accepting credit

cards over the phone or in the office. The only option to pay by credit card or e-check will be through SMART HUB.

SMART HUB will also allow you to look at your usage and follow your account more closely.

Southeast Electric is always working toward improvements and member involvement. **RM**

Imagination Library coming soon

By **VICKI FIX** | Member Services

Ican't tell you how excited I am to announce our new endeavor! Carter County Chamber of Commerce and Southeast Electric Cooperative are partnering to put a new book in your child's hands each month. Any child age birth to 5 years old will receive a FREE book each month from

the Dolly Parton Imagination Library! If you are in our service territory you will need to sign your child up, and they should receive their first book within 8 to 12 weeks. The books cover all things needed to get them ready for kindergarten. Read to your children, talk about the book and instill the wonder of reading adventure through this awesome program. **RM**

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Replace standard power strips with advanced power strips to save energy. Advanced power strips look like ordinary power strips, but they have built-in features that are designed to reduce the amount of energy used by standby electronics that consume energy even when they're not in use (also known as phantom load).

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) estimates that the average home loses \$200 annually to energy wasted by phantom load.

Source:
www.nrel.gov

