

THE COOPERATIVE ADVANTAGE

Historic Bomb Cyclone Blizzard Update

BY JIM HERRON CEO | HERRONJC@MVEA.ORG



JIM HERRON

I have never envied meteorologists in Colorado. The state's unpredictable weather patterns are a lesson in being prepared for the unknown. Depending on where you are located in an area, the forecast can be a hit or a miss. For Mountain View Electric Association, Inc. members, the historic March 13 "bomb cyclone" blizzard made every prediction a reality: hurricane-force winds, reduced visibility, large amounts of heavy wet snow, substantial snow drifting, and widespread road closures. During the height of the storm on Wednesday, these conditions also resulted in the eventual loss of power to over 24,000 of our nearly 48,000 members throughout our 5,000-square-mile service territory.

Going into the storm, plans were put in place and crews were ready. Our system infrastructure is strong, and our maintenance program is thorough. By Thursday morning, the number of members without power had decreased to a little over 8,000. By Friday evening, the number had decreased to less than 45. Gratefully, by Saturday evening, power had been restored to all MVEA members. The "bomb cyclone" was truly one for the record books and brought MVEA's team of dedicated employees together to restore power to members as quickly and safely as possible, under very challenging conditions.

We live in an era of amazing technology and innovation. We are decades in to having power with a flick of a switch. It is all too easy to forget that even with innovations in technology, maintaining and repairing electric infrastructure is still a hands-on, feet-on-the-ground endeavor. I want to

recognize the dedicated MVEA employees who worked in challenging conditions to restore power to our co-op members. MVEA had over two dozen crews out in the field, in addition to special contractors, and behind-the-scenes employees orchestrating our restoration efforts. Crews worked rotating schedules throughout the storm to repair downed lines, replace downed poles, and repair damaged equipment caused by the hurricane-force winds. Knowing the possibility of getting stuck was real when they left the office, there were MVEA crews who were stranded and sheltered in their vehicles after restoring power to co-op communities on Wednesday night.

When the storm passed and road accessibility improved, crews were faced with fallen trees and damaged poles in the Black Forest area, and over 60 downed and damaged poles throughout our service territory. While walking the line to access outages, crews encountered snow drifts that required assistance from county road crews with heavy equipment.

I also want to thank MVEA's co-op members for your patience and encouragement through our restoration efforts. In our interconnected world, we are truly closer now, than ever before. Through our Facebook and Twitter accounts we were able to connect with members at a level that we have not experienced before. Many of our employees who were restoring power are also co-op members and your neighbors. They follow our social media accounts and read the posts. Your words of encouragement were shared as we provided updates to the crews throughout the restoration effort. It was a storm that brought us all together for a common cause. Being a member of an electric cooperative means being part of something special. Something local. Something trusted. Something created to serve you. As an electric cooperative, we belong to the communities that we serve, because we were built by the communities that we serve.



MVEA crews replace poles that were damaged by hurricane-force winds in the Yoder area during the March 13 "bomb cyclone" blizzard. Photo Credit: Terryl Jensen, MVEA Operations Manager

Members Make a Difference at the Annual Meeting

Most of us lead busy lives. We find ourselves multitasking, constantly checking phones and email to keep up with the demands of modern life. Thanks to technology, we can accomplish many tasks electronically and remotely to be more efficient. And, with so many pressing obligations, we like to protect our “spare” time. Invitations to attend in-person meetings and gatherings are weighed carefully as we decide whether or not our time and effort to attend is beneficial. The answer to the question, “what’s in it for me?” must be compelling. You may think attending Mountain View Electric Association, Inc.’s Annual Meeting of Members would be easy to lump into the “no benefit to me” category. However, we’d ask you to think again.

As an MVEA member, you have a perspective that is valuable—and we invite you to share it with the co-op. The MVEA Board of Directors and Executive Team are readily available to meet members and answer questions. The annual meeting is an opportunity for co-op leaders to share the co-op’s successes and challenges with the

membership, as well as the financial health and forecast of priorities for the coming years. Topics may include the impact of federal and state regulations on rates and infrastructure, the adoption of advanced technology to increase strategic objectives, or the building of new substations to help serve our growing electric cooperative.

We realize these topics may sound like a rather dull evening spent with your co-op. But, there is much more to the gathering. Including small local business owners to large corporations, and family farms to growing neighborhoods, MVEA is one of the few local organizations that is uniquely positioned to bring together all members of the community. The MVEA Annual Meeting of Members is not only designed to take care of the important business of the co-op, but the equally important business of building a real sense of co-op community. It is an event where neighbors can meet new neighbors—or catch up with old acquaintances.

Perhaps you may feel that you have nothing to add to the discussion, so there is no need to attend the annual meeting.

However, every electric bill you pay to the co-op helps ensure better service and reliability for the entire co-op community. Your dollars are reinvested locally into improvements that impact the reliability and affordability of your electricity, and MVEA wants to hear from you to better inform our decisions as we plan for the future. While MVEA provides convenient electronic options for bill-paying and communication, there are times when there is no substitute for in-person engagement...a handshake with a smile. When members of our community come together for a common purpose, we improve the quality of life for all in our corner of the world.

If you have not attended the MVEA Annual Meeting of Members in the past, or if it has been a few years, we urge you to join us — active involvement is a terrific way to learn more about and help impact your electric cooperative. Please save the date and plan on joining us at Palmer Ridge High School in Monument on Thursday, June 13. To find out more, visit www.mvea.coop/annual-meeting.

THE COOPERATIVE *Advantage* Local | Trusted | Serving You

2019 Annual Meeting of Members

For more information, visit www.mvea.coop/annual-meeting.

Dinner • Member Gifts • Co-op Business Meeting • Door Prizes

Save the Date!

Thursday, June 13, 2019

Palmer Ridge High School

19255 Frontage Rd • Monument, CO 80132

4:30 p.m. Registration, Dinner & Music

6:30 p.m. Co-op Business Meeting, Board of Directors Election, Door Prizes & Six \$500 Whole Home LED Lighting Giveaway Winners Announced!





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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Barry R. Springer, District 6
Vice President

Milton L. Mathis, District 4
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Limon Office

1655 5th Street • P.O. Box 1600
Limon, CO 80828

Monument Office

15706 Jackson Creek Parkway, Suite 100
Monument, CO 80132

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Visit our website: www.mvea.coop

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20 PHOTO CALENDAR CONTEST 20
MOUNTAIN VIEW ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

Photos Wanted!

Do you have an eye for fiery sunsets, sweeping vistas, heritage barns, and a knack for catching nature in action? As an MVEA co-op member, you are invited to **send in your photos, taken within our 5,000 square mile service territory, that capture the seasons, people, lifestyle or landscape of co-op country.** The winning photographs will be included in MVEA's 2020 calendar. **The deadline for entry is July 8, 2019.**

Photo Calendar Submission Guidelines

Only MVEA members, directors, employees and their family members are eligible to participate in the photo calendar contest. High resolution digital entries preferred. Minimum resolution is 300 dpi. Limit two photos per person. Photos must have horizontal/landscape orientation for best chance of being selected for the calendar. Photos must be taken within our service territory. Photos will not be accepted without a completed entry form.

For complete Photo Calendar Contest submission information and entry form please visit www.mvea.coop/photo-calendar-contest. Send entries by email to nikki.r@mvea.coop. Questions? Call (719) 494-2657.

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Now Open 2019 BOARD NOMINATIONS

The "Procedure for Director Elections and Member Voting" is available on MVEA's website at www.mvea.coop/annual-meeting.

To view a territory map with districts, visit www.mvea.coop/territory-map.

Are you interested in being an MVEA Board of Directors candidate? A candidate must be an MVEA member and reside in the district where there is a vacancy. Visit MVEA's Annual Meeting web page at www.mvea.coop/annual-meeting for additional candidate requirements. Click on "By-laws" and go to Article III, Section 2. Before seeking candidacy, please contact MVEA at (800) 388-9881 to verify your district. A member may seek election by nomination by the nominating committee or nomination by petition.

- To be nominated by the nominating committee, please contact a member of the committee or the MVEA Board Nomination Information Line. A candidate questionnaire must be received by the committee or submitted via email to candidate@mvea.coop by 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 9, 2019.
- To be nominated by petition, you must have the petition signed by 15 MVEA members. Petitions and procedures are available at MVEA's offices or on the Annual Meeting web page listed above. The petition, along with a completed candidate questionnaire must be returned to an MVEA office by 5:30 p.m., Monday, April 29, 2019.

A candidate questionnaire must be completed for either nomination by the committee or nomination by petition. The questionnaire can be found on MVEA's website or you can pick one up at an MVEA office. If you have questions, please contact a member of the nominating committee or contact the MVEA Board Nomination Information Line.

During the Annual Meeting on June 13, 2019, at Palmer Ridge High School in Monument, two directors will be elected to the Mountain View Electric Association, Inc. (MVEA), Board of Directors from the following districts:

- **District 3:** Elbert and surrounding areas to include a portion of the Black Forest (incumbent Errol Hertneky)
- **District 5:** Ellicott, Fountain, Falcon and surrounding areas (incumbent Kevin L. Paddock)

Nominating Committee

District 3
Jean Mikita
(719) 347-2509

District 5
Dennis Carter
(719) 683-2675

**MVEA Board Nomination
Information Line**
Tel: (719) 494-2528
Email: candidate@mvea.coop

ENTER TO WIN

ENTRY DEADLINE
MAY 30, 2019

CONSERVE + EDUCATE + INNOVATE

\$500 Whole Home LED Lighting Giveaway

Six winners will be announced during Mountain View Electric Association, Inc.'s Annual Meeting of Members at Palmer Ridge High School, in Monument, on June 13, 2019.

"This prize is great, because we all need to be more energy efficient."

Michelle Carr, 2018 Giveaway Winner (104 LEDs installed)

\$500 Whole Home LED Lighting Giveaway Entry Form

Visit www.mvea.coop/LEDgiveaway to enter online and for a complete list of contest rules and restrictions. The giveaway is open to all MVEA residential members in good standing who agree to contest rules and requirements. Current or former MVEA employees, affiliates, related entities, and the immediate family members and household members of all such employees are not eligible to participate. Members do not need to be present to win.

Enter online, return entry form with your monthly payment, or mail entry form to Mountain View Electric Association, Inc., Attn: Communications, 11140 E. Woodmen Road, Falcon, CO 80831.

MVEA Member Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Account #: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____