

GM'S PAGE: PRINCIPLES TO LIVE BY

BY TOM SIFERS GENERAL MANAGER

At the end of May, I retired from Mountain Parks Electric after almost 22 years of employment. Altogether, I have been employed by two rural electric cooperatives for 43 years, essentially two-thirds of my life. I believe the one thing that makes a cooperative different from private enterprise, and successful, is the adherence to the Seven Cooperative Principles. And if you have read my GM's page over the last four years that I served as your general manager, you may recall that many of my articles touched on these principles. I honestly don't ever tire of them, so I am going to close out my last column with them.

7 COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

Principle 1

Voluntary and Open Membership

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all people able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

Principle 2

Democratic Member Control

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members —those who buy the goods or use the services of the cooperative —who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions.

Principle 3

Members' Economic Participation

Members contribute equally to, and democratically control, the capital of the cooperative. This benefits members in proportion to the business they conduct with the cooperative.

Principle 4

Autonomy and Independence

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If the co-op enters into agreements with other organizations or raises capital from external sources, it is done so based on terms that ensure democratic control by the members and maintains the cooperative's autonomy.

Principle 5

Education, Training and Information

Cooperatives provide education and training for members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperative. Members also inform the general public about the nature and benefits of cooperatives.

Principle 6

Cooperation Among Cooperatives

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international cooperatives.

Principle 7

Concern for Community

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the development of communities through policies and programs.



TOM SIFERS

These are the seven principles that guide the decisions of your board of directors and management of MPE. And, as I have said, the three key principles are:

2 Democratic Member Control

MPE is governed by a local board of directors elected from and by its fellow members.

3 Members' Economic Participation

Any margins earned by MPE are returned to the members who provided those margins in the form of patronage capital, not a dividend for a group of stockholders.

7 Concern for Community

We are here for benefit of the membership and the development of the MPE service area. MPE has had an active role in the community for many years.

I would be remiss not to recognize the employees and board of directors that I have had the opportunity to work with at MPE over the years. I thank them for their dedication, support and contributions to the success of MPE.

And lastly, I thank the membership for its support of Mountain Parks Electric, Inc. Now, for me, it's on to the honey-do list that I will have time to work on at home. (*Hughie Corkle, ACCT 1014793*)

HOW I SEE MOUNTAIN PARKS ELECTRIC MAKING A DIFFERENCE

BY LYNETTE WEDDLE, NORTH PARK HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER

One of my students at North Park School District in Walden recently won Mountain Parks Electric's annual energy-related essay contest. This summer, Damion Howe will be headed to Washington, D.C., for a weeklong, all-expense-paid trip, joining other high school student contest winners from across the country. "This is the best thing that has happened to me," he said, after learning that he won.

His comment left me thinking about all that MPE does to support our youth.

Year after year, I see MPE providing students with numerous opportunities: awarding college and technical school scholarships, sponsoring the Round Robin Showmanship event at the North Park Fair and sponsoring our driver's ed program and our homecoming tailgate meal.

Our classrooms have smartboards, thanks to MPE's Educational Trust. And our students have Chromebooks – something envied by larger, wealthier school districts. And when our FFA chapter presented at the national convention last November, it used resources provided by MPE.

Suffice it to say that I too am still learning from Mountain Parks Electric. The lessons include: expand and explore through education; provide those around you with opportunities; give without ceasing and invest in the future, through our youth.

Very simply and sincerely, I want to thank you, Mountain Parks Electric, for the positive impact you are making in North Park.



ON HIS WAY TO WASHINGTON, D.C.



ON HER WAY TO YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP

DAMION HOWE

- Winner, MPE's 2019 energy-related essay contest
- Attending Washington DC Youth tour this summer
- Will join high school students from across the U.S. to tour our national monuments and learn about the electric industry

JESSICA GREGORY

- Runner-up, MPE's 2019 energy-related essay contest
- Attending Youth Leadership Camp in Clark this summer
- Will join high school students from Kansas, Oklahoma and Colorado to engage in leadership activities and learn about the electric industry

PET OF THE MONTH



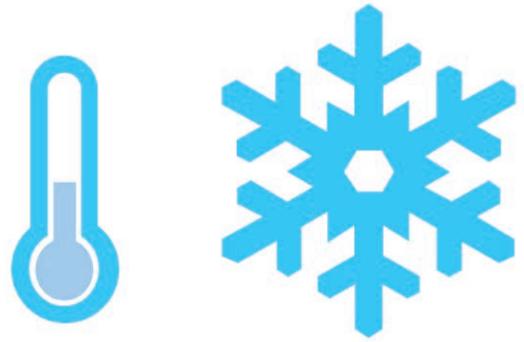
PENNEE

A golden-doodle service puppy in training for Steve Pisano
Email your pet photos to rtaylor@mpei.com



Find Your Name Win \$5

If you find your name in this magazine, contact Mountain Parks Electric to receive a \$5 credit on your power bill. Winners must contact MPE within one month of the date of issue.



WAYS TO \$AVE

BY LINDSAY MCCANN, BILLING SUPERVISOR

COOLING DOWN THE HOUSE

- **Sun facing windows:** Keep blinds and shades drawn during the day when it is hot.
- **Clothes dryers and dishwashers:** If you must use them, run them in the morning until noon or after 10 p.m. Air-dry when you can.
- **Ovens:** Use toaster ovens, microwave ovens and outdoor grills instead of ovens.



Local Chef **SPOTLIGHT**

RESTAURANT: MOUNTAIN GRIND COFFEE & BISTRO
at Cooper Creek Square
Winter Park Barbara Jones, ACCT 1024884
970-726-0999
mountaingrindwinterpark.com

HOURS: Open daily until 4 p.m.
(breakfast & lunch until 2 p.m.)

SPECIALTY: Fudge & gelato

COOKING TIP FOR MPE READERS

For light and fluffy muffins, sift dry ingredients.

GET MOUNTAIN GRIND COFFEE & BISTRO'S STRAWBERRY BASIL JAM RECIPE AT: www.mpei.com/ccf_bonus_features

HOW TO USE THE SHINIEST ELECTRONS TO WASH YOUR DISHES AND AVOID PEAK POWER

BY CHRIS MICHALOWSKI, POWER USE ADVISOR

Did you know that every month, it costs MPE about \$1 million to purchase power that it delivers to you and me during the busiest half-hour of electric use? It's called peak power. And paying for that half-hour 12 months per year accounts for approximately 28 percent of MPE's total annual operating budget. Not only is that expensive, but because these system peaks usually occur in the evening, the power consumed at those times can also be less renewable than at other times of the day — like during the afternoon when the sun is shining and solar power is more readily available. That gives me pause.

In a typical month, we Mountain Parks Electric consumers collectively use the most electricity between the hours of 5:30 and 9:30 p.m. That's, honestly, kind of predictable. Consider all of the things that we do in the evening that require electricity. The first thing that comes to my mind is cooking and washing dishes — also predictable if you know me. Where there's family and food, you'll usually find me.

As a family of four during a single dinner, my wife, my kids and I can pile up enough dishes to make you think that we just consumed a seven-course meal. At least it feels that way when I clear the dining room table. The old me would probably just load our dishwasher then press the "heavy clean" button without contemplation.

But that was before I knew about the impact of peak power and that I could do something about it.

It turns out that it can cost MPE as much as \$23 to purchase the electricity to power a single dishwasher in which the heating element is engaged during the 30-minute monthly peak — \$23! That matters because MPE is a not-for-profit electric provider, here to provide a cost-based service. If I can help reduce purchased power



costs during system peaks, then I'm helping myself, my neighbors and all of MPE's consumer-members.

Not only that, but also think about the difference between our evening electric use and our midday use. We use more solar generation during the day. We use little or none in evening when the sun is on its downward trajectory and disappears behind the mountains.

Here's the game plan for the new me (which only requires a modest tweak in my daily routine): I don't run my dishwasher after supper anymore. Instead, I run it the next morning or in the afternoon. Usually, I just start the cycle over the lunch hour. That way, I know that my dishwasher is powered by as much solar energy as possible.

That's my way of making a small dent in that \$1 million half-hour. Plus, it gives me more time to spend with my family in the evenings. *(Mark Seale, ACCT 1014793)*



MPE Wins Statewide Magazine Awards

In April, the Colorado Rural Electric Association recognized MPE's Colorado Country Life content with three statewide magazine awards: Best Overall Newsletter Content and two awards for Best Explanation of an Industry Situation (Tom Sifers and Chris Michalowski).