

MORGAN COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

MAY 2024



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MCREA Mission

Morgan County REA, a member-owned cooperative, is dedicated to serving our members by providing safe, reliable energy with a strong tradition and vision for the future.

 This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



DEAN SEGELKE RETIRES FROM MORGAN COUNTY REA AFTER 27 YEARS OF SERVICE

Dean Segelke, Morgan County REA mechanic, retired on April 30 after 27 years of service to the electric cooperative. Dean has been instrumental in making the co-op run — literally. Whether maintaining MCREA's diverse fleet of vehicles or many different pieces of equipment, Dean's hard work and problem-solving skills have benefited the co-op immensely.

Dean started work at the co-op on St. Patrick's Day in 1997, after having worked at the Clatworthy Company in Fort Morgan. Since then, there have been some changes at MCREA, while other things have remained the same.

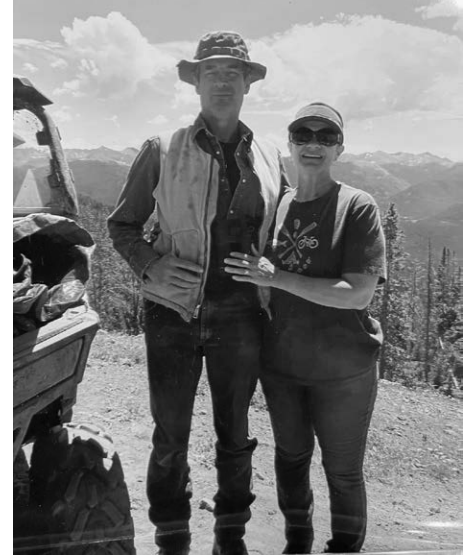
Perhaps one of the biggest changes came when MCREA moved its headquarters from Highway 34 to its current spot. The new build included a new mechanic shop where Dean has maintained his status as the guy to call when anything and everything needed fixed. Outside the job, Dean also served as a member of the Fort Morgan Volunteer Fire Department for 27 years.

"It'll be a change for sure, and I'll miss the job," Dean reflected. "It's been a good place to work."

However, Dean's looking forward to the adventures to come. He and his family enjoy camping, fishing, and four-wheeling in the mountains — especially in places that are great for spotting moose and elk.

Dean will undoubtedly be missed around the shop every day. MCREA appreciates everything he has done for the co-op and wishes him the very best in his much deserved retirement.

Congratulations, Dean!



Dean and his wife, Tommie, look forward to visiting the mountains more.



Dean has always been the one to call to fix anything at MCREA.





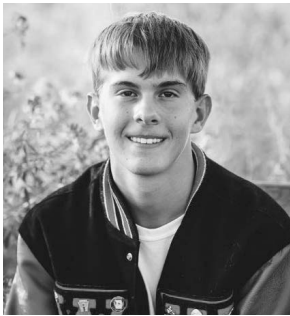
MORGAN COUNTY REA AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS TO LOCAL STUDENTS

Morgan County REA, along with Tri-State Generation and Transmission and Basin Electric Power Cooperative, is proud to award college or vocational scholarships to nine students in our service area whose families are MCREA members.

MCREA congratulates all the scholarship winners and wishes these individuals the best in their future endeavors.



Jacy Dreier | Wiggins High School
\$1,000 MCREA Scholarship



Isaac Reed | Wiggins High School
\$1,000 MCREA Scholarship



Retta Thomas | Wiggins High School
\$1,000 MCREA Scholarship



Skylar Gregersen | Wiggins High School
\$1,000 MCREA Scholarship



Scott Kennedy | Wiggins High School
\$1,000 MCREA Scholarship



Gavin Taylor | Fort Morgan High School
\$1,000 Basin Electric Scholarship



Presley Siebrands | Fort Morgan High School
\$500 Tri-State G&T Scholarship



Tanner Ludgate | Brush High School
\$500 Tri-State G&T Scholarship



Kelsi Smits | Morgan Community College
\$1,000 MCREA Post-Secondary Scholarship



Please join us for Morgan County REA's third annual member appreciation picnic on Thursday, June 13 from 5-7 p.m. Come to MCREA's headquarters in Fort Morgan for food, giveaways, and to learn more about all the great things happening at your electric cooperative. Guests can take a look at the new Ford F-150 Lightning, a fully electric pickup, and have the chance to win many great prizes.

Planning on coming? Call MCREA's office or visit mcrea.org and click the Member Appreciation Picnic button, where you can submit an RSVP. While RSVPs are not required, submitting one will enter you to win one of 10 bill credits, each for \$25. Winners will be drawn at the event and must be present to win.

If you have any questions about this year's picnic, please call MCREA at 970-867-5688.



Morgan County REA Lineworker Scholarship

There is still time to apply for the Morgan County REA Lineworker Scholarship. The \$5,000 scholarship aims to encourage, promote, and educate electric lineworkers from our community. To be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must reside within the outer boundaries of MCREA's service area and be enrolled or attending an approved lineworker training program.

Application deadline is Friday, May 24. For more details and to apply, please visit mcrea.org/lineworker-scholarships.

YOUTH TRIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Each year, Morgan County REA offers an opportunity for two local students to take part in a once-in-a-lifetime trip where they learn about electricity and how cooperatives work.

Electric Cooperative Youth Tour takes place in Washington, D.C., where nearly 1,600 students from across the country spend a week in our nation's capital and visit the memorials and historical sites. Students also spend a day on Capitol Hill, speaking with members of Colorado's congressional delegation.

Valeria Escalante of Brush High School has been selected to attend Youth Tour this summer. Valeria, who plans to study and enter into the medical field, is excited to visit Washington, D.C., in June. "I'm most excited to see the White House and all of the memorials in D.C.," Valeria said.

MCREA also selects one student to attend Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp, held each July near Steamboat Springs. At camp, students selected by their electric co-ops in Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Wyoming, learn about electric cooperatives and build their communication and leadership skills.

Carys Kudron of Fort Morgan High School has been selected to attend Youth Camp this summer. Carys, whose goal after attending college is to serve others — potentially in a program such as Teachers Without Borders — looks forward to meeting new people and learning alongside them. "I want to see how students from other places view leadership," Carys said. "I think we can learn from each other."

We at MCREA are proud to have these students represent our co-op at this year's Youth Tour and Youth Camp and we look forward to hearing about their adventures this summer.



▲ MCREA's 2024 Youth Tour delegate Valeria Escalante.



▲ MCREA's 2024 Youth Camp representative Carys Kudron.



Electric cooperatives have a great responsibility to get power anywhere, anytime, and at the level that member-owners need. In the late 1930s, Morgan County REA energized its first 175 miles of line. Today, the co-op maintains 2,932 miles of line. (Damon Frazier, acct. #xxx9500)

MCREA lines serve different types of member needs: homes, irrigation pivots,

small stock wells, and large oil and gas sites — just to name a few. As technologies change and electrification increases, MCREA is here to work with our members. A prime example can be seen in oil and gas production and the use of electric drilling rigs.

As oil companies strive to reduce emissions — especially in a state that prioritizes and regulates such efforts — electric drilling

rigs can provide multiple benefits. In addition to reducing emissions from the rig itself, there is no longer a need for multiple daily deliveries from fuel trucks to a site. Electric rigs are also much quieter to operate.

While electric rigs serve a purpose, they undoubtedly demand more from the grid. The potential for using electric rigs relies on the proximity and capacity of power lines. Electric co-ops including MCREA are responsible for meeting these needs while maintaining the overall balance of the grid.

This requires detailed analysis and continual monitoring, but it is a challenge MCREA willingly accepts. It's just one more way we pursue our mission of delivering safe, reliable energy to our members. The world may be changing, but our commitment to members remains the same.



KEEP ELECTRICAL SAFETY TOP OF MIND

May is Electrical Safety Month and a great time to remind ourselves of important ways to stay safe around electricity in our homes, working outside, and even when we are driving. Here are just a few safety tips to keep in mind. (Juan Quinones, acct. #xxx9600)

AT HOME

- Check electrical outlets for loose-fitting plugs that can cause shocks or start fires. Replace missing or broken wall plates, so the inner wiring components are not exposed. If you have young children, use safety covers on unused outlets.
- Check the cords of the appliances in your home, as well as the plugs and connectors. Make sure they are not frayed, cracked or damaged, placed under rugs or carpets, resting on furniture, or in high traffic areas. Do not nail or staple cords to walls, floors, or any other objects.

- Check for or install ground fault circuit interrupters. A GFCI is an inexpensive electrical device that shuts off power instantly if there is a problem. GFCIs should be installed in bathrooms, kitchens, basements, and other locations that could get wet.
- Check light bulbs and appliances to make sure the wattage matches fixture requirements. Do not replace bulbs with higher wattage than recommended. The bulb should be securely screwed in to prevent overheating.

OUTSIDE

- When working outdoors, especially on elevated surfaces such as roofs and ladders, always remember to look up. Keep yourself and any tools you may be using at least 10 feet away from power lines and equipment in all directions.
- Call before you dig. Remember, there may be power or other utility lines buried underground. Always call 811, a free locating service, at least two business days before you need to dig so that utility lines can be marked.

ON THE ROAD

- If you are driving and come along a downed power line, stay away and warn others to stay away. Contact emergency personnel or your utility company to address the downed power line.
- If power lines should fall on your vehicle while you are driving, do not attempt to drive away or get out. Call for help and stay inside until utility crews say it is safe to get out. The only exception would be if fire or other danger, like the smell of gasoline, is present. In that case, the proper action is to jump — not step — with both feet hitting the ground at the same time. Jump clear. Do not allow any part of your body to touch the vehicle and ground at the same time. Hop to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area.



Win \$25 Off Your Electric Bill

Each month, Morgan County REA gives two lucky members a chance at a \$25 bill credit, just by reading *Colorado Country Life*. Unfortunately, neither member whose name was hidden in the March magazine called to receive a bill credit.

There are two more member names and their account numbers hidden somewhere in this issue. If you find your name and account number, call MCREA member services at 970-867-5688 by May 31 to claim a \$25 credit on your next bill.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

TIP OF THE MONTH

Looking for an easy way to manage home energy use? Smart plugs are inexpensive and offer convenient solutions for scheduling and controlling your favorite electronic devices.

With smart plugs, you can easily manage your coffee maker, lighting, home office equipment, video game consoles and more. Smart plugs can help you manage devices through a smartphone app, your home assistant, or voice control. By conveniently powering off or scheduling devices, you can save energy and money!

Source: *energystar.gov*

