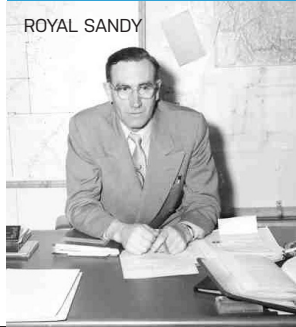
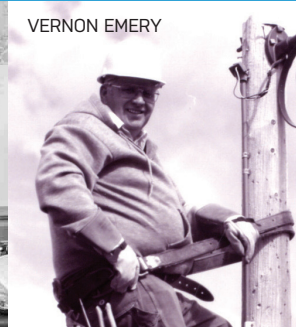


## SOUTHEAST ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MANAGERS SINCE 1946



ROYAL SANDY



VERNON EMERY



JACK HAMBLIN

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# A final 'visit' with you

By **JACK HAMBLIN** | *Manager, Southeast Electric Cooperative*

**N**EARLY 22 years ago I wrote my first article for *Rural Montana* magazine. I was Southeast Electric Cooperative's new manager, and I didn't really know what to write or how to best get a message to the members of the co-op. So, I simply introduced myself to the readers, added a bit of a personal touch to the writing and hoped for the best. That best hope was that you would come to know your rural electric co-op a bit better, and also that I would get to know you a little better. Today, I am writing my last article. And I admit it's a little bittersweet. I am looking forward to the life of a retired person, but I will miss this monthly "visit" with you.

When you write something to the same group of people month after month for 20-plus years, you can't help but wonder if your words ever really get through, or if anyone even reads them. I don't think any manager writing such articles dreams that every member of the co-op is going to collect the *RM* magazine from the post office and immediately turn to the manager's article page. In my dream, most members turned first to the recipe section in the back. That's where I'd go, as rural Montana folks do know how to cook. But all I wanted was to bring a little attention to the co-op through the *RM* pages and I hoped my article might provide a little spark.


Over the years, I've been more than gratified when many of you have expressed your pleasure at reading the articles. Most often, your comments are about Miss



America and what's new with her. I guess I could be a little offended that more people ask about her than about me. But I learned about 46 years ago that she was the real star. And she still is. That's why I talked about her so much in my articles. By the way, she's doing very well. I recently bought her a digital piano. It's supposed to be portable, but it's the same length as a real, live piano. She has filled our home with great music for a long, long time, and now enjoys giving piano lessons to a few of her 22 grandchildren online. To those 22 grandchildren, to our six children and spouses, and to me... she's always been more than a rock star.

Tye Williams, your new manager, will be the author of this article going forward. As readers, you can't let him get away with NOT writing to you each month. Because you need to get to know him also. He's got his own Miss America, and I hope he writes about her once in a while. He is bringing a new flavor and focus to the co-op, and I hope we all will embrace what he has to offer. Technologically, we have always moved forward very slowly as a co-op. I'm not sure Tye has the patience to approach new technology at a snail's pace. I hope we will do our part to keep up. He only wants what's best for the co-op, and we would do well to jump on board.

So, with this I say goodbye as your manager. It's been a great career because I've been around great people the entire time. Miss America and I wish to thank you all for your support for all these years. You've all helped make Montana our home. Our plan is to stay around for a while until we find the best way to see our grandkids as often as we can.

And if I don't get a chance to remind Tye to write his article every month, well, would you do that for me? 

# REBATE REMINDER

## The savings is yours and ours

**I**N 2018 Southeast Electric Cooperative (SECO) was looking for ways to promote energy efficiency, and a rebate program looked like a good option because it would be a savings to you and to us. As of November 2021, SECO has given \$2800 in appliance rebates.

Only Southeast Electric Cooperative members qualify for rebates. The rebate comes in the form of a bill credit, and was effective July 1, 2018. No rebates will be given on appliances purchased before that date. Appliances must be used in the home that is in Southeast Electric service territory.

The member must fill out the rebate form and include a proof of purchase. A rebate form can be picked up at the office or found on our website at <https://www.seecoop.com/appliance-rebate>. The product also must be Energy Star certified. There is some confusion, because most appliances come with a yellow sticker, but the appliances that are approved for the rebate have an Energy Star logo on the sticker.

Members could receive the following bill credit per appliance:

- Freezer (at least 10 cu. ft): \$100
- Refrigerator (at least 15 cu. ft): \$200
- Electric cook stove: \$100
- Washer: \$100
- Electric dryer: \$100
- Dishwasher: \$100

The rebate is limited to one per appliance every five years, and is good for one year from the purchase date.

SECO also offers a \$5 per gallon rebate on all Marathon electric water heaters. We have 40- and 50-gallon heaters in stock.

Contact us at 406-775-8762 or by email at [info@seecoop.com](mailto:info@seecoop.com).



# Don't be left in the cold

**S**OUTHEAST Electric Cooperative Inc. offers energy assistance in conjunction with Action for Eastern Montana (AEM) Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP). Applications are available at Action for Eastern Montana, Southeast Electric, the County Senior Coordinator office, town of Ekalaka and propane providers. If you received assistance last year, you will be sent the application form directly from AEM.

Members who qualify for assistance through LIEAP will receive a \$500 credit to their winter electric bill.

Residents who are eligible for LIEAP may also qualify for propane and water bill assistance.

If you need further information, please contact AEM at 1-800-227-0703 or 406-377-3564, or Vicki at Southeast Electric at 406-775-8762. You can also go to <https://www.seecoop.com/energy-assistance>.

**Applications are accepted from Oct. 1 - April 30.**

# Scholarships available to students of SECO members

**H**IGHER education is something your cooperative takes very seriously and insists on being a part of. Southeast Electric Cooperative supports three scholarships to help young individuals attain their dreams.

- MECA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: \$500
- SOUTHEAST ELECTRIC SCHOLARSHIP: \$1,000
- BASIN ELECTRIC SCHOLARSHIP: \$1,000

• VERNON EMERY MEMORIAL LINEMAN SCHOLARSHIP: \$1500

These scholarships are designed to help deliver support to our young membership. **Scholarships are due at Southeast Electric Cooperative office by January 21, 2022.**

More information about all the scholarships and the applications is available at <https://www.seecoop.com/scholarships>, Southeast Electric Cooperative office, or from your high school guidance counselor.

