

Photo by MPE member Jon Myers for the Where's Willie Wiredhand Sticker Contest – Submit your photo for consideration to memberrelations@mpei.com

MPE IN THE COMMUNITY OPERATION ROUND UP

"GIVE ME A U-N-I-F-O-R-M!"

ORU FUNDS MUCH-NEEDED CHEER UNIFORMS

Judging by the state of the former East Grand Middle School cheerleading uniforms, the squad does not ask for much, aside from a little enthusiasm from the fans.

Thanks to a \$7,320 contribution from the Operation Roundup (ORU) Charitable Trust, the 11-year-old uniforms that had become stained and in disrepair could be retired. They have been replaced by 40 uniforms in a variety of sizes. Most of the previous outfits were sized extra small, and there was only a total of 22 uniforms available for the more than 27 girls who had expressed interest in the sport.

"East Grand Middle School Cheerleading is a sport designed to enhance girl's confidence and self-esteem. Girls learn teamwork and collaboration through athleticism and dance. It is critical that girls are not dissuaded from joining this sport due to lack of appropriate uniforms," said the cheer coach, Rachel Hawkins, on the team's ORU donation application. "The girls need to be able to respect themselves, their team and their school."

Hawkins added that the pom poms were also in disrepair and there were no sweatshirts for cool weather. Unfortunately, there has not been and is no available funding for cheerleading uniforms in the Middle School Athletic Department budget. Along with the new uniforms, there were 40 sweatshirts ordered and 30 pom poms.

"The girls have really come together and feel like a team since the new uniforms have come in," said Coach Hawkins. "Their excitement and motivation is through the roof!"

The ORU board at its December meeting also provided \$15,000 to continue support for the Jackson County Council on Aging Smile Box Program and \$4,000 for Walden Events, LLC for the "North Park Brunch with Santa" community event.



OPERATION ROUND UP
Contribute or
Request Assistance
www.mpei.com/ORU
or call 970-887-3378
for more information

STICKING TO OUR PRINCIPLES

EXPANDING SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



GENERAL MANAGERS COLUMN

VIRGINIA HARMAN

One of the best parts of working for an electric co-op is the universal dedication to putting the needs of the members first through the seven cooperative principles, including “Education, Training, and Information” and “Concern for Community.”

Different co-ops support their communities in varying ways, such as through their uses of unclaimed capital credits funds. Of all the co-ops I’ve worked with in my career, Mountain Parks Electric stands apart as providing the highest priority of support to its scholarship program.

Youth education is an important investment for any community. A review of MPE’s scholarship funding over the past 20 years shows that our co-op and its Board of Directors have consistently and significantly increased its focus on scholarships. Hearing from our current board, this is due in large part to incentivize our students to further their education or training and return to our service territory to contribute to our local economy and become leaders in our community.

To further this objective, our board recently made some exciting updates to the MPE Scholarship Program. Primarily, the program will now have three categories of scholarships: Academic, Trade School, and Electric-Industry.

- **Academic Scholarships:** This is the standard scholarship for college-bound students. It will have a total annual available fund of up to \$75,000, which is a slight increase from the total previous MPE scholarship allocation of around \$70,000 annually.
- **Trade Scholarships:** This category will help students seeking education and/or certification in various trade programs, many of which provide workers in fields that are in high demand for our area. It will have a total annual available fund of up to \$25,000.
- **Electric-Industry Scholarship:** This category will support students seeking a career field in the electric industry, including linemen, engineer, staker, GIS, electrician, accountant, etc. It will have a total annual available fund of up to \$25,000.

Each of these three categories provide single-year scholarships and are available for traditional (enrolling in college directly following high school) and non-traditional or returning students. Because college students are facing rising costs for tuition and expenses, the board increased the individual scholarship amounts to be a minimum of \$2,500 and up to \$10,000.

We have also tried to simplify the application process. There are specific applications for each of the three categories on our website at www.mpei.com/scholarships.

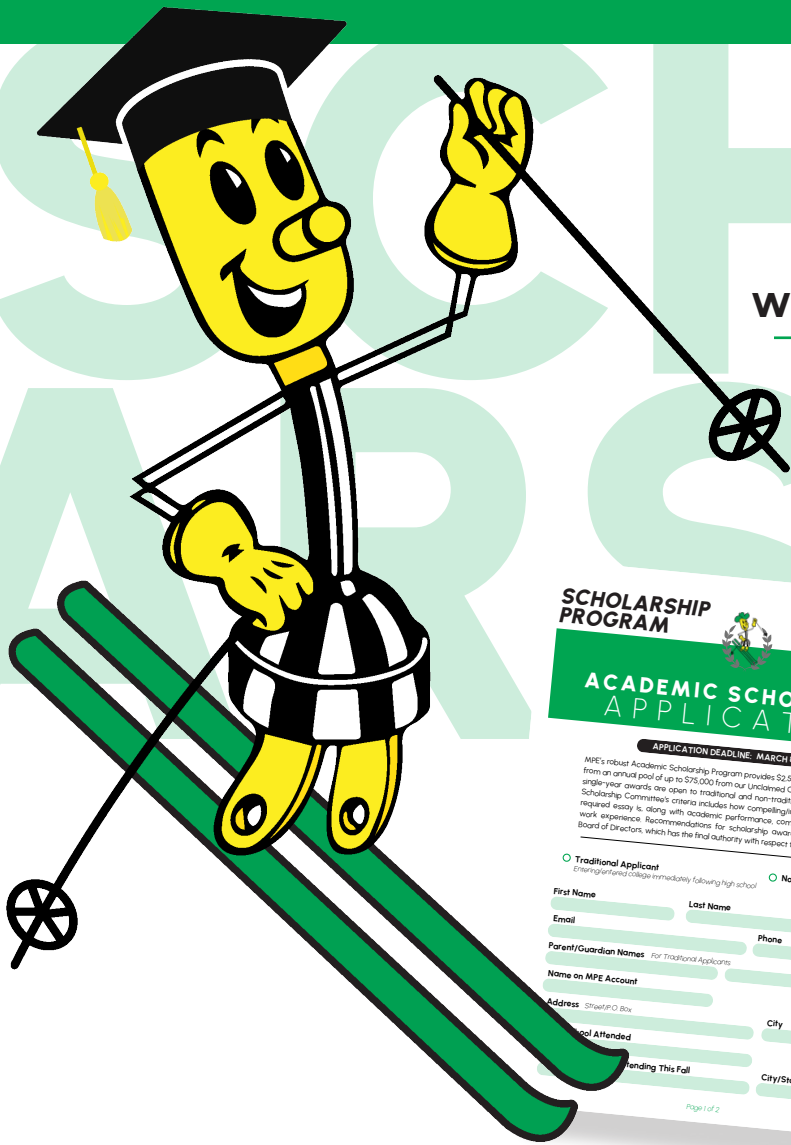
Award recipients will continue to be determined by a scholarship committee. The criteria will include how compelling and impactful each applicant’s required essay is, along with academic performance, community involvement, and work experience. The deadline to apply this year is March 8, 2024. If we do not see enough interest in the new Trade Scholarship or the Electric-Industry Scholarship, we will open a second application period later in the year.

Best of luck, applicants!

SEVEN COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

1. OPEN & VOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP
2. DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL
3. MEMBERS’ ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION
4. AUTONOMY & INDEPENDENCE
5. EDUCATION, TRAINING, & INFORMATION
6. COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES
7. CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

More information available at
www.electric.coop/seven-cooperative-principles



Apply Online
www.mpei.com/scholarships

Deadline: March 8, 2024

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION
 APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 8, 2024

MPE's robust Academic Scholarship Program provides \$2,500 to \$10,000 scholarships from an annual pool of up to \$75,000 from our Unrestricted Capital Credits Fund. These single-year awards are open to traditional and non-traditional applicants. The MPE Scholarship Committee's criteria includes how compelling/impactful each applicant's required essay is, along with academic performance, community involvement, and work experience. Recommendations for scholarship awards are sent to the MPE Board of Directors, which has the final authority with respect to awarding scholarships.

Traditional Applicant Non-Traditional Applicant

First Name _____ Last Name _____
 Email _____ Phone _____
 Parent/Guardian Names _____
 Name on MPE Account _____
 Address _____ City _____
 School Attended _____
 Field Pursuing _____
 Attending This Fall _____ City/State _____

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SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
TRADE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION
 APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 8, 2024

MPE's robust Trade School Scholarship Program provides \$2,500 to \$10,000 scholarships from an annual pool of up to \$75,000 from our Unrestricted Capital Credits Fund. These single-year awards are open to traditional and non-traditional applicants. The MPE Scholarship Committee's criteria includes how compelling/impactful each applicant's required essay is, along with academic performance, community involvement, and work experience. Recommendations for scholarship awards are sent to the MPE Board of Directors, which has the final authority with respect to awarding scholarships.

Traditional Applicant Non-Traditional Applicant

First Name _____ Last Name _____
 Email _____ Phone _____
 Parent/Guardian Names _____
 Name on MPE Account _____
 Address _____ City _____
 School Attended _____
 Field Pursuing _____
 Attending This Fall _____ City/State _____

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SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
ELECTRIC-INDUSTRY SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION
 APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 8, 2024

MPE's Electric-Industry Scholarship Program provides \$2,500 to \$10,000 scholarships from an annual pool of up to \$75,000 from our Unrestricted Capital Credits Fund. These single-year awards are open to traditional and non-traditional applicants. The MPE Scholarship Committee's criteria includes how compelling/impactful each applicant's required essay is, along with academic performance, community involvement, and work experience. Recommendations for scholarship awards are sent to the MPE Board of Directors, which has the final authority with respect to awarding scholarships.

Traditional Applicant Non-Traditional Applicant

First Name _____ Last Name _____
 Email _____ Phone _____
 Parent/Guardian Names _____
 Name on MPE Account _____
 Address _____ City _____
 School Attended _____
 Field Pursuing _____
 Attending This Fall _____ City/State _____

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WAYS TO SAVE

LINDSAY McCANN
 MEMBER SERVICE SPECIALIST



Springtime is not yet upon us, and optimal use of heat tape continues to be important in cutting energy consumption and costs. Heat tape is an effective way to keep the snow off your roof, keep your gutters from icing up, and keep your pipes and sewer lines from freezing. It helps create a channel in which water can flow off the roof and run easily through gutters and downspouts. However, it can be expensive to use. Best practices include those listed at right...

Use a heat tape timer
 Heat tape can help the system run more efficiently when it is needed, while turning it off when it is not needed. Contact a local electrician for installation. Do not put timers on heat tape that is protecting plumbing in a crawl space or underneath a trailer, or in drains that run through the wall of a home or garage. Leave these sections on 24/7.

Use during the day
 Use heat tape in warmer daytime temperatures. Carefully monitor the build-up of ice dams and accumulation of ice in downspouts. If this begins to occur, it may be best to use heat tape 24 hours per day.

Goal is to keep a channel cut
 Use heat tape just enough to keep a channel cut in the snow or ice.

Remember to turn it off
 Don't forget to turn off heat tape at the breaker switch after the last spring snow.

5TH QUARTER



A Slam Dunk

Despite the heavy snow and late ending to the games, the Middle Park High School Boys' and Girls' Basketball teams enjoyed MPE's 5th Quarter event on Jan. 9. The 2023-2024 5th Quarter season was the first to expand beyond only football games to welcome other teams, such as MPHS Volleyball and Basketball. MPE also sponsored school and athletic events in Kremmling and Walden.



• December 14, 2023 •

GENERAL MANAGER'S BOARD MEETING BULLETIN

- Engineering and Operations will be introducing a **pilot program to allow qualifying MPE members/contractors to complete their own digging of trenches and laying of conduit** as a part of construction for new electrical services. Training/certification meetings will be scheduled to allow members and/or contractors to qualify to install the conduit properly.
- The Board discussed **updating MPE's bylaws regarding director elections to move to plurality** and away from requiring more than 50% of the vote to name a winner in elections. If the Board decides to move forward with proposing the bylaw change, it will be put to a vote for the MPE membership at the April 27 Annual Meeting.

Read the full report at
www.mpei.com/BOARDBULLETIN

HOME ENERGY AUDIT REBATES

Get the information you need to reduce your home's energy usage and more!

Once upgrades are complete, enjoy the benefits...

- Lower energy bills
- Improved indoor comfort
- Better air quality
- Lower environmental impact
- Improved home value



www.mpei.com/REBATES