

PLUGGED IN

MOUNTAIN PARKS ELECTRIC, INC.

2026 ANNUAL MEETING

Power You Can Count On. Rates You Can Understand.



2026 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM RECIPIENTS

MPE's 2026 Scholarship Program recipients represent ambitious and community-oriented students from across our service territory.



ILLUMINATING DEMONSTRATION

It was close, but members ranked the Pedal Power Energy Bike as their favorite among the breakfast activities, according to survey results. Participants saw how hard it was to produce electricity by pedaling to power a 12-volt light.



MPE UPDATES OVER BREAKFAST

The breakfast buffet is always a crowd favorite, but members also shared on their survey responses they enjoyed visiting with MPE CEO Virginia Harman and other employees and board members.



BIG GLOVES TO FILL

Safety is MPE's top priority, but it's fun to try to do small tasks while wearing their safety gloves.



BUCKETS OF FUN

Linemen Josh and Quintin wait for a potential future lineman to give the cue for his bucket ride to begin.

SEE MORE PHOTOS FROM THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING ON PAGE 3 AND AT [BIT.LY/MPE-2026-AM-PHOTOS](https://bit.ly/mpe-2026-am-photos)

Board President's Report



Liz McIntyre's speech, abbreviated

Rural electric co-ops were formed to make electricity accessible to all Americans, not just those who live in easy to serve areas. Electric cooperatives began forming in the 1930's in rural areas where investor-owned utilities (IOUs) dared not go. In contrast to for-profit IOUs, MPE's duty is to serve its members, not to make a profit or provide returns to shareholders. MPE was founded on cooperation, to share the expense and the risks of making electricity accessible in the MPE service territory. Think of it as a barn raising of sorts.

Today, your rates pay for the expense of vegetation management in forested areas, working on infrastructure in steep and rocky terrain, replacing damaged poles in irrigated areas, carefully working in tight spots in town, and searching for the cause of a fault in remote corners of the MPE system. Your rates pay for technology and equipment improvements that allow MPE to plan better; respond faster; and, most importantly, operate more safely.

The expense to maintain the systems, people, and planning necessary to enable electric service is borne by all members. It was in this spirit that electric cooperatives were formed and continue today.

MPE rates and your bill — We take to heart a recent Laurence Berkley study that found 24% of Americans struggle to pay their electricity bills. How you feel when you see your monthly bill matters to us. We know that over the last 5 years, the average national electricity price has increased sharply. Interestingly, the trend line mirrors almost exactly that of grocery prices—a double whammy for our members.

MPE is not immune from the headwinds of uncertainty facing utilities across the country. This, coupled with the need to invest in aging systems, will continue to put pressure on rates. While macroeconomic factors are beyond our control, internally MPE works diligently to control costs. To help you do the same, MPE offers rebates for energy audits and insulation. Sometimes the cheapest energy is that which you don't use.

So...**affordability** is absolutely, 100% the most important value our members care about...right up until your power goes out. Right? Nothing is working; ok, surely **reliability** is the

most important value. Unless you experienced or are familiar with the horrors of the Marshall Fire, or the Camp Fire. In which case you know that reliability pales in comparison to **safety**. And if you are a **sustainability** guru, you know that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure and you note that hotter than average temperatures in the west increase drought and fire risk while hurting the local economy, making sustainability the most important value.

Yikes! As an MPE director, how do I weigh the values of safety, reliability, affordability, and sustainability as we consider rates?

For me, this is akin to bouncing on a trampoline, and I don't mean the round black ones you see in back yards. I mean the rectangular string beds you see at the Olympics—those used by trampolinists. The four corners of the trampoline are marked safety, reliability, affordability, and sustainability. It's all about finding the sweet spot to maintain balance. If we land in the sweet spot, we will rise straight and true on a vertical trajectory—the physical manifestation of perfectly tracking the median in a bell curve that plots member satisfaction against cost.

The height of the bounce depends on MPE's skill at hitting the sweet spot, and the member satisfaction score depends on MPE's skill at maximizing these values for our members. My point is that the interplay between these values is complicated. It's unlikely you spend much time worrying about it. The good news is that your MPE Board spends a lot of time thinking about it. My thanks to fellow directors for the many conversations we've had about rates and values.

I am grateful to CEO Virginia Harman, the leadership team and employee group who led MPE through a successful and busy 2025. Our employees are your friends and neighbors. Some help with 4-H clubs, others coach a sport, volunteer with the local fire department, organize community events, serve as mentors, or lend a helping hand when it is needed. Many work in difficult and dangerous conditions with short notice and at any hour. They are a highly skilled group of motivated individuals who work tirelessly to serve you and they are truly appreciated.



2026 Annual Meeting



A FEW IMAGES FROM THE POLAROID PHOTO BOOTH: We invited members to “Nerd Out” with us at our Photo Booth. Check out digital versions of the Polaroid images at bit.ly/MPE-Polaroids.



KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

In the Watt Price is Right Game, members learned how many kilowatts popular household items generally use. Some expressed surprise at how much electricity is consumed by heat tape and hot tubs, for example. Note: staff wore “nerdy” outfits as a part of the event theme.

ENERGY ENTHUSIASTS ROUNDTABLE

CEO Virginia Harman, second from right, moderates a roundtable discussion with members of her team who each represent a key pillar from MPE’s mission statement (from left): Adam Paulson, reliability; Megan Moore-Kemp, sustainability; Wade Pynes, safety; and Eric Jones, cost-effectiveness.



POWER YOU CAN COUNT ON. RATES YOU CAN UNDERSTAND.

Do you ever wonder what goes into your monthly electric bill? It's more than just energy used, your bill is the result of careful design that funds the systems, people, and planning that keep your power safe, reliable, cost-effective, and sustainable.

To illustrate this, meet our Energy Enthusiasts — personas who represent the four priorities in MPE's mission statement and how they each play a role in the development of electric rates:



SAFETY FIRST SAM:

Sam wants to know that the grid is built to last, maintained to prevent accidents, and managed to protect her family and community from the threat of wildfire.



BUDGET SAVVY BRIDGET:

Bridget cares that the rates she pays reflect the true cost of service, ensuring everyone pays their fair share while keeping costs manageable.



RELIABILITY BUFF FRANK:

Frank values consistency. He prioritizes long-term planning and steady maintenance that prevents outages before they happen.



ECO-FRIENDLY ALEX:

Alex wants a forward-thinking energy future where clean, renewable power and stable energy costs work together.

The theme of the 2026 Annual Meeting and the 2025 Annual Report that was distributed at the meeting was "Power You Can Count On. Rates You Can Understand."

To read the Annual Report and to watch a video featuring MPE's Energy Enthusiasts, visit www.MPEI.com/Annual-Report.



Byers Peak takes center stage for the second month in a row for our Outdoor Photo Contest. Last month it was snow-covered, in this month's image it's being consumed by a thunderstorm.

Congratulations to Evan Naughton for winning the May Outdoor Photo Contest. Evan shared that he snapped this photo after mountain biking the Twin Bridges Trails while they "were chasing a thunderstorm."

Enter Our Outdoor Photo Contest, Win Prizes!

Send us your best seasonal outdoor shots for a chance to be featured in our next newsletter, on social media, and possibly in a future MPE photo calendar.

Winners will be selected monthly. In addition to social media tags and promotion, winners will be entered to win a \$500 gift certificate to B&H Photo.

Visit tinyurl.com/mpephotocontest

or scan the QR code to submit your photos!

Photos must be received by the 20th of each month.



WHAT IS A SYSTEM ACCESS CHARGE, ANYWAY?

The System Access Charge (SAC) is a fixed fee that every MPE member sees on their bill. The SAC helps fund infrastructure, like poles, power lines, and meters, and their maintenance, alongside administrative costs. In other words, the SAC pays for the system that keeps your power running more than 99% of the time. The SAC helps keep the grid reliable and costs equitable for all MPE members.

To learn more about what's on your bill, visit <https://mpei.com/understanding-your-bill>

