



# REDC Winter Newsletter

## 2018 REDC Annual Meeting

The event was held on Tuesday, November 6th, 2018, at the Sidney Country Club, and was well attended. Executive Director, Leslie Messer, presented an overview of REDC’s activities and accomplishments. Highlights included: how the oil downturn has affected all businesses and our membership base, the LYIP efforts, recruitment efforts, and business expansion efforts. We were pleased to have Dick Vande Bossche, Director of Project Development, give us an overview as to all that ONEOK has in store for the near future. We appreciate the support of our membership, and strive to make our annual meetings a worthwhile event. We also value your participation and input to improve our economy.



Back L-R: Mark Rehbein, Chip Gifford, Alan Seigfreid, Craig Averett, Don Steinbeisser, Blaine Rogers, Shane Gorder, Leif Anderson, Gary Schoepp, and Bryce Baker. Front L-R: Pam Burman, Tami Christensen, Leslie Messer, Jackie Washechek, Katie Dasinger, Vanessa Pooch, Cami Skinner, and Randy Olson. Not pictured: Jason Brothen, Bill Henderson, Walt McNutt, and Heather VanGelder



We honored one out-going board director, Jackie Washechek. Jackie served on the REDC for eleven years. The Committees / projects that Jackie volunteered on were: financial review, Executive Board, Treasurer, and working at our fair booth annually. We’d like to extend our deepest gratitude to Jackie for volunteering her time and expertise to the mission of our organization.

Randy Olson presents an outgoing award to Jackie for her 11 years of service.





## **2019 Membership Drive**



Our membership drive is underway! Richland Economic Development Corp appreciates the continued investment by our membership to assist in improving our economy. We conducted outreach activities to Fairview, Lambert, Savage and Sidney. Our office is pleased to offer our assistance to all communities of Richland County when asked. We truly and deeply value our memberships' financial commitments as well as their suggestions and comments. Thank you for continuing to support Richland Economic Development Corp.



## **2018 Financial Review**

Our financial operations were assessed by Travis Gerten of Brenner & Averett. REDC has been given a positive review and we are on solid footing. In addition, we have passed a very conservative budget for 2019.



## **Revolving Loan Fund Available**

Richland Economic Development Corp encourages existing businesses and new business startup projects to consider the RLF as a resource. The RLF loan pool of \$1,000,000 is not free money, but an investment made by the Richland County Commissioners, to assist in the development of business in our economy. The application and review process is achievable, and done in conjunction with the area financial institutions in Richland County.

If you or someone you know is thinking of expanding or launching a new business in Richland County, contact any of the local financial institutions or Richland Economic Development Corp today for an application!



## **Leadership Montana Board of Governors**

Leslie is very honored to serve on the Board of Governors for this amazing organization. Some of the committees that Leslie serves on are the Selection Committee, the Training Committee, and recently Leslie was elected as the Vice Chair of the Board of Governors.

## **Lower Yellowstone REC Legislative dinner**



Randy Olson and Leslie Messer were invited to join the Eastern MT cooperatives as they hosted their annual legislative dinner.

The event was well attended, with informational presentations on how each cooperative is operating. The REC's have two very pressing issues that they detailed to the crowd.

1) The funding to address the aquatic invasive species: zebra mussels. The co-ops feel that the funding to deal with the mussels should be shared by all users.

2) The mitigation to address the sage grouse habitat is very costly to the co-ops, and they wanted us to be aware of that issue.

We appreciated the invitation, and will be sure to keep these issues in mind as we traverse to Helena.



## **Miles Community College Visit**

On November 8, Leslie and Katie were pleased to assist MCC to hold meetings in Sidney.

The REDC office attained the meeting room at USDA-NAPL, and forwarded contact information for the two meetings to be held. The first meeting was for community leaders, and the second was for a community forum.

The objective of the visit was to investigate the many ways that MCC may be able to work with our schools, and our library to offer resources such as training, and lifelong learning courses.

We are pleased to offer our support to such learning opportunities for our residents.

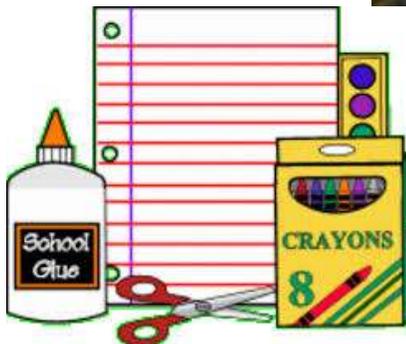
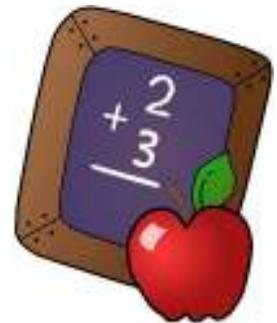


# Sidney Young Professionals

For the 2018-2019 year, SYP is meeting every other month so there was no event in November and there will be no event in January.

In December, SYP hosted a School Supplies Drive. For this event, SYP reached out to Sidney Schools to have teachers identify some items that they end up covering out of pocket during the school year. SYP strives to partner with the schools each December to give as much as we can during the Holiday Season.

The 2018 School Supplies Drive saw thousands of dollars of general and specific school supplies make it into the area schools. A big thank you to ONEOK for providing each teacher with reusable bags!



# **Sidney Young Professionals Upcoming Events and other news**

On February 21st SYP will be hosting “F is for Food” where the participants will partake in meal prep and dinner of a quick, and healthy dinner for those Professionals bouncing from meeting to meeting. Stay tuned for more information.

In April, SYP will be Skyping with House Rep Joel Krautter and others while hosting a State of the State, State of the County, State of the City and State of the town event. This event will be open to the public! More details will be coming soon!

Katie was honored by Congressman Greg Gianforte with his Spirit of Montana award for her work with Sidney Young Professionals.

SYP will be the Kiwanis program on January 3rd

The bid process for the 2020 Montana Young Professionals Summit is underway. SYP will be submitting a proposal in hopes of getting Young Professionals from across the State of Montana to Sidney!



# Richland Economic Development

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