

COOPERATIVE CONNECTION

Summer 2019 Newsletter

Better Together

In March, Blackfoot hosted our 67th Annual Member Meeting. This year's theme was Better Together and we were pleased that so many of you joined us for the occasion.

CEO, Jason Williams, gave a state of cooperative update that included network investments and upgrades, cyber security measures and how Blackfoot continues to care for the communities we serve. Stay up-to-date regarding our network upgrade project at: [Blackfoot.com/NetworkUpgrades](https://blackfoot.com/NetworkUpgrades)

CFO, Stacey Mueller, shared information about our positive financial performance. In 2018, assets grew by \$128.3M, member equity increased by \$7.4M and we gave back \$1.6M to our member-owners via our capital credit distribution. Read the full member report online at: [Blackfoot.com/AnnualMeeting](https://blackfoot.com/AnnualMeeting)

Members re-elected the three Blackfoot Trustees up for election. Congratulations to Les Iverson (District 3), Stuart Morton (District) and Tom Eggenesperger (District 8).

Education is a top priority at Blackfoot and this year we were pleased to award \$30,000 in scholarships to local students, many of whom joined us at the meeting. Learn more about our education efforts and scholarship opportunities at: [Blackfoot.com/Education](https://blackfoot.com/Education)

Check out photo highlights from the Annual Meeting on the inside and save the date to join us next year – Saturday, April 25, 2020. The meeting is a wonderful opportunity to learn how your cooperative is performing, visit with your neighbors and to engage with Team Blackfoot.

Don't wait for the meeting to connect with us! Here are a few ways to stay in touch year-round.

- Sign up for our monthly tech tip email: [Blackfoot.com/Optin](https://blackfoot.com/Optin)
- Connect with us on Facebook: [Facebook.com/GoBlackfoot](https://facebook.com/GoBlackfoot)
- Let us know how we're doing: customerservice@blackfoot.com
- Connect with your Trustee: boardoftrustees@blackfoot.com

How To: Streaming On Your Smart TV

If you are new to streaming TV, here's a quick overview. Streaming TV is when you stream on-demand content on your TV (such as movies and TV shows) over your home internet connection. You can stream content using a variety of devices including a smart TV, a gaming console, or a streaming media player like Apple TV or Roku.

Do you need a streaming device if you have a smart TV? Smart TVs are intended to stream content. They have a built-in internet connection and an interface that displays apps for different streaming services. You can browse through the interface directly on your TV via your remote.

What are streaming services? There are several video streaming services, but two of the most common are Netflix and Hulu. With these subscription-based services, you pay a set monthly fee and gain access to their library of shows and movies, which you can watch on-demand on your TV.

Is it safe to stream content on your smart TV? Yes, it is safe to stream content. Most smart TVs include a web browser as a pre-installed app. To be safe, avoid doing anything that requires sensitive information, such as online banking or shopping with a credit card. Also make sure you use unique passwords for all your online accounts, so you're protected if one is compromised.

Read more helpful tips at: [Blackfoot.com/TechTips](https://blackfoot.com/TechTips)

Better Together with Blackfoot

2019 Member Meeting Recap



2019 Upcoming Community Connections

Look for team Blackfoot at these summer events!

We are committed to giving back to our communities in ways that matter. Every year, we happily participate in many time-honored events that celebrate the spirit of our cooperative heritage in the communities we serve.

Here are just a few events we will be at in the months ahead. See you there!

- July 3-7: Arlee Celebration Days
- July 4: Seeley Lake 4th of July Celebration
- July 7: Drummond Kiwanis Rodeo
- July 19-20: Good Ol' Days in St. Ignatius
- July 20: Alberton Railroad Day
- July 27: Flint Creek Valley Days
- August 2-3: Superior Lions Club Rodeo
- August 9-11: Huckleberry Festival
- August 29 - Sept 1: Sanders County Fair and Rodeo



Have an upcoming community event?

Request support from Blackfoot! We're happy to support celebrations across our service areas. Learn more: [Blackfoot.com/Community](https://www.blackfoot.com/Community)

Thank you for being our loyal customers!

Blackfoot's Vision: To enrich the lives of our customers, owners and employees.

In our last annual customer satisfaction survey, you rated us with our best ever overall satisfaction score of 4.32 out of 5. Thank you! Look for our next survey in fall 2019.



1221 North Russell St | Missoula, MT 59808



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G I V E A W A Y

ENTER TO WIN \$250!

Blackfoot wants to help you have some *more* fun this summer! Enter to win a \$250 cash gift card by July 12.

Blackfoot.com/SummerContest

A Message From Jason Williams

Blackfoot Chief Executive Officer

Dear Valued Cooperative Member,

We have had an exciting spring at Blackfoot! In March, we hosted our Annual Member Meeting in Missoula with another exceptional turnout. I always enjoy meeting and speaking with our cooperative members. I provided an overview of our financial performance and shared new products and services that we are now offering. I also reinforced Blackfoot's commitment to protecting your private data by providing world-class network security. In today's connected world, there are many users operating on the internet who are out to do harm — from stealing your personal information, to running scams, to selling your browsing history, to infecting your computer with a virus. Blackfoot is here to help, offering remote data backup, anti-virus software and more to help keep your information safe and secure.



We also kicked off a major construction project in the Thompson Falls area. Over the coming months, we plan to invest upward of \$7 million in new broadband infrastructure. This type of large-scale capital investment ensures people living and working in rural Montana continue to have access to high quality internet for decades to come. We're planning additional network infrastructure investments in our cooperative over the next several years.

Please be sure to say hello to the more than 180 hardworking Blackfoot employees when you see them out and about in your community. These talented and dedicated men and women make everything we do possible!

Have a wonderful summer!