



Watts New

May, 2017

Tammy Mills, Editor

From The Desk Of . . . Don Smith, Manager

April Showers, as they say, bring May flowers! Even though we are very early in April at this time, it looks like it will be a very colorful May! During May we recognize a very solemn holiday, Memorial Day. Memorial Day should not be confused with Veterans Day. Memorial Day is a day of remembering those men and women who have died while serving, defending this Nation and our freedoms, while Veterans Day celebrates all veterans who have served in the U.S. military. As we recognize this day, please take some time and think about the freedoms we enjoy and consider those that have fallen in defense of these freedoms.



We are now a couple of weeks past your Annual Membership Meeting and I would like to thank everyone who participated, both the wonderful REA staff as well as the outstanding members that attended! Thank you so much! This year both Jack Finnerty and Britt Wilson were up for re-election and both were again elected to represent the membership; we congratulate Britt and Jack on their elections and thank them for their dedicated service!

At the meeting, the membership also approved the proposed updates to the Association By-Laws. These updates brought the By-Laws in line with current state statutes, as well as recommended industry best practices. The updates do NOT change the governance of the REA or the way Capital Credits are allocated or retired. These updates will serve the Association well into the future and I appreciate all those that provided help and input in this project!

This week I attended Tri State Generation and Transmission’s Annual Membership Meeting and heard presentations on the status of the Clean Power Plan (CPP). As you may recall, the CPP is the product of the previous administration, and severely impacted Wyoming as well as many other states. Several states filed legal challenges to the CPP and the Supreme Court actually stayed the implementation of the plan pending further review. On March 29, President Trump signed an Executive Order titled “Promoting Energy Independence and Economic Growth”. If you listen to some of the media reports, this Order guts the CPP and sends our country back to the dark ages of spewing black ash across the country. When you read the Order however, the first line reads, “It is in the national interest to promote clean and safe development of our Nation’s vast energy resources...”, the sentence continues “...while at the same time avoiding regulatory burdens that unnecessarily encumber energy production, constrain economic growth, and prevent job creation”. Throughout the Order, words like “safe”, “clean”, “secure”, and “reliable” are used repeatedly. To me this sounds like a reasoned and balanced approach to address the issue, while being cautious about the environment, the economy, and security of the Nation. There is much more to this Order and if you would like a copy or have questions, just give me a call.

During the presentations at Tri State, I learned that because the CPP is a “Final Rule”, there are specific procedures required to roll back the requirements, and this rule cannot just be wiped out with the strike of a pen or be replaced with something new. The groups that supported the rule during its original inception have vowed to fight any roll back or change at every point, so as we move forward, we have to be very careful to not misstep. We have to make sure the I’s are dotted and T’s crossed so what we create is a well thought out, lasting rule that will guide our Nation’s energy resource development. As I recall, Governor Mead stated that 40% of Wyoming’s economy is threatened under the existing CPP. Therefore, we need to ensure the rollbacks are done appropriately for the security of Wyoming’s economy well into the future. Continue on page 3....

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From the Office of RKA.....

May Day! This is a month of so many events; Mother's Day, graduations for both High School and college students, Memorial Day, end of school....It just doesn't seem like we are rolling into the summer of 2017!

Speaking of summer, it is always that "crystal ball thing" when it comes to the start of irrigation usage. How much moisture did we get for the winter/spring? How hot is it going to be? These are questions that we all ask ourselves this time of the year. So if any of you out there have your crystal balls all polished and working, please let me know!

Between my last article and this one, I got the final tally on members attending the Wellness Fair at the annual meeting. We had 275 people take advantage of the fair. This year, the annual meeting was a month later than normal. I would sure like to hear if February or March works better for you. Please give me a call and let me know.

May is always a busy time here in the office as we are getting ready for our annual audit. Just like previous years, when the final audit is completed, I will let you know. Hopefully this year, the audit will be boring and non-eventful. That's what we accountants like in an audit.

May is also the time that we start our summer schedule. Please remember our summer hours are Monday-Thursday from 7:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and closed on Fridays. This schedule continues through September.

Every year, I am able to attend the state REA Office Managers' meeting. Unfortunately, I was unable to stay for the "round table" discussion but was still able to converse with fellow Office Managers around the state. It is always interesting to learn that the situations and problems that we might be dealing with at our cooperative are also happening at other cooperatives. One situation that is not only statewide, but also happening nationally, is employee retirements. We have been experiencing that change within the last 3 years and continuing this year. It is definitely growing pains, as the plethora of knowledge cannot all be obtained from each individual before they leave. But we will work through it and will continue, so.....

Speaking of retirees, my hat is off to 3 employees that left in April: Jeff Dirks, Ron Nelson, and Lynelle Brown. Between these 3 people, 94 years of service has retired. Now talk about a plethora of knowledge leaving the building?!?!?! I enjoyed working with each of these people and learned so much from them. I appreciated their patience with me whenever I had a billing or meter question. J.D., Ron, and Lynelle, I will miss all of you....even you Ronald J.!

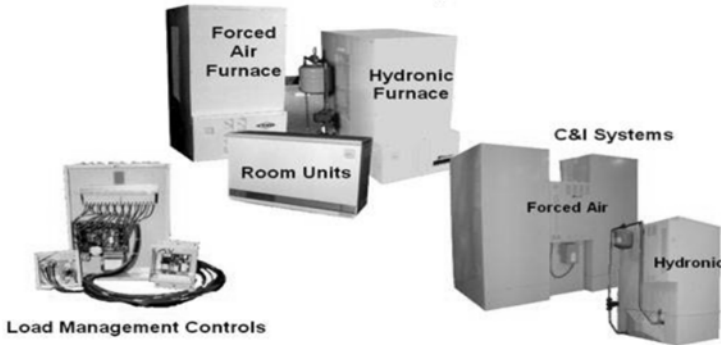
So, I believe that I actually have a graduate this month! YEA ME!! My son will be graduating from UNC-Greeley with a degree in Environmental Sciences. Now reality sets in....hunting for a job! My daughter is continuing on down the nursing path and setting her goals for a BSN and then more! The dogs are well and have stayed out of the vet clinic since the New Year. Let's hope it stays that way!

Until next month.....



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To all of the members who have electric thermal storage: you are on standard rate until September, then you will automatically go back to time of day rate.

Continue from page 1....

As we gear up for summer, remember that the kids will be getting out of school, and they will be running around enjoying themselves, so please be careful and watch out for them as they may not be watching out for you. It is great to see the kids playing outside. Let's make sure we do our best to keep them safe.

As always, it is a pleasure to serve you! Please let us know if you have any questions or suggestions to better serve you, the great member-owners of Wheatland REA! Stop in and see us!

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

Wheatland REA would like to wish all those Moms out there a Happy Mother's Day! Thank you for all you do. Have a great day!



2017

DRAWING CONTEST ...

And the Winners are...

KINDERGARTEN: Riley Jones
FIRST GRADE: Mya Whinery
SECOND GRADE: Tayen Wakkuri
THIRD GRADE: Ricky Bryan
FOURTH GRADE: Kaylee Rasnake
FIFTH GRADE: Dallas Fox
SIXTH GRADE: Chelsea Martinez

WHEATLAND REA
SUMMER HOURS

5/1/17 – 09/30/17

7:00 AM TO 5:30 PM. MON-
DAY—THURSDAY



WHEATLAND REA WILL BE
CLOSED ON MEMORIAL
DAY

MAY 29, 2017

*Memorial
Day*



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The 80th Annual Membership Meeting



2016 Youth Leadership Camp; Ty Paisley, Emily Wright, Decker Anderson, with Wheatland REA Board President, Bob Brockman



This year's retirees; left to right Ron Nelson, Lynelle Brown, and Jeff Dirks. General Manager Don Smith and Board President, Bob Brockman stand with them.



Wheatland REA Director Candy Geringer calling out door prize winners.



Wheatland REA members listening to Pat Bridges, Senior Vice President of Tri-State G&T



Wheatland REA Vice President, Britt Wilson, gives Jeremiah Stegman his pin for 5 years of service.



Power, from Tri-State G&T, came to visit our 80th Annual Membership Meeting.