



February 2018

Tammy Gonzalez, Editor



Welcome to 2018!

When this hits your mailbox, it will be well into February, but it will be the first opportunity I have to wish everyone a Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Year's, and you were able to spend time with loved ones!

If you haven't seen the news, we are extremely pleased to tell you that there will not be an electric rate increase for any of the member rate classes in 2018! This is fantastic news and reflects the guidance of your REA Board of Directors, as well as the hard work and dedication of all the employees controlling the expenses during these times, when almost everything is increasing in cost! It is also thanks to Tri-State, our wholesale power supplier, for controlling their costs as well! We are extremely grateful to everyone involved in watching costs and understanding the impact that rate increases have on our members' quality of life! We will continue to do our absolute best to ensure wise and appropriate use of your member dollars.

Next month we will be conducting your 2018 Annual Membership Meeting. It will be held at the Platte County 4-H Building, in Wheatland on March 14. Please come and share time with us! The Annual Membership Meeting is a unique event for electric utilities; in fact, electric cooperatives are the only type of electric utility that hold such an event. This meeting is YOUR meeting, as YOU are the member-owners of this electric cooperative!

As in the past several years, we will be hosting a Health Fair with free blood draws for members and spouses! The blood draw will begin 7:00 a.m., with the Business Meeting starting at 11:00 a.m. The 4-H Leaders Group will provide lunch. This year, we have two Directors up for election: Bob Brockman and Sandy Hbranchak.

The Co-op business model is unique in the electric utility industry. No other electric utility has a business model where the members are also the owners, and have such a direct and significant say in the governance. Wheatland Rural Electric Association is here to serve its members, not the other way around. We, as Cooperative employees, need to listen to the members and be attentive to their needs. While we do have a business to run, we still need to listen to our members and see if we can come up with reasonable solutions to their concerns. We need to remain aware that we are stewards of our members' money, and ensure we are using those funds for the overall good of the Association. Electric cooperatives are founded on the concept of sharing for the benefit of all members; however, we need to maintain a balance between the good of the individual member, versus the good of the overall membership.

Taking this concept further, as you are the member-owners of Wheatland REA, Wheatland REA is a member-owner of Tri-State Generation and Transmission, which is also an electric cooperative. Tri-State has 43 member-owners that participate in the governance of the utility pretty much the same way Wheatland REA's nearly 2000 members participate in our governance; one member-one vote. Your REA Board of Directors selects one of its members to represent us on the Tri-State Board. Having this voice and experience on Tri-State's Board is one of the things that ensures rates are kept as reasonable as possible and reliability remains high.

We continue to do our best to serve you, our member-owners. If you have any concerns or questions please give us a call and we will be happy to help. As this is your Cooperative, please plan to attend the Annual Membership Meeting on March 14 at the 4-H Building. It is a pleasure to serve you, as always!



Watts New is a publication of
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From the Office of RKA.....

Happy 2018 to all of you! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and are now "movin and groovin" into the New Year.

If you have missed any of our previous articles, I want to inform you again that we will not have an increase in electric rates for 2018! That is always a good thing for the members. It does present a challenge to us, as Management, because expenses such as materials, taxes, and insurance continue to increase in price, but our revenue does not increase to cover those extra costs. We must be mindful and astute to next year's budget. It will be a challenge for the co-op to be able to manage all costs, and end up with operating margins at the end of the year.



It doesn't seem like the 81st Annual Meeting could possibly be a little over a month away! The date for the Annual Meeting is Wednesday, March 14, 2018. We will again have the Wellness Fair; there will be an informational flyer in your March bill. The Board has once again agreed to pay for a member and their spouse for the basic draw (which is the chemistry panel). There are other tests available at your expense. If you do not receive a flyer, we will have some in the office, at the front desk. Hope to see you all there!

The Board of Directors has also approved the retirement of Capital Credits for 2018. We will be paying the remainder of 2001 and partial year of 2002 for Wheatland REA. Tri-State retired some of their Capital Credits and because of that, we retire them to you. For Tri-State, we will pay the remainder of 1998 and partial year of 1999. If you have any questions about Capital Credit retirements, please do not hesitate to call.

This time every year is a time to set new goals, both personal and professional. Here at the cooperative, we are always looking at enhancing our system so it is more convenient for you. So, with technology in mind, we are looking at some various changes for the website, including the ability to access your account through your phone. I don't want to give out too much information, in case other things take priority, but look for enhancements for you in 2018!

Last year I wrote about my personal goal to read so many books throughout the year. This year, I have set my goal for 25, so I will keep you posted on how I am doing. On the home front status, my daughter is in her last semester at UW. She will continue after that, to obtain her nursing degree. My son is happily employed with Halliburton, Inc. He travels quite a bit and some of his destinations haven't been beach front property (such as Williston, ND in January), but he does enjoy his job and continues to be gainfully employed. I took in a little ice fishing in January. I can't tell you what type of bait we use because this would probably be my last article if I gave out our secrets.

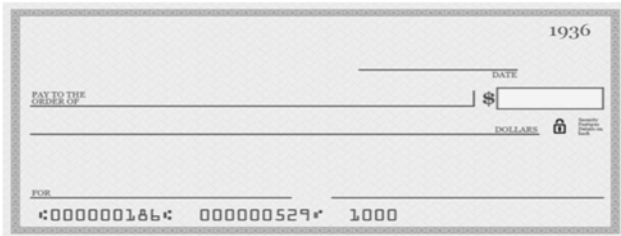
Until next month....

RKA



CAPITAL CREDIT CHECKS

We will distribute Capital Credit checks at this year's Annual Meeting.
Be sure to attend!
March 14th



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- FRENCHMAN VALLEY COOPERATIVE
- HOWSHAR HARDWARE
- LARAMIE PEAK MOTORS
- MICKE'S FAMILY RESTAURANT
- MUREL'S GREAT TREASURES
- PICTURE THIS PHOTOGRAPHY
- REGISTER CLIFF PHARMACY
- ROY'S TREE SERVICE
- SHERARD REALTY, INC
- SIMPLY CREATIVE
- SOUTH STREET PHARMACY
- TACO JOHN'S
- TEEL GUN WORKS
- THE PIE TIN BAKERY AND CATERING
- THE SHARP SHOP OF WHEATLAND
- WHEATLAND ALTERNATIVE HEALTH CENTER
- WHEATLAND COUNTRY STORE
- WYOMING PURE NATURAL BEEF
- WHEATLAND RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION





81st Annual Members' Meeting

**Health Fair will
begin at
7:00 a.m.
No need to
pre-register.**



Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at
the 4-H Building.

Meeting starts at 11:00 a.m.

Proxy votes must be turned in to
the REA office by 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 13, 2018.

ELECTRIC SAFETY DRAWING CONTEST!

Sponsored By:

Wheatland REA & The Town of Wheatland

1ST PLACE (EACH GRADE K - 6):

\$100.00 PLATTE COUNTY
PRIDE CERTIFICATES

2ND PLACE (EACH GRADE K - 6):

\$50.00 PLATTE COUNTY
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DEADLINE TO SUBMIT YOUR DRAWING IS:

*****March 01, 2018!*****

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