



March 2018

Tammy Gonzalez, Editor



Welcome to a Wyoming March! Spring is just around the corner!

It is always up and down for our region when it comes to weather. Anyone who has lived here for any length of time is fully aware of the swings and it is something we just deal with and move on. Maybe that is why we live here and others do not. Personally, I am more than willing to put up with the swings in weather to have the many other benefits that come with Wyoming!

Even though some things have slowed down with the winter season, our crews have continued to stay very busy replacing old poles and taking care of other maintenance on the system. We have already connected new services this year and are making plans for more. If you are thinking about a new service, or an upgrade, give us a call before we truly start the busy time of the year!

In the office, staff is frantically preparing for the 81st Annual Membership Meeting. I would like to extend you another invitation to attend this annual event! This is a special event, unique to cooperatives. Recently, our Statewide Association gave a presentation called “Co-op 101, The Cooperative Difference”, to a new member of the Wyoming Public Service Commission and several of the Commission staff. This presentation highlighted how electric cooperatives differ from other types of electric utilities. The Annual Membership Meeting is one of the differences. It is the time where you, our member-owners, have the opportunity to vote and be involved in the governance of your organization. This was highlighted during the presentation, and those attending were invited to attend our meeting to see one of the main and basic differences in electric utility governance. Plan to attend your meeting on March 14th, at the Platte County 4-H Building in Wheatland, and show the Wyoming PSC that you have a say in the running of your electric cooperative!



Again this year, at the Annual Meeting, we will have a blood draw, as well as a very tasty lunch catered by the 4-H Leaders Group. Staff members will be distributing your Capital Credit Retirement checks (another significant difference with electric cooperatives)! These retirements are from your investments in the REA in 2001 and 2002. These investments helped pay for the system in those years so we could continue to provide the quality of service you deserve! Also at the meeting, you will be casting ballots for two director seats. The seats held by Sandy Hbranchak and Bob Brockman are up for election and both candidates are running for re-election. Come join us and participate in your Annual Meeting!

On the legislative front, things continue to be quiet in the federal world, at least where the REA is involved. As I have mentioned before, there is a lot of activity behind the scenes to repeal and/or replace various legislation enacted under the previous administration. This is a lengthy process. The State Legislature is in a “budget session”, with very few bills affecting the REA. One bill we are supporting, HB 36, contains language for move-over requirements. If enacted, vehicles will be required to move over and/or slow down for maintenance workers, the same as is now required for emergency vehicles. This was included in last year’s session but slipped through various legislative holes.

As always, it is truly a pleasure to serve you, our outstanding member-owners! Thank you! And thanks to the exceptional staff and Board at Wheatland REA! If you ever have any questions or concerns please call or stop in! We are all happy to hear ways we can make your organization better! Hope to see you all at the Annual Meeting!

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From the desk of RKA.....

Hello March 2018! When I write my articles each month, I usually look back at the previous year so I don't say the same old boring stuff. In looking at the article for March 2017, I wrote it was snowing and very cold. On this very day, it is the same...cold and snowy with a pretty good chance of more snow and wind!

Our 81st Annual Meeting will be Wednesday, March 14, 2018. The Wellness Fair starts at 7:00 a.m. The Wellness Fair ends at 10:00 a.m. and the business meeting will start immediately thereafter. Lunch is being served by the 4-H Leaders group this year. We will have several booths available with helpful information for you. In your March 2018 electric bill, there will be an insert regarding the Wellness Fair. Several new tests are available for you to choose from if you so desire. If you do not receive an insert, please come by the office or give us a call. We will be more than happy to get you one. Remember, the cooperative will pay for the blood chemistry profile for the member and spouse; any other tests will be at the member's expense.

We will also be handing out Capital Credit retirement checks. For the cooperative, we are paying the remaining margins for the year 2001 and partial margins for 2002. For Tri-State Capital Credits, we are paying margins for the remainder of the year 1998 and margins for the partial year of 1999. If you have any questions about Capital Credits, do not hesitate to give me a call. I would be more than happy to explain them to you.

The first of the year is always busy around here as we are trying to close the books for the previous year. We are also working on annual reports. There are many government entities who require year end reports, and of course, none of them are even remotely close to each other in the information that they require. When we make it through, a big sigh of relief will be heard throughout the office!

The home front has kept me busy by getting in some ice fishing. I honestly don't mind ice fishing until the wind decides to re-arrange our hut and blow items across the lake! I am sure it was an interesting sight to watch us trying to get off the ice with the hut, then two "older people" trying to lift the whole sled into the back of a pickup. It is a good thing I am in way better shape than someone else at my house, not wanting to mention names! Dogs are doing well, except the older one which has some weird hair problems going on. That meant a trip to the vet. We were doing so well staying away, but it just wasn't meant to be. Kids are well; Micah is in her last semester at UW and Anthony is continuing to be gainfully employed.

Until next month...

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Budget Billing Energy Guide

A reminder from the billing department...

Budget Billing Begins in April.

In order to qualify for budget billing, you must have a year's history at your current location and your account must be paid in full.

For further information, please call 307-322-2125 or 1-800-344-3351, and ask for Jill.

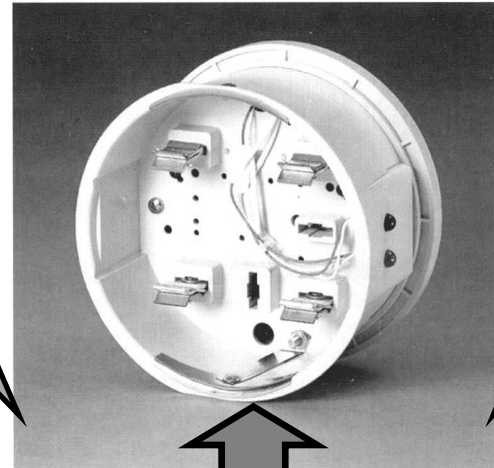


CAPITAL CREDIT CHECKS

We are distributing Capital Credit checks at this year's Annual Meeting, March 14th at the Platte County 4-H Building, 59 Antelope Gap Rd., Wheatland. Plan to attend!!



When buying new appliances, make sure they have the Energy Guide with the Energy Star in the bottom right corner. This qualifies you for rebates!



DON'T GET CAUGHT WITH YOUR SURGE PROTECTORS DOWN!

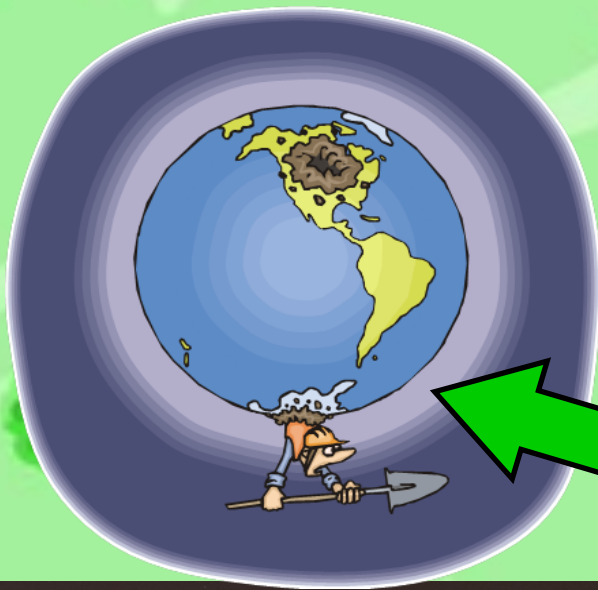
Meter socket surge protection is one more way your Co-op helps make your power as reliable and safe as possible, at the lowest cost to our members. Lease one now for only \$4.95 per month!

Hey! Check us out on... Facebook!



It's a great way to see what's going on here.

Annual Meeting. March 14th...See you there!



Spring is almost here! It's time to shake off the "cabin fever" and get out and get things done!

Great...but don't forget to watch out for overhead powerlines.

Before you get in the garden or start replacing that pesky fence that fell down in the wind last winter, call 811, One Call of Wyoming. You never know what's down there!



Do you know what this is?

It is the "key" to lower heating bills next winter! Stop by the office and let us show you how to lower your heating costs with this unique central furnace.

Warmer Weather On The Way?

Makes me want to BBQ! How about you?

MECO grills are in stock, only \$209. Get yours now, and be ready for those warm spring days ahead!



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