

Hello everyone! Each year, as you know, there is not a January WREN magazine and it seems like such a long time between articles to update you regarding what is going on at your REA! Then when the time gets here, it is gone in a second, almost like the way the wind has been whipping through this year!

January is always a busy time at the REA. With all the near chaos at the end of the previous year getting jobs done for members, preparing our budgets, dealing with the always expected storms, and then January 1<sup>st</sup> hits and you totally switch gears! What has been accomplished in the prior year is done, but what was it? Did we leave anything unfinished? Do we have any clean-up to take care of? How much of our material inventory did we blow through? Then there is the ever-constant month end reporting with the addition of year-end-reporting. This is probably not much different that many businesses but always something to get through. What is different than most businesses is that we throw in preparations of our 2022 Annual Membership Meeting!



Yes, after two years of fiascos, we are again planning our regular, in-person, face-to-face, Annual Membership Meeting! I won't say "come hell or high water" that we will have this,

as we have been shut down on this before, but short of government intervention or some natural calamity, we will be at the Platte County 4-H Building, the Agri-Plex, on March 23rd! As in the past, we will have the Wyoming Health Fairs attending for the blood draw. This will be our first Membership Meeting in the new facility, and we should have lots of room for everyone! More information on the meeting is in this WREN so check it out and come see us and learn what your REA has been up to! And don't forget, we will hand out your Capital Credit Retirement Checks at the meeting!

We continue to fight the fight in Colorado and what the environmental groups are trying to force on everyone through their agendas. As I have mentioned before, the eight Wyoming Tri-State members have joined together to fight aspects of the Electric Resource Plan (ERP). While I understand the desire to make sure we remain good stewards of our environment, there is so much more to this than just power plant emissions. Some of the groups are solely focused on fossil fuel generation and not considering all that goes into power generation. They do not care about reliability or costs! These two factors are what the Wyoming group has been driving home! As part of our push and to make sure everyone is informed, a number of the Wyoming group met with Governor Gordon to ensure he is up to speed and hears the information from the rural Wyoming point of view. It was a very good meeting and Governor Gordon is on our side. We are just over one year into The Colorado requirement for this ERP and we are not through the first phase of the process. There is a second phase in the first ERP yet to come. Don't think this will be the end either. There is another complete ERP due in June of 2023. Yes, less than a year and a half from now and we are not done with the first phase of the first plan!

As for the activities on the operations side at the REA, the crews and staff have been busy keeping the lights on and bills paid! A quick look at 2021 shows the crews have changed out well over 500 poles this year as well as upgraded and replaced about 6 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> miles of line along Slater Road. Jason has also been heavily involved in the construction of the new Finnerty Substation at the Tank Farm near Guernsey. This station will supply power to new pumping load that will start running in the next few months. New load is a good thing for your REA as it is more energy sales to share all costs.

As always, it is a pleasure to serve the great members of Wheatland REA. Thanks for all you do to keep our area one of the best by far in the best state in this great country! If you ever have any questions, please give us a call or stop in, it is always great to see you. Hope to see you all at the Annual Meeting!



The power of human connections®

Watts New is a publication of Wheatland Rural Electric Association

2154 South St. Wheatland, WY 82201 www.wheatlandrea.com (307) 322-2125 (800) 344-3351

Tammy Gonzalez, Editor

REA WINTER HOURS Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

#### **OUTAGES-OPEN 24/7**

OUTAGE PHONE NUMBERS (307) 322-2125 (800) 344-3351 24 hours a day

#### STAFF

Donald E. Smith General Manager

Rhonda Apodaca Office Manager

Jason Wright Operations Manager

Al Teel Member Services Manager

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Robert Brockman President	322-2220
Britt Wilson Vice President	331-8405
Jack Finnerty Secretary/Treasure	331-2100 r
Sandra Hranchak Director	322-4393
Candy Geringer Director	307-351-8716

From the office of RKA....

Happy 2022! I hope you all had a safe and healthy Holiday Season. It really does not feel like we should be starting a new year!

I am happy to announce that we will be having our annual meeting as a "get together" event. Our annual meeting will be Wednesday, March 23, 2022, at the Agri-Plex building. We will have the Wellness Fair and be providing the basic blood draw free of charge for each member and their significant other. The doors will open at 7:00 a.m. and run until 10:30 a.m. The business meeting will start at 11:00. We will also have our luncheon that will be provided by



the 4-H Leader's Council. Stay tuned for further information coming your way!

Your Board of Directors has approved the retirement of capital credits. The co-op will be retiring partial year of 2005. We will also be retiring partial capital credits from of 2003 for Tri-State G & T. We will have the capital credit checks available at the annual meeting. If you are unable to make the meeting, we will be sending the checks in the mail.

As we continue down the chaotic path that the world is currently still on, we are seeing some of this chaos hit us here at the co-op. I have mentioned in previous articles that getting our hands on materials and supplies is sometimes a coin toss not to mention the increase in price for them. Another "bump in the road" that we are experiencing is timeliness in members receiving their monthly bills. This is something that is out of our control, and have no way of making it any better. Sometimes we need to think outside the box; so here are a couple of suggestions for you if you are not receiving your bill in a timely fashion:

(1) Opt-in to receive your statements electronically. You will receive an email when the new bill is available, and you can click the link to view your statement.

(2) View your account balance at any time on our website. New bill amounts will be available once billing is complete, typically by early afternoon, on the first business day of the month.

(3) Call us and we can tell you your balance, print your statement for you to pick up, or email your statement to you.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me here at the office.

On the home front.... currently this time right now is what I call "intermission." It is a time out from fishing and the hunting has slowed down quite a bit. There is ice fishing going on, but my hubby is somewhat of a fair-weather fisherman and is not crazy about it. But I do enjoy ice fishing. He did say that he would pay anyone to take me ice fishing....so there you go!!! LOL! AND, no house projects going on...maybe now since the holidays are over and we are into a new year we can focus on some (i.e.-firepit). We were able to have our kids home for Christmas for one day since they are adults now and must work for a living. I was especially glad to see my daughter as she has been working tirelessly at her job (RN). I do want to say "thanks" to all people in the medical field. The last 2 years have not been easy for them, and they continue to work hard and

Until next month.....

provide medical care for all!





Your Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup> Cooperative K

# 85th Annual Membership Meeting March 23, 2022 Platte County Agriplex

## HEALTH FAIR 7:00 AM-10:30 AM

- YOUR REA PAYS FOR THE BLOOD CHEMISTRY PANEL.
- **. DON'T FORGET TO FAST!**
- ENJOY COFFEE, JUICE AND PASTRIES AFTER THE DRAW!







**BUSINESS MEETING** 11:00 -12:00

**ANNUAL MEETING 2021** 

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED AROUND 12:00 PM BY THE 4-H LEADERS COUNCIL

CAPITAL CREDIT CHECKS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR YOU TO PICK UP AT THE MEETING!



REBATES, REBATES, REBATES! Your co-op offers rebates on certain electric appliances and equipment. CHECK WITH US FOR DETAILS WHEN YOU ARE READY TO BUY!



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative The power of human connections®





## **ELECTRIC SAFETY DRAWING**

### **CONTEST!**



Sponsored By: Wheatland REA & The Town of Wheatland

> <u>1ST PLACE (EACH GRADE K - 6):</u> <u>\$100.00 PLATTE COUNTY</u> <u>PRIDE CERTIFICATE</u>

2ND PLACE (EACH GRADE K - 6): \$50.00 PLATTE COUNTY PRIDE CERTIFICATES

<u>3RD PLACE (EACH GRADE K - 6):</u> <u>\$25.00 PLATTE COUNTY</u> <u>PRIDE CERTIFICATES</u>

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT YOUR DRAWING IS: <u>\*\*\*March 15th\*\*\*</u> IF YOU DON'T ENTER, YOU CAN'T WIN!



### Want to save money during a power outage?

- Check the breakers in your house and under your meter before calling us. (See details below.)
- If your breakers are on (in the up position) and the LCD screen on your meter is blank, your power is out. Give us a call and we will be on our way to help.
- If linemen are called out after hours and all they need to do is reset your breaker you will be charged for 2 hours of time for 2 linemen and mileage on the truck.



#1: Meter is at the top, and the breaker or breakers will be behind the door on the bottom half. If the meter's LCD screen is blank, you have no power.



#2: Closeup shows 200 Amp breaker in the off position. #3: Closeup shows 100 Amp breaker in the off position. (switch down)

#3



#4: Closeup shows 100 Amp breaker in the on position. (switch up)

If your breaker is in a center position (neither on nor off), you must move it to the off position, then push it up to the on position to reset it. If it drops back to the center (tripped) position, the problem is with your equipment and you will need to call an electrician to troubleshoot the problem for you.



www.wheatlandrea.com

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



4