



It is hard to believe that December is almost here, and this is my last article for 2018! With November and December comes the winter weather, and while we have not officially hit the first day of winter, this last weekend was pretty wintery! The temperatures warmed going into Thanksgiving weekend, which gave us some melt and mud for the holiday, but the moisture is always needed.

Just recently we held our Annual Veterans Day Open House and it continues to grow every year! Last year we had 21 separate displays and this year we increased to 28. This is always such a fantastic time to share with the visitors and hear stories of when they and/or their relatives served our country. These displays depicted service from the Civil War through modern times, including WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, and the Persian Gulf, just to name a few. A couple that I found very interesting were souvenirs from the battle of Iwo Jima and the uniform of a veteran who was not only at Utah Beach during D-Day, the Invasion of Normandy, but went on to be involved in the liberation of the Dachau concentration camp; two monumental events in history! These were only two of the 28 displays from members or relatives of our member-owners of Wheatland REA! Thanks to everyone for loaning us their uniforms and memories to make this such a great display! We are always looking to increase our display for the next year so if you have a uniform, memorabilia, pictures or even stories that you are willing to share, please give us a call and we will help put together a display to honor you or your relatives. If you have something and want to make sure you remember it for next year, contact us in the near future and we will put you on a list for reminder calls. Thanks again to all who serve, or who have served, to protect our freedoms in this great country!



Our crews are continuing to make repairs and clear damaged trees from the Britania Mountain Fire. This will be an on going project for the near future. One piece we are looking at is an alternative way to feed the powerline running through Palmer Canyon toward Rock River. As you may recall, this line was shut off for nearly a week during the fire for the safety of the firefighters. We have been watching the potential wind generation project near Reservoir #3. This project may provide an opportunity for another feed for this line, from the west end, which could increase reliability for our members on the west side of our system. This is not a sure thing, so we will keep you informed as things develop. We just want to let you know we are always watching for ways to improve service to all our members!

On the political front, the elections are over! At least for now. Maybe it is my age, but I think politics become more caustic with each election that passes. I am not sure what it all means for the future, but I do know that no matter how miserable the mockery gets, we must stay involved and educated to make sure our voices are heard. If you have questions regarding anything related to the energy aspect of politics, please give us a call and we will do our best to provide you with unbiased information.

Most importantly, I hope everyone has a very merry and enjoyable Christmas! My best goes out to everyone during this season. Please spend time with family, friends and loved ones and remember those who have passed, and are dearly missed. I personally give thanks for those whom I have known and have learned so much from. And thanks to you, our member-owners, for allowing us to serve you!

Hope you had a very happy Thanksgiving and that your Christmas is full of love and cheer!

Thanks again everyone!

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From the office of RKA.....

I would like to wish you all a very joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year! May 2019 be filled with joy, peace and prosperity for all!

At the end of each year, the cooperative is very busy closing the books. December always keeps us busy as we are not only trying to get the books finalized and balanced, but we are also getting ready for the annual meeting.

Our annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 20, 2019. We will have one board position open for re-election. We will again have the Wellness Fair, and in addition, this year we will have the company, "Shred-It" available that day. Please bring any items with you to the annual meeting that you would like to have shredded. More information on this, and other annual meeting items, will be forthcoming.

I am happy to report that Tri-State G & T did not increase their rates for 2019. While I am happy to report this, Management will be looking into a cost of service study for the cooperative, which is a comprehensive analysis of all the expenses involved in operating the cooperative, and what it costs us to operate. It also gives Management a thorough analysis of what rates are currently and what they should be. Please know that we give this serious consideration when not only doing our annual budgets, but also when looking at capital expenditures. You probably are aware that the system is not getting any younger, and major capital projects must be completed in order to continue to support the most reliable service possible. As the manager of the "monies", expenses are also looked at on a day-to-day basis. Unfortunately materials, taxes, payroll and the other everyday expense items are not getting any cheaper. As always, we will keep you posted.

The last quarter of this year, I attended various conferences and trainings. I listened to some young, innovative speakers such as Jessica Matthews, CEO of Uncharted Power and Keller Rinaudo, CEO of Zipline. I encourage you to "Google" these people and see how they are "rocking this world".

In thinking about the new year, we all make a list of goals and resolutions we strive towards to make us better, smarter, stronger, etc.... At one of the conferences, I also had the pleasure of listening to General Colin Powell, and Newt Gingrich, who both gave a refreshing outlook on the political system and our government. What I found most interesting is the fact that both of these gentlemen agreed on one thing that keeps them up at night; the hate and viciousness of the media and the lack of "biting your tongue" in all of our social media. Both gentlemen could not emphasize this enough. So, as we start the new year, maybe we all need to think about how we can be more positive, and less hurtful, and stop some of this hate and viciousness that is going on.

Again, it is still pretty quiet at my house. The dogs were excellent during pheasant hunting. I went a couple of times to watch them work the field. I am not allowed a gun, which is probably a good thing! LOL! Although, I think that sometimes they wished I had a gun just to maybe do a little bit better than someone else that was along that struggled with shooting the birds (I would rather not name names!). There were a few times that the dogs' faces were pretty much telling me that they were thinking not so good thoughts about the hunter!!!

Until next year, 2019.....



NEW EMPLOYEE

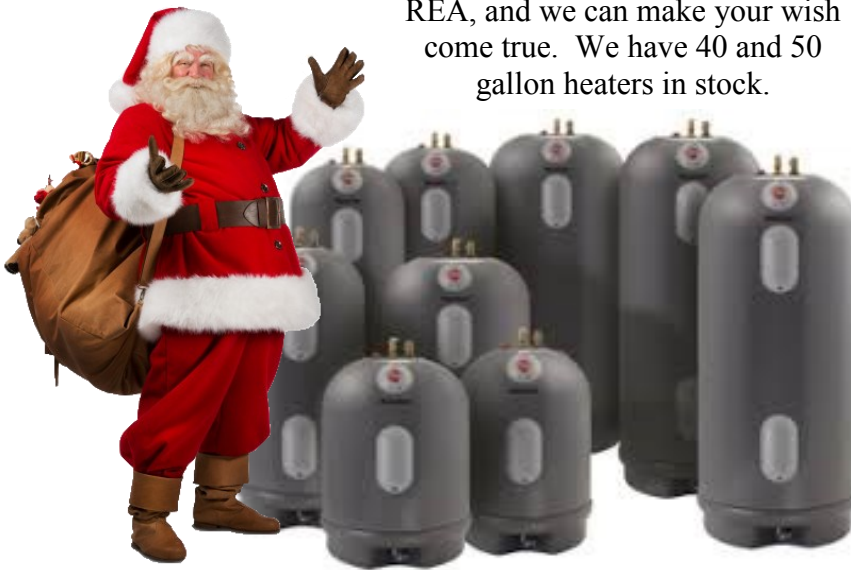
We want to introduce you to our new Apprentice Lineman, Poston Anderson. Poston moved to Wheatland with his family in 2004, and graduated from Wheatland High School in 2016. Poston's parents are Mike and Jeanna Anderson, and he has three older brothers, two of whom are also Wheatland graduates. Before coming to the REA, Poston worked as a carpenter for AMAC. Poston enjoys fishing and most outdoor activities. If you see Poston around, congratulate him on his new job!



Marathon[®]

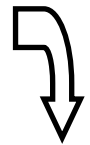
WATER HEATERS

Do you need a Marathon water heater? You don't have to wait for Santa! Come see us at Wheatland REA, and we can make your wish come true. We have 40 and 50 gallon heaters in stock.



Don't Forget!

Wheatland REA gives rebates on those brand new appliances you might get for Christmas. If the yellow tag on the appliances has the energy star, you may qualify for a rebate.



Our REA family wishes you and yours a
 Merry Christmas and a
 Happy New Year!
 We will be closed on
 Dec. 25th and Jan. 1st .

The Platte County School District#1 recently received a rebate check for over \$8,100 from Tri-State Generation and Transmission and Wheatland REA for the installation of an electric thermal storage system at the Chugwater High School! School Board Chairman, Greg Meyer, accepted the rebate from Lee Boughey, Tri-State Senior Manager of Communications and Public Relations, and Robert Brockman, Wheatland REA Board President. The installation of this equipment will save both the school district and REA members a significant amount of energy and therefore money during its lifetime. A similar system, at the Chugwater Grade School, has shown a savings of \$25,000 per year over its previous system!



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