

Watts New

April 2019

From The Desk Of . . . Don Smith, Manager

What a nice little winter blast to remind us that we are not out of winter yet! These spring storms are frequently bitter-sweet. The moisture is always a welcome benefit, however, when it comes with this type of force, it is very hard on livestock. Our hopes and prayers are with our agricultural members.

While the recent storm caused significant travel issues with road closures, and roads that should have been closed, it did not cause many problems with the electrical system. We had a few small outages on our equipment, and some larger outages due to the transmission system. On a very positive note, we had no equipment damage, as can sometimes occur with a storm of this intensity. That level of reliability, is a testament to the quality of work that has gone into our system over the years. Thanks to all the employees who do such a great job!

On the topic of the outstanding REA employees, during April there are two separate days when we nationally recognize them. Lineman Appreciation Day and Administrative Professionals Day are celebrated both in April. My personal THANKS go out to our people for all that they do to take care of the Association, and you, our member-owners! The staff at the REA is extremely dedicated, and care about you and the service we provide. Thank you all!

In March, we had our 82nd Annual Membership Meeting. The meeting was well attended, and it was great to visit with those of you who were able to make it. Congratulations to Candy Geringer who was re-elected as the At-Large Board of Director! Thanks to the other candidates, and those who took the time to participate and vote in the election! Through this process, we ensure you, the member-owners, are well represented and that your voices are heard in the operation of your REA.

On the legislative front, as I mentioned last month, the Wyoming Legislature was quite active with proposed legislation that could have impacted us in various ways. Now that the legislative session is over, we can report that overall, we fared okay. Most of the negative legislation did not pass, and we were successful in getting several pieces of positive legislation through. It was a very educational process, as we could see where some of the pressures and concerns were coming from, as well as how we can guide this process in the future. Thanks to everyone that voiced their opinions to their elected officials! As with your REA Board elections, it is through this process that we can all engage our elected officials to ensure they are representing our concerns.

Looking outside of Wyoming at issues that can impact us, there continue to be issues in Colorado that may spill over to Wyoming. There is a case before the Colorado Public Utilities Commission where they may attempt to regulate Tri-State Generation and Transmission (who we buy our power from, and who we are member-owners of, just as you are member-owners of Wheatland REA). With the last elections, Colorado governance swung heavily to the more renewable energy side of the equation, and they are looking to force aggressive moves to what they have determined as “cleaner” forms of energy. At this time, Tri-State’s energy mix is over 30% renewable energy, and they are always looking at more cost-effective energy. However, that is apparently not good enough for some of our neighbors to the south. We will continue to monitor this situation and voice our concerns and support for Tri-State as appropriate. Stay tuned... we will keep you posted!

Again, thanks for your support at the Annual Meeting, and thanks to you, the great member-owners of Wheatland REA! Let us know if you have any questions or concerns. It is a pleasure to serve you!



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From the desk of RKA....

April 2019, time to jump into spring and get ready for summer!

Our 82nd annual meeting was held on March 20, 2019, and it was another successful meeting. We once again had a good turnout for not only the Wellness Fair, but many people also took advantage of bringing their private papers to the "Shred-It" truck. "Kudos" to the Slater Women's Group for serving a fantastic lunch!

We handed out the capital credit retirement checks to members. The remaining checks that were not picked up were sent out in the mail on Thursday, March 21st. If you didn't receive one, you can give us a call, and we will research it for you. There might be a few reasons as to why you might not have received a check: (1) the total amount of your check was under \$20, in which case, we do not cut a check for under that amount; (2) you might have not had service for the years that we paid out; or (3) you were past due over 30 days on your account. The years that we paid were the following: Wheatland REA was the remaining year of 2002 and a portion of 2003. The years paid for Tri-State were the remainder of 1999 and a portion of 2000. Again, if you have any questions about capital credits and how they work, please feel free to give us a call at the office.

One slight change that I would like to talk about is our website and the "Bill Pay" option that is available. In the past, if a member had problems with their password, the office staff was able to look up the password and help them. Also, in the past, if you hit the "forgot password" button, you would get an e-mail with your password. Effective immediately, the office staff is no longer able to see the passwords. If you have problems with your password, you need to select the "forgot password" option. Then, you will receive an email containing a link to click on to reset your password. This change is to "beef up" security and confidentiality. If you have any questions, please call.

April is Linemen's Appreciation Month. There isn't ever a time that I don't appreciate the hard work and dedication our linemen have for their job. Without a doubt, their focus is customer service and getting the electricity back on as soon as possible. So again, thanks to Poston, Bob, Clay, Jared, Chuck, Jeff, Levi, Chris, James, Jeremiah, and Nate!!!

It is time to get the boat out to water and get this "springtime" thing moving. I have a particular "retired guy" that is itching to be fishing. He has been calling and texting other fishermen to see if they have been out yet. Both kids are doing well. The dogs, well, they are just along for the crazy ride!! They actually had to stay outside a couple of days when no one was home. Man, you would have thought we had abandoned them forever, the way they looked at me when I got home from work. Yes, they are very spoiled dogs.

Until next month.....



HARD TO BELIEVE!

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Some have had little or no maintenance.

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Kiwanis Day of Discovery !!

Saturday, May 4, 2019

Wheatland Fire Training Center on Cole St.

Take the kids to see all the heavy equipment and emergency vehicles and get their pictures taken in the REA Bucket Truck!

ETS Users

A quick reminder: At midnight on April 30, 2019, all time-of-day members will automatically switch back to the standard residential electric rate for the months of May, June, July, and August.

During these months the rate will be \$.12433 per kWh for all electricity used.



NATIONAL LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY

THURSDAY, APRIL 18TH 2019

Why should you thank a *Lineman*?

1. *Linemen* put their lives on the line.
2. *Linemen* are dedicated to their careers and education.
3. *Linemen* keep the power on, rain or shine.
4. *Linemen* demonstrate an undeniable strength.
5. *Linemen* perfect their skills and celebrate them together.
6. *Linemen* take jobsite safety seriously.
7. *Linemen* are loyally devoted to their families and communities.

If you see a *Lineman* today tell him thank you.

More than
50%
of damages

to buried utilities were caused
by not digging carefully.

- Move projects away from buried utilities
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- Dig in the period indicated by your one call ticket
- Check for above-ground signs of utilities



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