

Oh, what a ride! Just hang on and this too shall pass!

I am sorry for the hit and miss on the Annual Membership Meeting. Between the time we mailed notices about the meeting format being changed and the day before the meeting, the information and recommendations on how to minimize the spread of the virus changed dramatically. We do our best to listen to the professionals in the various fields and this is a situation that is rapidly changing. We are sorry for the confusion, but in an abundance of caution, we felt it best to postpone the meeting. Our goal is to provide you with a full meeting, including director voting, wellness fair, door prizes as well as the business and reports. We do enjoy our interaction with you, our member-owners, and as soon as we are able to reschedule, we will let you know! Until then, we continue to serve you!



Last month, one of my opening remarks was, "With spring comes newness and I am hoping the newness is more than just the new life in plants and animals!" I

really wasn't thinking a "new" virus! What I was speaking about was the issues with Colorado and their public utilities commission (PUC). Looking at this optimistically, we have something "new" down there. The commissioner that was leading the PUC hearing has resigned and a new commissioner has been appointed. If nothing else, this will be a new point of view. The hearing date has been postponed and a new date must be scheduled. Before the commissioner resigned, we had worked with the Wyoming statewide association and the State of Wyoming Attorney General's office to file an intervention in the case. We collaborated with the other Wyoming Tri-State members to file various motions in the case. In addition, we collaborated with the other Wyoming cooperatives and sent a resolution to Tri-State expressing our expectations of Tri-State to protect our interests regarding the cases of members interested in separating from Tri-State. We are seeing "new" things develop, and will have to wait and see if they are positive changes.

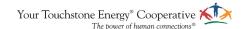
On the brighter side of happenings at the REA, in April we celebrate two fantastic employee groups! National Lineman Appreciation Day is April 18th and Administrative Professional Day is the 22nd. I know I say this every year, but both of these groups are great! The work that they do in the field and in the office for our member-owners is nothing short of outstanding. Recognizing them and the work they do is but a small part of what they deserve in providing you the service that you deserve. Thanks to both groups for all that they do!

I am serious when I invite you to stop in and let me know about any questions or concerns that you may have, or even when our employees did something that you appreciate! I love it when I am able to relay a good deed done to the Board of Directors!

Thanks for all you do as wonderful members of your communities!

As always, it is a pleasure to serve you!





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	307-351-8716

Director

From the desk of RKA....

It available.

Well, it is Spring 2020, and hasn't it been rather chaotic?!?! If we have learned anything from the last few months, we have learned that you need to be flexible and work together during these difficult, changing times.

As you are aware, our annual meeting was postponed until further notice. When the coronavirus first hit the media, it was a day to day decision for us. On the final day before the meeting, the board of directors and management decided to postpone the meeting. We listened to the experts and agreed that we needed to protect our members. Right now, we are still watching and waiting until we can set a date. When we do, we will follow the procedures same as every annual meeting and advertise in the pa-



pers and mail a letter about it. We will have the Wellness Fair, along with Shred-

To assist getting the message out to all our members about the postponement of the annual meeting, we used our "after-hours" dispatch service to do a mass calling. This is an excellent service that they provide when we need to get a message quickly to our members in a short amount of time. After they complete the service, they send us a report of all the members/telephone numbers that they called and what the "Call Status" was... for instance a call status could be answered by machine or bad name/phone #. There are several status reasons. We review this report to help correct bad telephone numbers, etc. PLEASE, make sure that we have the correct telephone number for you. If you have both a landline number and a cell phone number, let us know which number you would like called for outages, messages, etc. If you are wondering what telephone number we have on file, please call the office, we are happy to review that information with you.

The coronavirus has made an impact on every business in this nation, including your electric cooperative. As we do not want to deter you from stopping by the office, we ask that if you can, please use the night drop box to make your payment, especially if you are ill. The on-line Bill Pay continues to be available on the website. You can also call the office to make a payment over the phone. We are following the "social guidelines" given by the CDC and the State of Wyoming. We are working to protect you, the member, but also protecting our employees who are here to help you any way they can. For the most part, it is "business as usual" for us... at least at this point.

April is Linemen's Appreciation Month. These linemen that I work with are one set of "bad dudes" and I mean that in a good way. There is never a doubt about getting the electricity back, regardless the situation. I see that in every outage, no matter how big or small. Thank you to Poston, Clay, Jared, Levi, Chuck, Brent, Jeff, Jeremiah, and Scott. Your dedication to this coop is immeasurable!

Well, I guess this year, we are taking the more aggressive approach to fishing by having the boat out and lines in the water a few times already. The outings have been a little crisp, but we are geared up for it. Hopefully, by July, the world will have calmed down as we are headed north again for fishing!!! We are going earlier this year because we were sent a report by a friend that the moon is at the "perfect place" for HUGE fish!!! Next thing you know, my husband will be having me read the Farmer's Almanac!!

Until next month....





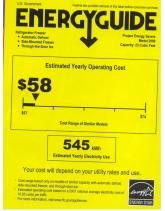


Don't Forget... We offer rebates on new Energy Star-rated electric appliances. Restrictions apply, contact Peg with any questions, at 307-322-2125.

NEW IRRIGATION MOTOR? YES, WE HAVE REBATES FOR THEM AS WELL!

You must submit rebate requests within 120 days of installation.











Kiwanis Day of Discovery!! Saturday, May 2, 2020

Wheatland Fire Training Center on Cole St.

Take the kids to see all the heavy equipment and emergency vehicles. They can get their pictures taken in the REA bucket truck and on the power pole too!

Discovery begins at 9:00 a.m. and concludes at 1:00 p.m. <u>FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY</u>

ETS Users

A quick reminder: At midnight on April 30, 2020, 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 is \$.12619 per kWh for all electricity used, 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.



Trees will soon start to leaf.

If you have trees growing toward power lines, please call us so we can schedule a trimming. Trimming trees away from electric lines make them safer if you have children who love to climb. It also helps control outages and blinking lights.



NEVER Do this when any of these are close by! Teach the kids!

The 30/30 rule? When lightning is 30 seconds away, seek SUBSTANTIAL SHELTER. Stay there for 30 minutes after you hear the last clap of thunder.

BOTTOM LINE? If you hear the thunder, it's time to seek shelter.



IT'S SPRING!

That means it is time to pick up and clean up after a long, cold, and windy Wyoming winter.

Remember

<u>CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!</u>
IT NOT ONLY KEEPS YOU SAFE,

<u>IT'S THE LAW.</u>



Have you ever tried to contact someone about something very important? Only to hear, "We're sorry, but the person you are trying to reach has a voice mailbox that has not been set up. Please try your call again later."

If you don't "pick up" when we call utilizing our phone notification system, and your voicemail

is not set up, we cannot leave important messages about events at your REA. Likewise, if you forgot to update a new phone number with us, the system will dial the outdated number.

So, PLEASE, help us help you by taking action to insure you are properly in our system.



