



August already! At least it will be by the time you receive this. I don't need to tell you that it has been a very warm summer thus far. As I am sure you have all encountered, sometimes our memories are not the best. When it comes to weather, to ensure we compare facts and not just go by memory, we use official historical climate data called "Cooling and Heating Degree Days" (CDD and HDD). This is the number of degrees that a day's average temperature is above or below 65° Fahrenheit, which is just a standard temperature for determining energy use for climate. Simply put, one heating degree day equals one degree of temperature and NOT an actual day. Therefore, any month can have many more HDD or CDD than it has actual days. For comparison, the total CDD in June of 2019 were 21, as compared to June 2020, which were 61. That is 40 more CDD in the same month! Yes, our memories are correct! It is a hot summer! This also goes for precipitation where the June 2019 precipitation was 0.96 inches, and June 2020 was 0.30 inches. A significant difference!

Along with the hot, dry weather, goes fires. We have already had at least two fires, which could have been significant, but the fire crews got on them very fast and wasted no time in getting them under control. Neither of these fires got into the REA system, although we were watching to make sure nothing was at risk. Thank you to the first responders for their dedication and work!

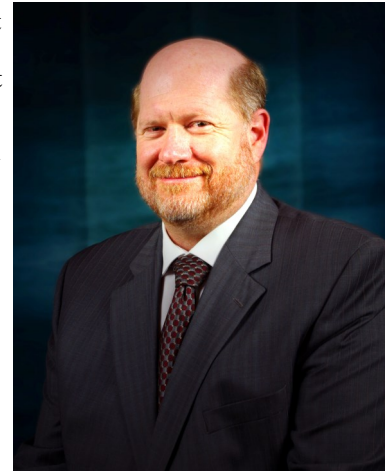
As I have talked about over the last few months, we have been watching and providing input in the situation involving Tri-State and a couple of Colorado members who are not happy with their power supply contracts. Last month, I mentioned that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) had ruled in favor of Tri-State on the buyout methodology, however this was still involved in a case before the Colorado Public Service Commission (CPUC). As expected, the judge hearing the case for the CPUC ruled against Tri-State which is in contrast to the FERC ruling. I personally am not sure how a state entity can override a federal entity when it comes to interstate commerce. So now the battle will continue, along with more money, member ratepayers money, which will need to be spent on legal fees to ensure you, the member-owners, who are the ratepayers, are protected. We will continue to keep you posted as things develop.

Moving on to an area that can be nearly as frustrating as the legal battles: politics. Yes, it is an election year. I hope you all get out and exercise your constitutional right to vote. While I despise the political posturing and some of the garbage that goes along with elections, this is truly a passion of mine. I encourage you to educate yourself on the issues at hand, education from reliable sources, and exercise your right!

On the COVID front, things are ramping up again. Meetings continue to be cancelled or pushed down the road for hopefully better times. We are seeing impacts to the material and equipment supply chains; however, we are working to stay ahead of that by ordering well ahead of when we need things, and making sure we have adequate supplies on hand. In Wyoming we are very fortunate to have some natural social distancing, as well as reasonable leaders and responsible citizens, and therefore have not seen the issues as seen in other places. As a friend in another state once said, "I think Wyoming may be the last sane state in the nation!" Here at the REA, we are doing well. We have adjusted a few things to minimize risk, and overall, we are all healthy and here to serve you and ensure your power remains available!

If nothing else, the last several months have emphasized the reason I live in Wyoming! Not just the culture of the state, but the culture of the leadership and the reasonable consideration they give in enacting rules. They have not been perfect, and they have misstepped a time or two, but you don't have to look far to see other state's leadership who ignore the rights of citizens, and to what end?

Thanks for being such great member-owners! Thanks to all the employees for the outstanding job they do, their dedication as well as their care and concern for you! Like I said, we are here to serve you. Give us a call if you need anything.



**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 SUMMER HOURS  
Monday - Thursday  
7:00 AM - 5:30 PM  
CLOSED Friday**

**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      322-2220  
President**

**Britt Wilson            331-8405  
Vice President**

**Jack Finnerty          331-2100  
Secretary/Treasurer**

**Sandra Hbranchak      322-4393  
Director**

**Candy Geringer        307-351-8716  
Director**

From the office of RKA....

Happy August 2020 to all of you! In previous years of articles that I have written for the month of August, I always talked about how busy everyone probably was getting for the fairs, school openings and those families sending kids off to college. But this August, I must ask the questions... "What are the fairs going to look like; will there be 'back to school' for the kids; will there be the 'send-off' for your kids to college?" I say that August is one more month that we hurdle and survive the "unknown" together!!

We have completed our annual audit, but as of this writing, we have not received the final report. I am confident that there were no major deficiencies, as our auditor did not call me into the board room to have a conversation with him before he left. That is always a good sign! As soon as we receive the report, I will share the outcome with you. As I have mentioned before, the audit is important to you, as a member, because it is an indicator that we are providing the best financial stability for you.

Unfortunately, I must talk about the COVID-19 pandemic. It is bad enough that we must worry about health, but we must also worry about scam artists that are taking advantage of the situation. We received an article from NRECA, (National Rural Electric Cooperative Association) stating that co-op members in Kentucky and Iowa were being contacted by scam artists. These artists are posing as employees of the co-op and calling the members' homes, threatening to disconnect their electric service without immediate payment by a prepaid money card. First, if you receive a phone call of this sort, please get the name of the person, hang up and immediately call us. I am the one responsible for delinquencies and disconnections, so if you did not hear from me, it was probably not a legitimate call. If you are under financial stress, please call me and I will work with you to set up some type of payment arrangement. As long as you keep in touch with me, I am more willing to work with you than if you don't ever return my phone calls, or call me if you receive a notice or letter from me. It makes me kind of a grumpy red head!!! But seriously, please be aware that there are scam artists out there and they are willing to try anything and everything.

Another update on the COVID-19. We are still requesting that if you plan to come to the office for any length of time (besides just dropping off your payment), that you please wear a mask. We are not demanding it, but just trying to keep all people involved, both members and employees, as safe as we can.

We have also installed a security wall, as well as plexiglass in the lobby area. The wall is just extra security for us to monitor the traffic/people that are in the building. Occasionally, I have been surprised that there have been people walking around the building and that none of us were aware of their presence. This extra security just gives us all peace of mind.

So, fishing is very slow because it is very hot, and lakes and reservoirs are slowly draining! Last month, I stated that our Canada fishing trip was cancelled, but I was still crossing my fingers, as you can pretty much fish any time of the year up there. Unfortunately, I received a resounding "no go" on the trip. It is more depressing that the guides we had last year are continually sending pictures of monster fish that they are catching. So, so, so, sad... Still working on the patio. Again, because of this "COVID" thing, the materials we need have been delayed in getting here. I am thinking of just a large blanket, a cheap old lawn chair, and a cooler packed with a delicious beverage. Who needs fancy anyway?

Until next month....



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative  
The power of human connections®





# ETS Users

(Electric Thermal Storage Furnaces & Room Units)

On September 1, 2020 the winter schedule begins for on-peak/off-peak hours. These hours are in effect until December 31, 2020, and if we receive no changes from Tri-State, these hours continue until April 30, 2021.

The On-Peak hours are:  
12:00 p.m. (noon) until 10:00 p.m.

The Off-Peak hours are:  
10:00 p.m. until 12:00 p.m. (noon)

Additional Off-Peak Hours: All day on Sunday  
All Day on Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day

**SOUTHWEST PLUMBING & MECHANICAL LLC  
HAS FACTORY-TRAINED TECHNICIANS  
AVAILABLE TO SERVICE & REPAIR YOUR  
ETS FURNACE OR ROOM HEATERS.**

**Give them a call: 307-322-1595**  
**THEIR FURNACE TECHS ARE AVAILABLE FOR AFTER-HOURS EMERGENCIES!!**  
**Southwest Plumbing & Mechanical**  
**1956 South St., Wheatland**

Dove Season Starts  
September 1, 2020  
So Remember...

Never shoot doves off power lines!  
Broken wires are not only expensive...

**THEY ARE VERY DANGEROUS!**

Don't shoot toward a power line!  
**Good hunting is being safe!**

**HUNTING SEASON  
IS HERE!**

**MEMBER-OWNERS:**

We spend a lot of YOUR money maintaining your electrical system each year. If you see anybody sighting in their rifle on one of our poles, please report it to the Sheriff's Department and call us.



**ATTENTION FARMERS:**  
**ANY NEW MOTORS  
THIS YEAR??**

**Rebates are available.**

**New installations and  
replacements both qualify.**

**Call the office at 322-2125  
and ask Peggy for details.  
You have 120 days from  
installation to apply.**

[www.wheatlandrea.com](http://www.wheatlandrea.com)



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative  
The power of human connections®



# MEET OUR NEW EMPLOYEES



## Meet Frosty Adams, New Apprentice Lineman

Frosty and his lovely wife of 13 years, Tara, have four children: one daughter and three sons. Frosty has lived in Wheatland for two years. He was previously employed by BNSF Railroad for 14 years. Frosty and his family love living in Wheatland and Platte County, and chose to remain here rather than relocate when BNSF downsized its operations in Platte County. Welcome to our “REA Family”, Frosty!

## Meet Brandon Fluharty, New Apprentice Lineman

Brandon is a Wyoming native, raised in Wheatland. He, and his high school sweetheart, Bailey, live in Wheatland and have two children: one daughter and one son. He loves the outdoors and “gets out” every chance he gets. He said he was looking for a career, not just a job, when he applied.

Welcome to our “REA Family”, Brandon!



## 4th of July Fireworks... WVFD Style!

Once again, our very own, Wheatland Volunteer Fire Department put on a spectacular fireworks display. Their fireworks show rivals any in the mountain west!

These volunteers have a true commitment to our communities!

Thank you WVFD Firefighters, you are a “cut above”!



[www.wheatlandrea.com](http://www.wheatlandrea.com)

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative  
The power of human connections®

