

Watts New

November, 2021

From The Desk Of . . . Don Smith, Manager

Happy November everyone! As I have said before, November has two of my favorite holidays: Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving! Two holidays celebrated in the same month that give thanks and show appreciation!

As I am sure you are aware, I am an especially strong supporter of our military members and veterans. Rarely a day goes by that I do not give thanks for these individuals and whether they served during wartime or peacetime, guard, reserves or active duty. As the saying goes, "All gave some and some gave all." Make no mistake about my respect for those individuals who have dedicated time, whether a few weeks a year or their entire career, to protecting this great nation. It is because of these veterans throughout the years, through their sacrifice and dedication, that we enjoy the freedoms that we have in this great country. One day a year is not enough recognition for these individuals, so I say THANK YOU as often as I can! In recognition of these veterans, I hope you were able to visit us for our 7th Annual Veterans Day Open House. Our displays continue to grow! This is a great time to visit with those that have served or the families of those that have served to preserve our freedoms. Uniforms dating back to the Civil War have been loaned to us by our members for the Open House. These uniforms, and the stories behind them, show the dedication to this country by our members and their families. If you were not able to visit us this year, I hope to see you next year! Thanks to all of those that helped to put this event together!



Thanksgiving is also a great holiday! Traditionally, the United States traces the beginning of the Thanksgiving celebration back to the early 1600's as the Pilgrims and Puritans celebrated the harvest. Today the traditions are less about the harvest and more about the feast and football! I believe we should continually contemplate the many things that we have been blessed with. I think if we all truly consider our situations, we can all find something to be grateful for whether it be health, our jobs, family, friends and loved ones, even the freedoms that come from living in this great nation! Look deeply and give thanks in your own way. However, as we recognize our blessings, let's not forget about those less fortunate. If you are able, share with those who may not be as fortunate as you to make sure they have opportunities to be thankful as well. You don't have to look far, either within this country or outside to realize we have many things others do not have. We are truly blessed!

Recently we were saddened by the loss of a man truly dedicated to Platte County. Gene Schuldies passed away on October 5th in his home south of Wheatland. Gene served in many capacities in the Platte County community including serving on the REA Board of Directors from 1991 until 2015. 24 years in service to your REA! Our thoughts and prayers go out to Gene's family for their loss.

The "activities" at Tri-State continue and we continue to stay involved and make our concerns known. Over the last several months, the Wyoming Tri-State members have joined forces to engage the issues with Tri-State and some other Tri-State members. Individually, we do not have the resources to fight in some of the arenas, however, together we can engage. Recently, I attended a meeting of all the Tri-State member managers and a member of Tri-State senior management complemented the Wyoming group for our engagement in the various issues and stated that we have been effective in steering the focus. It is good to hear that even in a big pond, Wyoming can make a difference! We will continue to fight on your behalf.

As always, it is a pleasure to serve you! I am truly grateful to live here and be able to serve you the wonderful member/owners of Wheatland REA! And, as you have heard me say before, I am extremely appreciative for dedicated REA employees! This is truly a wonderful place to live and work! You are always welcome to stop in and let me know if you have any thoughts or concerns or even if you would like to recognize one of the fantastic employees here. Thanks everyone! Hope you have a wonderful holiday season!

**Watts New is a publication of
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From the office of RKA...

November 2021...can you believe it? It seems like we were just looking forward to jumping out of year 2020 and into 2021. Now here we are getting ready for another new year! Time is rollin'...

As we move closer to the end of 2021, it seems that momentum is picking up here at the co-op. Year-end requires us to complete next year's budget, closing of the books, and to try to complete as many capital projects as possible that affect the current year's margins and projections. As the supposed "financial wizard" here, I am always monitoring expenses vs. revenues for the current month, year to date and projecting for the next year. In looking at YTD figures, we have currently sold 2,167,762 or 2.0% Kwh's more than last year. This tells me that we remain strong in our revenues and all classes are ahead of last year's except for seasonal (-2.0%) and irrigation (-4.1%). These totals are as of month end September 2021, so we will see what October brings us when we close the month.

With all that "math" thrown at you; it remains a good estimate on what 2022 has in store for us. In the past, I have mentioned that revenues are difficult to predict as Mother Nature, the economy, politics are just a few factors that play into it. For next year, not only revenues will be difficult but also expenses. As you are aware, the materials/supply chain around the nation is somewhat a cluster right now. Unfortunately, it didn't leave us out of the picture. Some supplies that we would order in the past that took weeks to get are now taking months. Along with the difficulty of getting the supplies is also now the cost. Materials that are crucial in running our co-op are being ordered immediately only because tomorrow they might not be available. Once again, my crystal ball is a little clouded and not much help at this point. Stay tuned...

It doesn't seem possible, but it is now time to start talking about an annual meeting for 2022! Currently, we are tentatively scheduled for one of the Wednesdays in March 2022. We will also be going back to the Agriplex building for a meeting and luncheon. With the approval from the Board of Directors, we will be also having the Wellness Fair. There is also one director position - Director at Large, that will be up for election. Please keep watching for further information!

November 11th is Veterans Day. Please thank a veteran for their service to defend our great nation. We will be having our Veterans Day Open House on November 11th at the Agriplex building. This special event has grown so much that we now need a bigger place to hold the event. Please come by and enjoy all the veterans' memorabilia that will be on display.

Fall is my favorite time of the year. But once again, as I write this article, I am watching rain that is becoming snow already early in the season. Mother Nature is showing her attitude again!! LOL! We are still doing some fishing as the motto at our house is you fish until ice on and start again when ice is off. The dogs are ready for hunting season. They just sense that cooler weather means it's time to hit the fields. This year I MIGHT do some pheasant hunting...still out for debate on this one. I am not sure who is up more for a challenge with this...me or my hubby? If I don't have an article in the WREN next month, you will know what happened!

Until next month...



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**The Wheatland REA
Office will be Closed
Thursday and Friday,
November 25th-26th.**



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family a Happy
Thanksgiving! We are
thankful to live in such a
wonderful community!**



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THANK YOU.**



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