



Greetings everyone! By the time this reaches you, we will be deep in the heart of summer! The weather this year has been up and down, typical of spring in the region. In May, we showed significant energy usage by our Members who irrigate. Even though we had rain, it was hot and windy at times. June seems a little cooler, with some rain, so we will have to see how this affects our irrigation members. This region always needs the moisture!

As I begin to write this July article, it is the 14<sup>th</sup> of June, Flag Day. I believe it is very appropriate to begin this letter (that will be published around Independence Day) about Flag Day, as it was established to commemorate the adoption of our flag, the symbol of our great nation, on June 14, 1777.

While you will most likely get this edition of the WREN after Independence Day, I think it is still appropriate to focus on July 4<sup>th</sup>, our day of independence. It is never too late to remember our independence and I believe we should all take some time to reflect on this history.

If you recall your history classes, on July 4, 1776, our Founding Fathers signed the Declaration of Independence and proclaimed our freedom from a king who was in his position solely by birth. He was not elected by his constituents or even appointed by an elected body; he governed simply because of his heritage. He used the people and the resources for the betterment of himself and his family. We declared our freedom and chose to govern ourselves, as Abraham Lincoln said, "...government of the people, by the people, for the people..." and continued "... shall not perish from the earth."

4<sup>th</sup> of July is the day we remember this declaration and those who set this great force in motion and fought against the tyranny that kept this nation and it's people from bettering themselves. On this day, we should remember all that has been done to bless us with the freedoms that we have today. From the Declaration of Independence: "...We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

To ensure the protection of our independence and our freedoms, 11 years after the Declaration of Independence our Founding Fathers drafted the Constitution and then the first ten amendments to the Constitution, the Bill of Rights. While all of these rights were highly debated at the time and some continue to be challenged, they hold to this day. Each of these rights was adopted for a reason, with the underlying intent being they are part of our "unalienable Rights" spoken of in the Declaration. To summarize these rights: *Freedom of Religion, Speech, and the Press; The Right to Bear Arms; The Housing of Soldiers; Protection from Unreasonable Searches and Seizures; Protection of Rights to Life, Liberty, and Property; Rights of Accused Persons in Criminal Cases; Rights in Civil Cases; Excessive Bail, Fines, and Punishments Forbidden; Other Rights Kept by the People; Undelegated Powers Kept by the States and the People.*

While I am not a Constitutional law expert, I do believe that without all of these specific rights, this nation would not be the great nation that it is and the world leader we have become. These rights work together. Even though numbered one through ten, none is more important than another.



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From the desk of RKA.....

Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July to all of you. I hope you had a fun-filled and safe holiday! Let us all remember why we celebrate July 4<sup>th</sup> and remember that we should cherish and embrace our freedom and independence in this great country of ours.

The summer is very busy around here for all departments. I have been approached by a few members asking why we have a summer schedule of four 10 hour/days with Fridays off. While I believe it to be a nice perk, there really is a purpose. We have a lot of projects for the linemen that can take as long as 2 hours just to get to the work area. By the time they travel, set up, and are ready to work, the day is over. The longer days and better weather give them an opportunity to complete projects in a more efficient manner. This schedule will be in effect through the month of September.

We have just completed our annual audit. The findings will be presented to the board at the August 2018 meeting; after board approval, I will share them with you. The audit is a very important part of the cooperative as it ensures we have accurate reports and statements in all phases of the co-op; billing, work orders, payment processing, payroll, metering, and many more. It is significant to members as it assures your assets are protected and accurate. Once the audit is approved, the yearly patronage allocation of the previous year's margins will be done.

In the front office, we are always looking for ways to make jobs and processes more efficient and timely. I want to discuss with you a process we are currently working on. If you make a payment to us through your own bank website, that bank sends us a check with your name and the account number you may have referenced on it. To alleviate the banks from sending us a check, we are currently transitioning to have these checks direct deposited to our bank account. This will be a single file of all the payments coming from a specific bank. The file is downloaded to post the payment and the monies are deposited to our account. But, here is where we need your help. If you are using your own bank's website, you MUST put the correct account number as a reference number. If you do not, the payment will reject and will go back to your bank as "unable to process". The correct account number is on your payment stub under "Account Number". If you have an invoice number, you need to use the number from the payment stub (this will change monthly). PLEASE contact the office if you have any questions about this process. When we make this process change, we will post the notice on Facebook, our website, and on the next bill we send out. Again, please call with questions.

Home front has been pretty busy with "fishing stuff". We helped with the annual Basin Electric/IBEW fishing derby in June which was a success. I haven't been able to pull in the "big one" yet, but still working on it. You all will be the first to know!!!

Until next month....



# STEFFES Heating Systems

Hi! Al Teel, Member Services for the REA. I'm standing on this hot beach to remind members that summer is the time to think about replacing or upgrading your furnace. Let us help you with your furnace needs!

Jill, we need to do that!!!

Jack, did you turn the coffee pot off?

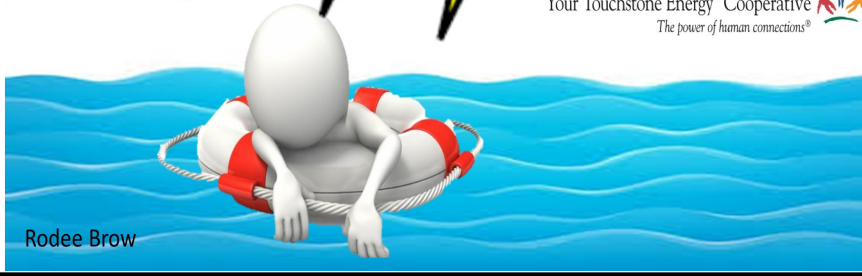


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When there's a storm you've been warned- Don't be a fool and get in a pool.



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Today there is a great deal of contention across the nation, many different perspectives as well as a great deal of self-interest. While our Founding Fathers had their own disagreements and recognized this would always be the case, they were able to come together and act for the good of all and put their issues aside for the common good. To use Abraham Lincoln's words again with a Biblical basis, "A house divided against itself, cannot stand." I hope everyone has been able to reflect on the founding of our country and remember those who have gone before us. I do hope everyone had a wonderful and safe Independence Day!

As always, it is a pleasure to serve you, the great member-owners of this fantastic Association! Please stop in and let us know if you have any questions or concerns or to just say hello! We are here for you!

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**Wyoming 811**  
Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.

Before you call us for a locate, you need to call **811**



**It is the law!**



# Platte County Fair 2018



The Platte County Fair begins July 28th and runs through August 4th. Make sure to come down and check out the events. We will be there participating in the Business Man's Challenge and the parade.

Good luck to FFA members and 4-H members showing your projects at Platte County Fair!



## It Is Irrigation Time!

If you need a new pump motor, remember the REA and Tri-State G&T offer \$10 per HP cash rebates for pump motors.



We here at Wheatland REA, hope everyone had a fun and safe 4th of July.

