



September 2017

Tammy Gonzalez, Editor

From The Desk Of... Don Smith, Manager

What a summer it has been! Extreme heat, rain off and on, extreme dry, hail damage! Oh, and even an eclipse! Never a dull moment when it comes to the weather in Wyoming! Now we will see what the fall season will bring...

I hope everyone had a chance to enjoy the county fairs and then make it to the State Fair in Douglas. As I mentioned last month, the Wyoming electric cooperatives joined forces again this year and sponsored a booth at the State Fair to provide lineman and safety demonstrations. While Wheatland took the lead role in organizing the booth, we have had tremendous support from all of the Wyoming electric cooperatives, Tri State Generation and Transmission, as well as Basin Electric, and I thank them for their support! The fair gives us an opportunity to hear comments and concerns from around the state, and this gives us an overall view instead of just what is in our area. Thanks to everyone who stopped by the booth and said hello!



One universal concern is the cost of electricity. That is absolutely at the forefront of our thought process as we enter into the budget process for 2018. We remain extremely aware of this concern, and are always watching costs as we plan for the future of your cooperative. We will do our best to contain costs and operate the cooperative as efficiently as possible. As we move forward in this process, we will keep you informed of any potential rate changes.

I'm always interested in hearing various viewpoints from different utility types regarding costs, and how their views tie to their motivations. At a recent meeting of electric cooperative managers, someone told of a meeting he attended with some high level Washington officials. The meeting was attended by leaders of different types of electric utilities, including investor owned, private generators, cooperatives, and municipalities. The main topic of the meeting was the Clean Power Plan (CPP) and what to do with this plan under the new administration. Everyone shared their thoughts, and I was told there were three main themes in the conversation: 1) a concern for rate of return on invested money; 2) set the rules and get out of our way so we can continue to sell power; and 3) we need to keep the lights on and take care of our customers (members).

Investor owned utilities are generally guaranteed a rate of return on their investment, so their goal is to invest as much as they can so they can increase payments to their investors. The independent power producers want to sell as much power as they can, because that is how they make money. The more power they sell, the more money they make. Cooperatives' and municipalities' motivation is taking care of their customers and members. This focus means keeping the lights on and keeping rates down. Quite a difference from the motivation of the other types of utilities.

Bottom line, when it comes to the CPP, not all utilities are on the same page, maybe not even in the same book! Cooperatives will continue to do their best to change the CPP, as much as they can, to preserve our ability to serve you, our member-owners, and keep electricity affordable. That being said, a wise man I know said that it is always more difficult to turn something around once it is in place than it is to create it (or stop it) in the beginning. The CPP is in place and it is a huge undertaking to turn it around, but we will do the best we can. Many people are watching from all sides and we will continue to keep you informed.

Thanks for letting us serve you, the member-owners of Wheatland REA! Please stop in and see us and let us know if you have any questions or thoughts! Thanks for making Wyoming such a great place to live, work and raise a family!

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Wheatland Rural Electric
Association
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From the Office of RKA....

Am I really writing an article for September, 2017? I mean, really, where did the summer go? Fall is the time to get ready for school, see the kids go back to college, football season (GO BRONCOS!) and the beginning of harvest.

August is always a busy time at the cooperative. We participated in various activities, such as the Platte County Fair and the State Fair. We also geared up for the infamous Solar Eclipse! Part of our service territory is around the Glendo Marina cabin area. We provided extra linemen in that area for the eclipse weekend just in case! We are now preparing to head out to the schools for our annual electric safety classes. If you have an organization, club, or group that would be interested in receiving electric safety training, please let me know. We believe in providing this important information to all that are interested.

Our annual audit was presented and approved by our Board of Directors at the August Board meeting. Our financial statements and internal controls are solid and we received a satisfactory rating. Following approval of the audit, it is now time to process the allocation of margins. As you know, the cooperative is non-profit so at the end of each year, if we end up with a positive balance after all expenses are paid, we are required to allocate that positive balance back to you. In September, you will be receiving a notice from us stating the amount we allocated to you for the year 2016. Remember, this notice is just to let you know of the allocation to your account; it is not a notice stating what your capital credit retirement check will be in 2018. The retirement checks are generated right before the annual meeting, so expect to receive yours between February and March, 2018.

Last month, I discussed looking for an extra form in your bill that will come in September. With this month's bill, you should be receiving a neon green slip. This slip is to update your contact information with us, especially your telephone numbers. It is imperative that we have correct telephone numbers in case of an emergency or an outage. Please fill these out and return them to our office at your convenience. If you do not receive one, or misplace the form, stop by at our office and fill one out.

This fall, I have one kid in college and one that is living the reality of being part of the national workforce. My daughter will be a senior in college, and continuing her road to nursing. My son is still in Colorado but close enough to home to come and enjoy Wyoming! Dogs are doing well and fishing has slowed down tremendously. Next thing you know, I will be talking about ice fishing...hopefully not too soon!

Until next month.....



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Catherine Smith	Wheatland REA Directors' and Manager's	\$200.00
Christina Smith	Wheatland REA Directors' and Manager's	\$200.00
Avery Hanks	Tri-State G&T Directors'	\$200.00
Chase Markel	Tri-State G&T Directors'	\$200.00
Allison Nelson	Tri-State G&T Directors'	\$200.00
Ty Paisley	Tri-State G&T Directors'	\$200.00
Shannon Wallace	Tri-State G&T Directors'	\$200.00
Alexis Martinez	Basin Electric	\$250.00
Breanna Miller	Basin Electric	\$250.00
Darci Tamlin	Basin Electric	\$250.00
Bailey Tillman	Basin Electric	\$250.00
Yesenia Perez	Tri-State G&T	\$500.00
Cody Cagle	Tri-State G&T	\$500.00



CO-OP CARD DISCOUNTS

MUREL'S GREAT TREASURES: 10% off any purchase when you present your Co-op Connections Card. 717 9th St., Wheatland, 307-331-4140, M-S 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Closed Sunday.

PICTURE THIS PHOTOGRAPHY: \$25.00 off your photographic disc when you present your Co-op Connections Card. Open by appointment...nights and weekends, will travel. Located in Wheatland, Call 307-331-3385, or email us at ggar-ton@wyoming.com.

REGISTER CLIFF PHARMACY: 15% discount on all non-prescription items (excludes "Simply Creative" items). 437 W. Whalen, Guernsey, 307-836-9270, M-Thur. 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM, Fri. 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

ROY'S TREE SERVICE: 10% discount on all jobs. 473 Reservoir Rd., Wheatland, 307-241-0042, 24-hour emergency service.

SHERARD REALTY, INC.: For sellers-1/2% off listing commission. For buyers-\$100 in Platte Co. Pride Certificates. Be sure to present your Co-op Connections Card. Southeast Wyoming's #1 real estate brokerage, located at 1560 Johnston St., Wheatland. Hours are M-F 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Email us at office@sherardrealty.com or call 307-322-2222 anytime. See our listings at www.sherardrealty.com.

SIMPLY CREATIVE: \$5.00 discount on purchases of \$30.00 to \$50.00 and \$10.00 discount on purchases over \$50.00. 855 Gilchrist St., Wheatland, 307-322-0918, M-F 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Sat. 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

SOUTH STREET PHARMACY: 15% discount on all non-prescription items (excludes "Posie Patch" items). 1456 South St. Wheatland, 307-322-2486, M-F 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM, Sat. 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Closed Sunday.

TACO JOHN'S: Free Churro with any combo meal when you present your Co-op Connections card. Wheatland's "West-Mex" fast food restaurant at 1457 South St., 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM (summer) and 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM (winter) Monday-Sunday. 307-322-4058.

TEEL GUN WORKS: \$25.00 discount on purchases over \$500; \$50.00 discount on purchases over \$1500. 59 14th St., Wheatland, 307-331-0319. Open evenings and by appointment or 24/7 at www.teelgunworks.com.

THE PIE TIN BAKERY & CATERING: Either free delivery (up to 100 miles) or free qualified dessert (up to 300 people) for full service catered events. Large Parties or Dinner for Two. Wheatland, 307-331-9000.

WHEATLAND COUNTRY STORE: 15% off one regular priced clothing item per purchase (excludes Wrangler #'s 13MWZ, 31MWZ and 936DEN) 301 16th St., Wheatland, 307-322-3922, winter hrs. M-S 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM. Summer hrs. M-S 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM closed on Sunday.

BUSINESSMAN'S CHALLENGE 2017



Below, LaRon Eller (Receptionist) and Jill Goodrich (Billing Specialist) celebrate after their stacked cups didn't fall.



Above, Austin Gesinger REA Lineman throws a paper plate into a basket while fellow Linemen Jeff Loseke (left) and Chase Gaines (right) watch.



Above, Monica Koerwitz (Work Order/Inventory Specialist) Jill Goodrich and LaRon Eller are excited to learn that they beat the REA men's team.



Below, Jeff Loseke demonstrates how to mop up golf balls with style.



Above, Monica Koerwitz lets the cameraman, Al Teel, know that their team means business, as LaRon Eller (left) and Jill Goodrich (right) walk away feeling good about their time.



Above, Chase Gaines takes a big hop in the sponge tic-tac-toe game, as Austin Gesinger (left) and Jeff Loseke (right) try to decide if Chase is doing it right.