

# Watts New

November 2022

*From The Desk Of... Don Smith, Manager*

It has been an absolutely beautiful fall! Now, I probably just jinxed us by saying that, but the temperatures have been very pleasant and the changing of the leaves is beautiful! We all know that will not last forever, so enjoy it while you can.

I have said this before, this is truly one of my most favorite times of the year! Not only can the weather be fantastic, but it can also be brutal as well! The November holidays are some of my favorite holidays! Veterans Day and Thanksgiving! Two holidays appropriately celebrated in the same month to show and give thanks!

As those of you who have read my previous articles are aware, I am a very strong supporter of our active military as well as our veterans. Rarely a day goes by that I do not give thanks for these individuals, whether they served during wartime or peacetime. 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 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!



In recognition of these veterans, please join us on Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, for our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Day Open House at the 4H Building Agriplex. Come and view our uniform display and enjoy some time speaking with those that have dedicated time to serving our great nation! 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, their families and friends. Hope to see you at the Open House!

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, and 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. Then, 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!

On the business side of things, we continue to talk with Black Hills on their Ready Wyoming project. We hope they are able to use some of our existing transmission line routes so more of our members' land is not impacted. This is not our decision, as the REA does not have authority to tell another utility where to put their lines. We can offer to work with them and attempt to impact the area as little as possible. For current information and updates on the project, please visit the Ready Wyoming website at <https://www.blackhillseenergy.com/ready-wyoming>.

As always, thanks for allowing us to serve you, the wonderful members of Wheatland REA! Every day I am grateful for the opportunity to live in this area and enjoy the culture you have built here! You don't have to look very far in any direction to see places that do not share our values. Let's stay strong and maintain our culture! Please stop in and let us know your thoughts and let us help with any questions you may have about happenings in the power industry!



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

WOW! We are now into November 2022...can you believe it? It seems like we were just starting the year 2022 and now we are a little over 2 months to finish it!

We are in the "fast lane" here at the co-op this last quarter and into 2023. We have our regular work of getting ready to close year-end, completing the budget for next year and trying to complete as many capital projects as possible. But along with all this is our conversion to our new platform company, NISC. This year closing the books will mean also making sure all balances transfer correctly and all information that we retain comes across accurately. We also have on our plate intense training that will take place in December. It also does not just mean that we are moving balances of the general ledger but also includes our mapping, staking, meter platforms along with inventory and transportation. I am just hoping that a wig is not on my Xmas list! LOL!

Speaking of budget, management staff is working on our budget for 2023. This is always a challenge, but this year is even a bigger one. How do we even begin budgeting for inflation, lack of supplies, materials, and revenue? Inflation is hitting us hard with some items seeing an increase from 20%-60% and that is if you can get your hands on the items. This is a nationwide problem across co-ops with no end in sight. My best perspective is stay conservative and hopefully the next year we will see some relief.

I wanted to remind you that the rate increase was effective October 1<sup>st</sup>. This means that the bill that you will receive in November 2022 will have this increase. If you have any questions about your bill, please give us a call.

In October, you should have received a capital credit allocation notice. This notice was for the calendar year 2021 operating margins and allocating them to each member's account. We have had several questions about the amount, and it is not the amount that will come to you in a capital credit check. Those checks are not figured until the following year and based upon the amount of monies that the board of directors approve to retire. Again, any questions, let me know.

November 11<sup>th</sup> is Veteran's Day. Please thank a veteran for their service in defending our great nation. Without our veterans, past and present, we would not be able to enjoy our freedom that we have. Thank you to all Veterans!

Homefront has been fast and furious with fall hunting. The dogs are out and about enjoying their time in the field. There have been a couple of times when the hubby wanted to leave one of the dogs at home.... are you crazy? We would either get complaints about the howling and whining or we would not have a yard left because of the digging. We did go fishing a couple of times, I enjoy fall fishing. The weather is cooler, and I am not out there roasting like a lobster!







# HAPPY THANKSGIVING

*....from our family to yours...  
We will be closed for  
Thanksgiving on Thursday,  
November 24th and  
Friday the 25th. If you have an  
emergency please call  
307-322-2125*



Poston Anderson, an employee with Wheatland Rural Electric Association, has successfully completed one of the world's most comprehensive training programs for power line personnel. The Merchant Job Training and Safety Program is administered to line personnel in 40 states throughout the United States. Poston Anderson and the support staff with Wheatland REA can be proud of their accomplishment. Each utility has an acting Training Coordinator assisting their Trainees by administering "closed book" testing. The coordinators manage their own people through the training process from rules set by the MJTS and the statewide association people.

Congratulations to Poston, who can look forward to a very rewarding lifelong occupation!

## Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP)

Winter 2022-2023

Applications are available on the Department of Family Services website October 1, 2022 to February 28, 2023: <http://dfsweb.state.wy.us>

...Or...

Applications can also be picked up at your local Department of Family Services office.

LIEAP starting and ending dates for electric service are: November 1, 2022 to May, 2023

Call 1-800-246-4221 if you need help with your application.



**DON'T FORGET TO CHANGE YOUR FURNACE FILTERS EVERY 3 MONTHS! YOUR FURNACE WILL THANK YOU!**

### 2023 Co-op Youth Leadership Camp!

If you are a high school student, and like to meet new people and have fun, then Leadership Camp is for you! July 15-20 2023 Steamboat Springs, CO Applications are at the REA and ready to go! Deadline for applications: January 13, 2023



### Auto Pay!!!

**Don't have time to sit down to pay your Wheatland REA bill?**

**We can help you set up your account for auto pay. Come in and see us or give us a call (307) 331-2125.**



**BE SAFE ON THE HUNT**

- Always implement firearm safety techniques.
- Do not lean a tree stand against a utility pole.
- Never fire toward power lines or equipment.

Safe Electricity.org®

### Scholarships!!!

Information and applications are available at the REA office, [www.wheatlandrea.com](http://www.wheatlandrea.com) and at your high school!

Applications are DUE at the Wheatland REA office on or before

**FEBRUARY 15, 2023**

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



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