

# Watts New

February, 2019

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

Hello Everyone, and welcome to 2019! It is a beautiful day, which is a nice relief from the cold and windy December we just had. I am under no illusion that this nice weather will continue through the spring, so we should enjoy this while we have it!

Some great news for 2019! In December your Board of Directors approved the Annual Operating Budget, and this budget does NOT include a rate increase! This is the second year that we have been able to contain costs and not have any increase in rates. In large part, this is due to Tri-State Generation and Transmission also containing costs, and not having a rate increase. It is also attributable to the additional load we are now serving, which helps to offset typical annual inflation. The Board and staff had a significant discussion to ensure we are maintaining the system in a safe, reliable and cost-effective manner. We are confident this budget will allow us to do that and provide you the level of service you expect and deserve. Thanks to the Board and to the REA employees, who are always watching out for the best ways to provide your service.

As for the fantastic employees here, I picked up the newspaper this morning and on the front page is a great story about a Wyoming Army National Guard unit and their deployment to Afghanistan. Logan Koerwitz, helicopter pilot, will be leading this unit. He is the son of our own Monica Koerwitz! We are very proud and honored that Logan is willing to serve and provide the lifesaving transportation for all those who also serve to protect our freedoms, and the freedoms of other nations. Our prayers for safety go with Logan and his unit, as well as comfort for his family and for all of those who serve our great nation!



Staff at the REA is gearing up for the 2019 REA Annual Membership Meeting on March 20th. This will be the 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting. This year, in addition to the wellness blood draw, we will have Shred-It, a mobile paper shredding service there to shred any private documents you want to dispose of. With all the fraud going around these days, we need to be careful with how we handle paperwork containing information that could be used by individuals with less than honorable intentions. This is a great way to get rid of all those old bills, check ledgers, medical statements, and anything else you don't want to fall into the wrong hands. Watch for the details as to what is allowed or not allowed, then bring your documents and let Shred-It dispose of them for you. If you have any questions on this, please give us a call.

On the political side of life, we are carefully watching the new Congress in DC, and what they are attempting to move forward under their leadership. We are also keeping a close eye on the State Legislature, as some bills that are being considered could affect your cooperative. We will keep you informed if we need your help with any type of grassroots action. It takes all of us to ensure we keep YOUR cooperative in YOUR hands, under the guidance that you elect on a local level, and not subject to regulations of state and federal folks who may not have an appreciation for the challenges we face in the west, and Wyoming in particular.

Recently, on behalf of Wyoming's Touchstone Energy Electric Cooperatives, we celebrated with Tri-State Generation and Transmission in the sponsorship of a project with the F.A.I.R. Posse to upgrade the public address system at the Wyoming State Fairgrounds. State Fair Director James Goodrich and Assistant State Fair Director Vicki Rupert received the sponsorship, along with Larry Leake, F.A.I.R. Posse Board President. The "Posse" is a non-profit, volunteer organization that works on many projects to improve the quality of everyone's experience at the State Fair. It is a great organization that supports our rural Wyoming people through its fair activities.

As always, it is a pleasure to serve you, our member-owners. If you have any questions or concerns, please give us a call, and we will be happy to help, as this is your Cooperative! I hope to see you at the Annual Membership Meeting on March 20th at the Platte County 4H Building. Thanks for all you do as our member-owners!

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

Happy New Year to all! I would like to wish you all a prosperous and happy 2019!

Another year at the Co-op is off and running for us. As we work to close the books for 2018, we are gearing up for another very busy year.

First and foremost, please mark your calendar for the annual meeting. This year the 82<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting for the cooperative will be on Wednesday, March 20, 2019. Boy, that doesn't seem possible. We will, once again, have the Wellness Fair. In March you will receive an informational flyer about the fair. The Board has agreed to pay for the basic chemistry panel for a member and their spouse. The other tests offered will be at your expense.

Along with the Wellness Fair, this year we will offer you a chance to bring your personal papers, documents, etc....and have them shredded. We will have the company, "Shred-it" there with a large disposal truck, and they will shred your items onsite. We are asking you to limit the items you bring to 2-3 boxes per member. The shredding service is from 8 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., prior to the start of the business meeting. I hope that you will find it valuable.

The Board of Directors approved the retirement of capital credits for 2019. We will be paying back capital credits for the Wheatland REA for the remaining portion of the year 2002 and partial year of 2003. Tri-State G & T also retired some of their capital credits back to us, and in turn, we retire them to you. For Tri-Sate, we will retire the remaining portion of the year 1999 and partial year of 2000. If you have any questions about the capital credit retirements, please do not hesitate to contact us.

As we all start a new year, I am sure you ponder what New Year's goals we should set for ourselves. I have learned over the years that maybe our goals should not be so huge that by the time we get to February or March, we are already overwhelmed or frustrated because we haven't gained or attained some of our goals. With social media and news media, that seems to be less than stellar and negative, maybe we should all just set a goal to be nice. Open the door, run an errand, volunteer for some non-profit group, help an elderly person, assist a student with homework, whatever the case may be. Let's all work to "just be nice" for 2019.

For the new year, the home front has been somewhat stressful. I, unfortunately, lost my mother at 88 years. No matter what you do to prepare for them to leave this world, it is still really painful and sad. I want to say "thank you" to all that took the time to think of my family and me during this time in our lives. Life is short, and we should all take advantage of the time we have on this earth to spend time with our elderly parents. It's never too late!

Until next month....



Life is too  
Short to  
be anything  
but Happy



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative   
The power of human connections®

# 82nd Annual Membership Meeting March 20, 2019 4-H Building

The Annual Meeting starts at 11:00 am. Slater Women's Club will serve lunch about 12:00 pm. Capital Credit Checks will be handed out as well.

**We will have a shredding truck from Shred-It at this year's Annual Meeting. We want to help you do a little spring cleaning of documents that you want to purge. Shred-It will be there from 8:00 to 11:00 am. Documents will be shredded onsite. Each member may bring up to three boxes of documents to have shredded.**



*WE ARE OFFERING THE HEALTH FAIR AGAIN THIS YEAR. THE DOORS WILL OPEN AT 7:00 AM. NO PRE-REGISTERING IS NEEDED; THE HEALTH FAIR STAFF WILL TAKE CARE OF THAT WHEN YOU ARRIVE. WHEATLAND REA WILL PAY FOR THE BLOOD CHEMISTRY PROFILE FOR THE MEMBERS AND THEIR SPOUSES.*



*IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL US AT 307-322-2125, AND WE WILL GLADLY HELP YOU.*

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



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative  
The power of human connections®





L-R:  
**JAMES GOODRICH, STATE FAIR DIRECTOR;**  
**DICKI RUPERT, ASSISTANT STATE FAIR DIRECTOR;**  
**LARRY LEAKE, F.A.I.R. POSSE BOARD PRESIDENT;**  
**AMY ROSIER, TRI-STATE GENERATION AND TRANSMISSION ASSOCIATION COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING MANAGER;**  
**BOB BROCKMAN, WHEATLAND REA BOARD PRESIDENT**

ON BEHALF OF WYOMING'S TOUCHSTONE ENERGY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES, BOB BROCKMAN AND AMY ROSIER PRESENT A SPONSORSHIP CHECK FOR \$10,000 TO LARRY LEAKE. JAMES GOODRICH AND DICKI RUPERT ASSISTED WITH THE PRESENTATION.

THE F.A.I.R. POSSE IS A 501(C)(3) NONPROFIT VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION. THEY WORK ON MANY PROJECTS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF EVERYONE'S EXPERIENCE AT THE STATE FAIR. ONE OF THE PROJECTS FOR THE 2019 WYOMING STATE FAIR IS TO UPGRADE THE OUTDOOR PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM.

THE F.A.I.R. POSSE MISSION IS TO PROMOTE ENTHUSIASM, ASSIST WITH STATE FAIR PARK ACTIVITIES, AND TO ENCOURAGE THE PARTICIPATION OF ALL WYOMING COMMUNITIES IN DEVELOPING PROJECTS TO PERPETUATE A SUCCESSFUL WYOMING STATE FAIR.

F.A.I.R. POSSE MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO ALL INTERESTED WYOMING RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES. FOR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL FAIRPOSSE1997@GMAIL.COM OR CALL THE WYOMING STATE FAIR OFFICE AT 307358-2398.

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## REBATES

Win a six pack of compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs? The first member to bring this completed Word Search in will receive six CFL bulbs.

Clothes Washer, Freezer, Dryers,  
Pumps, Refrigerator, Electric,  
Storage, Star, Thermal,  
Check, Dishwashers, Irrigation

Wheatland REA is proud to be a Member-Owner  
of  
Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association.



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