

Watts New

June, 2019

From The Desk Of . . . Don Smith, Manager

And here comes summer...although you would be hard pressed to think that after the last few weeks of rain and a few snow showers!

The moisture is always, well usually, welcome, but this last couple of weeks, not so much! After a hailstorm a couple of summers ago, I took on a roofing project at my house, and my son volunteered to help. Between our schedules, this last week was one of the few opportunities when we both had time to get together. Go figure; the weather was not so cooperative. Rain and snow...after we stripped the old roofing! While we were in panic mode of course, things were compounded by not having all the materials, parts, and pieces we needed to protect our home. Our local businesses came to the rescue! I thought there was no way they were going to have the various things we needed, and I figured I would have to spend time making a trip to Cheyenne. My overwhelming gratitude goes out to the local businesses for having everything we needed; even at 8:30 at night when my wife made a mad dash to Shopko for plastic tarps. We will miss Shopko! Wheatland is a great community! Thanks again to the local businesses for bailing me out of this jam, and my lovely wife, thanks to you as well!



Last month I mentioned the new course being developed at UW, teaching about the cooperative business model. This course has been officially rolled out for the fall semester, with enough interest that the class was 50% full before the official announcement! The cooperative model fit well during the mid-1930s, with the passage of the Rural Electrification Act, and fits into today's society as well. The cooperative model is centered on the member-owned, member-controlled, and member-benefited concept of business. The International Cooperative Alliance describes a co-op as "an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations..." Reports have shown that cooperative businesses are typically more economically resilient than many other forms of similar businesses.

There are many cooperatives out there that people do not realize are cooperatives. We are all aware of electric cooperatives, such as the REA, then there are others like Land O'Lakes, Dairy Farmers of America, Associated Wholesale Grocers, REI, Nationwide Mutual Insurance, Federal Farm Credit, Farm Bureau, Mutual of Omaha, Agribank, Ag Processing, even Ace Hardware, and of course, Farmers Cooperative, just to name a few. There are literally hundreds of cooperatives just in the United States! The cooperative is a business model that works! It is no wonder that the class at UW is so well received. The interesting part to me is the question: "Why has it taken so long for the higher education system to realize that a class of this type is of value?" The cooperative model is tried and true, proven over time. It is because of you, the members of the REA, as well as members of the other cooperatives, that we remain strong!

Following up on another couple items from last month, the issue in Colorado regarding Tri-State and the Colorado Public Utilities Commission is still ongoing. I believe the current schedule is for a hearing in July. Then, in our back yard, we have not heard anything (as of this writing) about our territorial expansion filing with the Wyoming Public Service Commission. We will continue to keep you posted with updates as we have information on these issues.

I believe that as we continue to keep you, the member-owners of Wheatland REA informed, you can stay more engaged in the cooperative that you own. Last month I quoted Lynn Moore from Touchstone Energy who said, "We don't have customers, we have members." It is our members that make us strong!

As always, it is a pleasure to serve you, the member-owners of this strong cooperative! Thank you for letting us serve you!

**Watts New is a publication of
Wheatland Rural Electric
Association
2154 South St.
Wheatland, WY 82201
www.wheatlandrea.com
(307) 322-2125
(800) 344-3351
Tammy Gonzalez, Editor**

**REA SUMMER HOURS
Monday - Thursday
7:00 AM - 5:30 PM
Friday
CLOSED**

**OUTAGES-OPEN 24/7
OUTAGE PHONE NUMBERS
(307) 322-2125
(800) 344-3351
24 hours a day**

STAFF

**Donald E. Smith
General Manager**

**Jason Wright
Operations Manager**

**Rhonda Apodaca
Office Manager**

**Al Teel
Member Services**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Robert Brockman 322-2220
President**

**Britt Wilson 331-8405
Vice President**

**Jack Finnerty 331-2100
Secretary/Treasurer**

**Sandra Hbranchak 322-4393
Director**

**Candy Geringer 307-351-8716
Director**

From the office of RKA.....

June is here, which means that we are flying through the summer of 2019! Let's hope we see a lot of sunshine, with no crazy weather.

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable Memorial Day Weekend! Let's all thank our past and present veterans for their service, as we often take for granted the freedom we enjoy.

In last month's article, I spoke about our annual audit. We will be busy this month, as we prepare for our auditor to arrive. Again, our audit is important for not only us as management, but also for you as members. Our positive margins are the capital we return to you in the form of capital credit checks. The audit assures that we, as a co-op, are not only keeping accurate financial records, but are providing you with the most affordable electricity and service possible.

As a reminder, if you haven't cashed your capital credit check that was sent out in the latter part of March 2019, please do so soon. At the end of June, we will void any outstanding capital credit checks. If you have a question about capital credits, or your capital credit check, please do not hesitate to contact us.

In the middle of May, we gave our REA website a "facelift." Our web address is still www.wheatlandrea.com. If you haven't been out to the new website, please take the time to look it over. If you have any questions or comments, please let us know. The website is for you, and we want it to be "painless" to navigate in. I am pretty sure that we have all been on websites where it was difficult to find the information that we wanted, and were tempted to throw the computer on the floor! Again, please call!

For quite some time, I haven't discussed the importance of telephone numbers on members' accounts. Sometime in the fall, we will be sending a form with your bill. We will ask you to fill out the form so we can have the right telephone numbers on file for you. It is very important that we have correct telephone numbers on file! We never know when and if we will need to contact you. We will also have some forms at the front desk. Even if you think that we have your correct numbers, please go ahead and fill out the form for us. That way, you know that we have the right numbers in case we need to contact you.

Last month, the weather proved to test the patience and commitment of every fisherman/woman at our house. For a while there, I thought we were almost going to have to wear our ice fishing gear to stay warm. I am also taking in a few 5k runs with some friends. They say, "Rhonda it will be fun." "Rhonda, you will have a good time!" I wonder if these so-called "friends" really know how fun I think running is!?!?! LOL! I am not telling my husband though, because he will think that I should take the dogs with me for the run. It's hard enough just running, without taking two dogs on leashes!

REMEMBER OUR SUMMER HOURS!! We are open Monday-Thursday from 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. and closed on Fridays. Again, if you have an emergency, please call the office at 322-2125.

Until next month.....





**What?!
Wheatland
REA sells
Electric
Grills!**

Yes, Jared, we do! We have them in stock, so there is no waiting to cook for that family BBQ. Plus, you don't need charcoal or propane. Just plug it in and grill! Come down to Wheatland REA and get one. 2154 South St., Wheatland, WY



LIGHTNING
season is just around the corner!

Protect your expensive appliances and equipment. See us about leasing a meter socket surge protector for only **\$4.95** per month.

We will be closed on July 4th and will re-open on July 8th. Enjoy your holiday weekend! If you need to report an outage call 307-322-2125.

Let's pay tribute to our brave American Heroes on this day and forever!

Happy Independence Day!

IT HELPS TO KNOW YOUR LOCATION NUMBER!

You can find your location number at the top of your bill, on the right hand side. It is the pole (location) number for your electric service. This one is: **8E-11-2**. If you give your pole number to the call center, the linemen will find you much quicker when your power is out.



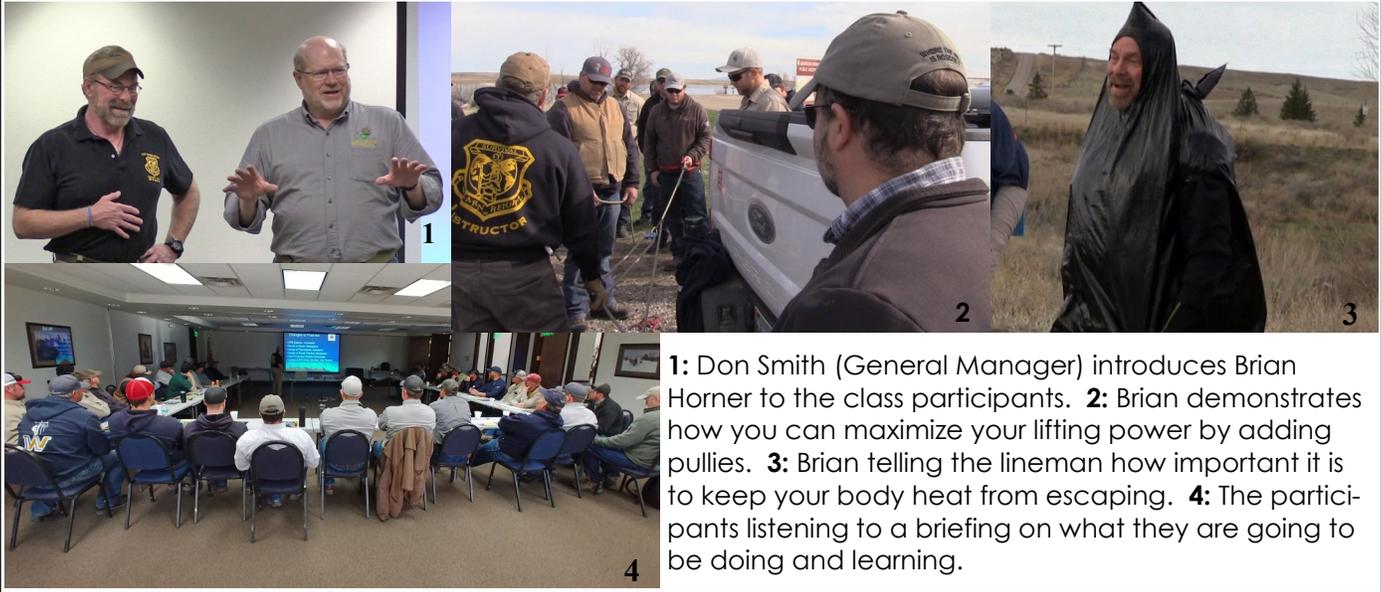
WESTERYEARS--AN OLD FASHIONED FAIR

Continuing The Tradition of the Platte County Fair at the Fair Grounds Wheatland, WY July 26-Aug 3, 2019

WHEATLAND REA HOSTS A SURVIVAL TRAINING CLASS FOR COOPERATIVE LINEMEN IN WYOMING

Wyoming Electric Cooperatives serve mostly rural areas, in rugged and varied terrain.

Don Smith (General Manager) thought it would be beneficial to provide a survival training class to field professionals and linemen. He contacted Brian Horner, founder and president of LTR Training Systems Inc., a professional instructor specializing in rescue and survival training programs. Over the course of two days, attendees learned and practiced techniques to help them overcome the dangers of being stuck in the wilderness.



1: Don Smith (General Manager) introduces Brian Horner to the class participants. **2:** Brian demonstrates how you can maximize your lifting power by adding pullies. **3:** Brian telling the lineman how important it is to keep your body heat from escaping. **4:** The participants listening to a briefing on what they are going to be doing and learning.

3rd Annual Kiwanis Discovery Day!



Wheatland REA returned to the 3rd Annual Kiwanis Discovery Day! It is always an honor to participate in our community's activities. It was a magnificent day! This year, we installed a pole to show the attendees what it is like to be a lineman. It was a big hit!