

Welcome to springtime! The weather today is upper 50's with a nice rain last night, calling for mid-70's tomorrow and then 30's with rain/snow mix in just a few days! I love the variety this time of year, and the moisture is always welcomed!

A lot is happening at and around your cooperative! Early in April, Tri-State Generation and Transmission welcomed a new CEO. Mike McInnes retired after many years with Tri-State, having spent the last five as CEO. We wish Mike the best in his new chapter of life; he was wonderful to work with and be around! To lead Tri-State, they have hired Duane Highly. Duane comes from Arkansas, where he led Arkansas Electric Cooperatives, a generation and distribution utility which sells wholesale electricity to member systems. We welcome Duane to the Rocky Mountain West and look forward to working with him.



A notable happening at Tri-State is a change in the by-laws which would allow utilities to join as members of Tri-State without buying all their power from them. Wholesale power contracts are extremely complex, so this was not a simple change. There are many details the Tri-State Board of Directors will need to work through with those interested in a less than "all-requirements" membership, however, this change provides for that option. In addition to new members, existing members may have the ability to reduce their membership to something less than "all-requirements" as well. Again, lots of details to work through should any of the existing 43 members desire to move that way. The key to this change is flexibility. We will see what the future brings!

The Wyoming statewide association has partnered with the University of Wyoming to develop a class to teach the cooperative business model. This class will educate students and future generations about how cooperatives function and the principles of the business model. Recently, a statement in the Touchstone Energy Annual Report stated, "*The fact is, co-ops are the ideal business model for the future.*" I find it interesting that while your electric cooperative has been working under this business model for well over 80 years, the model is still the "*...ideal business model for the future.*" We must be doing something right!

We have begun working with the statewide association and the Wyoming Public Service Commission (PSC) to reduce some of the regulatory burden currently imposed on your cooperative. Under the current structure, a situation of dual regulation is established. This means your cooperative is regulated by both the directors you elect, and by the PSC, whose commissioners are appointed by the Governor. Any new rule that is established, and any new loan that may be required, must be approved by the Wheatland REA Board of Directors, as well as the commissioners of the PSC. This system can be costly, cumbersome, and time consuming, as well as confusing. Some of the regulation is required by state statute, which is more difficult to change, and other regulation may be changed through administrative action. This will not be a short term process, however, we will continue to work to get the state regulation reduced and back in the hands of those YOU have elected.

These are just a few of the things going on here and how we continue to serve you, our member-owners. As was stated by Lynn Moore, Executive Director, Touchstone Energy, "*We don't have customers, we have members.*" It is our members who make us strong. Thanks for all you do! As always, it is a pleasure to serve you! Thank you.

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

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**OUTAGE PHONE NUMBERS**

(307) 322-2125  
 (800) 344-3351  
**24 hours a day**

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From the office of RKA....

It's May 2019, and I believe that spring has arrived! It was a little "touch-n-go" there in April, thinking that spring might be further away than we would have liked to believe. But everything is getting a little greener, the trees are budding out, and a few flowers are peeping their heads out of the ground. May is also busy with Mother's Day, graduations, and the end of school. It is hard to think that Memorial Day is also here, which always means to me that summer is starting!



May is also the time that we start our summer schedule. Beginning May 6<sup>th</sup>, we will be working Monday-Thursday from 7:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and will be closed on Fridays. This schedule will continue until September 30, 2019. Remember, if you do have an outage or an electrical emergency when we are closed, please call our local number, 322-2125. We always have somebody "on call" after business hours.

Usually, in May, we are getting ready for our annual audit. This year, the annual audit will be the first week of July due to conflicting schedules. Next month, management and staff will be working vigorously to get ready. As always, I will share the results of the audit with you after the Board has reviewed and approved it. The audit looks at all aspects of the cooperative, not just the financial statements. Our auditor reviews billing, work orders, inventory, depreciation, payroll, capital credits, internal controls, and many more items. Although the audit is very stressful, it is a safeguard for you, the member-owners, to make sure we are handling all aspects of the cooperative correctly and efficiently.

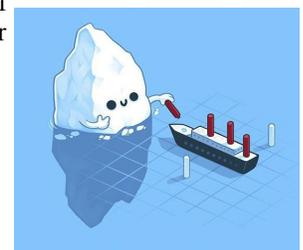
With spring here and rolling right into summer, we will be working on pole testing and tree trimming. Starting in May, you may see pole testers and/or tree trimmers around your area. Once we have confirmed the areas to be worked, we will publish that on our website, Facebook, and as a message in the bills on May 1<sup>st</sup>. If you have any questions about this, please do not hesitate to call the office.

Since summer is fast approaching, it seems my personal calendar is getting fuller. My family, and my hubby's family, are both having reunions this year. Our families realize that it is important to continue the tradition our parents gave us in family being so important. After losing both of my parents this year, I feel this is now more important than ever. The world around us is so frantic and changing, and we must instill in our children the value of family. I am so looking forward to both reunions.

So, the hubby has been out quite a bit doing some serious fishing. In fact, back in April, when the lakes were not quite thawed, he came home and told me that he just "bumped" a few pieces of ice with the boat. No big deal.... really?? I attended a fishing seminar where hopefully some of the tips will assist me in catching more than the other people in the boat.

I will keep you posted!

Until next month.....



Is getting a new irrigation motor in your future?  
 Don't forget Wheatland REA offers rebates of \$10/hp for irrigation motors with 10 through 500 hp. For more information, call 322-2125 and ask for LaRon.

# Grilling season is here!



It is time to "BBQ"!  
 Is your grill ready for the season, or do you need a new one?  
 Come in and see our Meco Electric Grills.

## ***VFW GOES TO CHUGWATER SCHOOL***

On March 28th, members of the Wheatland VFW Post 3558 went to the Chugwater School. They taught the students about the American flag, explained what the stars and stripes stand for, as well as what the red, white and blue colors represent. The students learned how to properly fold a flag, and were surprised to learn that our fifty-star flag was designed by a 17-year old student named Robert G. Heft. The Veterans took time to regale the students with stories from their military service. We are proud to help with this awesome event.



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

## *Summer hours are here!*

*From May 6th through September 29th we will be on our summer hours.*

*Monday-Thursday  
 7:00 am to 5:30 pm  
 Closed on Friday*

**WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER!**



TRI-STATE



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# 82nd ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

As always, this year's Annual Meeting was great.

The Shred-It truck was a big hit, and 298 members took advantage of the health fair! We love to have the Annual Meeting so we can see some of our members' smiling faces!



**Clockwise from top left:**

Bob Anderson (Apprentice Lineman) and Nate Trotter (Apprentice Lineman) tell a couple of our members about surge-protectors and ETS units.

Jack Finnerty (Director) sits down to get his blood drawn. Do you think he said "ouch"?

Rhonda Apodaca (Office Manager) and Becky Glasson (Member) help Al Teel improve his photo taking skills.

These gentlemen are this year's Linemen who reached tenure milestones.

Jeff Loseke (Journeyman Lineman) received his 30-year pin.

Chuck Hiatt (Journeyman Lineman) received his 15-year pin.

Jared Call (General Foreman) received his 15-year pin.

Al Teel (Member Services Manager) received his 35-year pin.

