



April, 2015

Barb Moody, Editor

From The Desk Of... Don Smith, Manager

Spring is here! Winter had its ups and downs and now we are moving forward to the greening of Spring time!

We are now past our Annual Membership Meeting and I would like to thank all of the members who attended, as well as, the Slater Women's Group who provided the wonderful lunch, Wyoming Health Fairs for providing the blood draw, and Mike McInnes and Senator Barrasso for taking time from their busy schedules to support our membership. It takes everyone to ensure a successful and enjoyable meeting. Also, a special "Thank You" to all the employees who put so much time into another successful meeting!

One of the major highlights from the Annual Meeting was the election of Sandra Hbranchak as a Director from District 2. Sandra replaces Gene Schuldies who has served the members since 1991. Gene provided significant knowledge and perspective to the Board for many years and we wish him and his wife, Phyllis, the very best as they move on to other adventures that life will present. Thanks Gene, for all you have done for Wheatland REA. Welcome Sandra, we look forward to many years of working together!



One question that was asked at the meeting that I wanted to talk about here was regarding energy conservation and why we promote it, yet get concerned when our energy sales decrease. Energy conservation is somewhat of a balancing act. We all use energy to improve our way of life, providing a way for us to accomplish our tasks more efficiently and with less physical effort. Anyone who has split firewood by hand, as well as with a hydraulic splitter, can certainly relate to the improvements! That being said, we all need to use energy responsibly. Regardless of your views of climate change and all the political aspects, the more energy we use the more generation facilities must be built and new generation plants are much more expensive than the ones already in service regardless of the fuel source. These costs for new generation all get rolled up into the costs of energy for everyone, so the more generation we need, the more our energy will cost, even to run that basic light bulb. On the REA expense side of cost: it takes the same amount of money to maintain a line running to a single stock well as it does to maintain the line running to a dozen homes or an irrigation system. So we need to keep the energy flowing to pay for these lines. We also like to get the most out of any line and ensure that the members are able to get the most out of the money they pay for this energy to improve their way of life. I hope this helps explain the quandary we have and why we encourage conservation. If anyone has additional questions or would like to discuss this, please feel free to stop in and see me.

April has a couple of important dates that are sometimes overlooked. April 18th is Lineman Appreciation Day and April 22nd is Administrative Professionals Day. These are two very different occupations, however, we could not do the work we do without both of these groups of wonderful employees! Frequently, the linemen are the ones we see in the field. They are in the thick of things when the weather is nasty, braving the cold, the snow and the wind, and we very much appreciate their dedication! On the other side are the Administrative Professionals. They are the ones that make sure everything flows smoothly. Without this dedicated group, I guarantee there would be pure chaos! Thanks to all those who make the Cooperative work so well!

As always, it is a pleasure to serve you! If you have any questions, or if you just want to stop in and say "Hi", we would be happy to see you! Thanks for making this a great cooperative!

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The power of human connections®

Wheatland Rural Electric
Association

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From the Office of Rhonda A...

So, was March in like a lion, out like a lamb? Spring forward, fall back! When the goose honks high, fair weather; when the goose honks low, foul weather!!! So, there you go, my forecast for the spring!!! And if that was March, is April going to have a lot of showers so we can have May flowers?

With spring around the corner, I am working voraciously on finishing year-end reports. Several entities, such as the Public Service Commission, Wyoming Department of Revenue, the Department of Energy, just to name a few, require year-end reports to oversee the financial stability of the cooperative. To you, as members, that is a good thing. Our financial reports must be accurate in every part of the cooperative, from the number of kWh sold, to the balance in all the general ledger accounts. Of course, each entity's report is unique to them, so it takes time to do each report. It is interesting (if accounting can be!) how each entity looks at the same financial information differently.

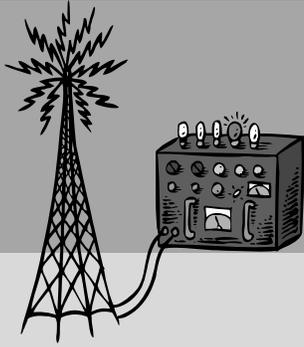
At our annual meeting, we again had the Wyoming Health Fair company taking care of the wellness fair. As anticipated, we had a bigger turnout this year than last year. In 2014 we had 197 members that participated in the blood draw. This year we had 317! We are very happy for the turnout and I am sure that it will be bigger next year. If you would like to see us continue the wellness fair, please give our board members your feedback, your thoughts and ideas are valuable decision-making tools for them.

If you did not attend the annual meeting, we sent your capital credit retirement check in the mail. If you have any questions about the check or about how capital credits work, please give me a call. I would be more than happy to answer your questions!

April has been designated "Linemen's Appreciation Month". I would like to say that we have the most dedicated linemen on our staff. Since I have been here, there has never been a time that they hesitated even one moment about getting out there and fixing the problem for an outage. Weather is never a reason nor a situation that stops them from doing their job. Thank you gentlemen, for your hard work and dedication!



If you have any questions, suggestions, or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me anytime!
Until next month...



Thank you!
BJ Axford & Wyoming Wireless
Internet Services

**For providing wireless internet service for our
 78th Annual Meeting!**

Budget Billing

**April is sign-up month...
 DON'T FORGET!
 CALL THE OFFICE TODAY!**



THE POSIE PATCH FLOWERS & GIFTS: 10% off on any one item per purchase. Limit one discount per week. Wheatland's choice for flowers and gifts at 1557 South St. Wheatland, WY 307-322-2547, open M-F 9:00AM to 5:00PM, Sat. 10:00AM to 6:00PM.

THE SHARP SHOP OF WHEATLAND: 5% discount on all sharpening over \$50.00. 87 Antelope Gap Rd., Wheatland, 307-322-3389, Drop off locations at: Wheatland Country Store, Drube's, Reliable Tool Rental, and Ace Hardware.

WHEATLAND ALTERNATIVE HEALTH CENTER: \$30.00 off multiple bookings scheduled in advance (minimum 3 bookings). 2 Holloway Rd., Wheatland, 307-331-1951, M-F 8:00AM to 5:00PM. Evenings and Sat. by appointment.

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 8:00AM to 5:30PM Summer hrs. M-S 8:00AM to 6:00PM Closed Sunday.

WYOMING PURE NATURAL BEEF: Free 1# package of hamburger with a purchase of \$40.00 or more. Mention the Cooperative Connections Card when making "phone-in" orders or note it when ordering on our website. Certified organic and processed at a USDA inspected facility. We do not use antibiotics or hormones. We guarantee you will be satisfied. Order your Wyoming Pure beef at: 307-331-1176 or online at www.wyomingpure.com.

WHEATLAND REA: 10% off of Compact Fluorescent Light Bulb purchases when you present your Co-op Connections Card. 2154 South St., Wheatland, WY 307-322-2125, M-F 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM (winter hours), M-Th. 7:00 AM to 5:30 PM (summer hours). Catch us on [Facebook!](https://www.facebook.com)

ARBY'S RESTAURANT: Free 22oz. drink with the purchase of any sandwich when you present your Co-op Connections Card. 91 16th St., Wheatland, 307-322-5432, S-W 6:30AM to 10:00PM Thur. to Sat. 6:30 to 11:00PM.

ARBY'S RESTAURANT: Free 22oz. drink with the purchase of any sandwich when you present your Co-op Connections Card. 355 N Russell Ave., Douglas, 307-358-4400, S-W 6:30AM to 10:00PM Thur. to Sat. 6:30 to 11:00PM.

ASH'S SALES & SERVICE: \$20.00 off any appliance purchase when you "show" your Co-op Connections Card at time of purchase. 965 Gilchrist St., Wheatland. M-F 9:00 AM to Noon and 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM. We sell and service Whirlpool and GE brand appliances. We also sell & service water softeners.

BEAR CREEK ORIGINALS, LLC: 10% discount on spirit-wear for your favorite local school or team. Free set-up for your brand...they look great on caps! 219 N. Yellowstone, Glendo, 307-735-4152, M-F 8:00AM to 5:00PM.

BEST WESTERN TORCHLIGHT INN: 10% discount when you stay at the Torchlight Inn and present your Co-op Connections Card. 1809 16th St., Wheatland, 307-322-4070.

BUFFALO LODGE & GRILL: Free fountain drink with meal. 100 Buffalo Rd., Chugwater, 307-422-3248, M-S 8:00AM to 8:00PM, Motel open 24 hours daily.

CHEYENNE COFFEE COMPANY: 10% off your coffee order when you present your Co-op Connections Card. 479 Olson Rd. Wheatland, 307-351-0247. Give us a try. We are sure to become your new "favorite" brand of coffee.

CHUGWATER CHILI: 10% off all purchases, in our store and on our website, www.chugwaterchili.com. 210 1st St., Chugwater, 307-422-3345.

Photos from our 78th Annual Members' Meeting



The "Star" of our show! Rachel Geile performed a beautiful National Anthem to open our meeting.



Senator John Barrasso spoke to our members about the regulatory challenges facing rural electric cooperatives.

Our very own "door greeter", Jeremiah Stegman



Some of the ladies from the "Slater Women's Group" preparing lunch for us.



Penny Teel getting "stabbed" during the Health Fair blood-draw.



Two of our 2014 "Energy Leadership Camp" participants, Brittany Rietz (L), and Kathleen Arbogast (R), spoke to the membership about their experiences at camp.



"Power" the robot was on-hand to meet and greet members prior to the meeting. Pictured with Power is Sophie Meyer, granddaughter of REA employee Rodene Meyer.

Below, Doug Schmidt, from Hamilton Electric, explains the benefits of having quality surge protection at your meter and in your home to REA Director, Bill Teter.



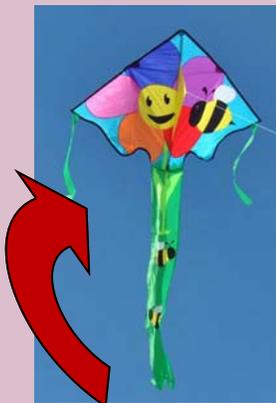
Right, Michael Riedman, from Basin Electric Power Cooperative, demonstrated several new technologies. With one, he demonstrated adjusting the thermostat in your home with a smart phone.



Right and below, Barb Moody and Ron Nelson received 35-year tenure pins. They did their best to dress and "act" the part for the solemn occasion.



Keith Emerson, from Tri-State G&T, demonstrated and educated our members about new lighting technologies.



April is National Kite Month. Be sure your kids fly their kites AWAY from power lines!

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