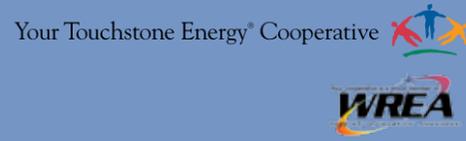


# District Meetings



# HIGHLIGHTS

VOL. 36, ISSUE 7

Look for us online @ [www.bighornrea.com](http://www.bighornrea.com)



August 2015

**W**e have had great attendance at the meetings held so far in Shell and Ten Sleep. Thank you to all who have turned out! One of the benefits of belonging to a cooperative is local access to the Board of Directors that you have elected. There is one meeting remaining. In August the meeting will be held at the Lovell Community Center on August 26th. Look for the invite in your mailbox if you live in the Lovell, Byron, Deaver, Frannie area.

to visit with your board members.



## LAST DISTRICT MEETING

August 26th  
Lovell



Lunch will be served from 12:00p.m. to 12:45p.m. The meeting will be held from 12:45pm to 1:15pm. Two \$75 bill credits and several meat bundles will be drawn for from members in attendance.



We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity

## Youth Tour



**T**oday's youth. Tomorrow's leaders. There may be no better example of the cooperative principles - Education, Training and Information and Commitment to Community - than the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. Impacting the lives of young people is extremely important to the cooperative community. The mission of the youth programs sponsored by local electric cooperatives is built on the belief that textbooks and lectures alone are not enough to help young people understand the democratic process and gain the skills necessary to become tomorrow's leaders. Rather, today's teenagers also need an opportunity to experience government first-hand by visiting the nation's capi-

tal and engaging in interactive workshops and discussion.

Wyoming took a delegation of fifteen students on the Youth Tour trip in June this year - Joseph Bassett of Lovell, Jill Davidson and Isaac Stanworth of Burlington were the Big Horn REA representatives. In order to be chosen for the Wyoming delegation, students must first attend "energy camp" - the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp held each July in Steamboat Springs, CO. The students may then apply for Youth Tour the following summer, go through an interview process and hope to be selected either by the Wyoming Rural Electric Association as their delegate, or be sponsored by their local co-op.

### HIGHLIGHTS

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Box 270 VOLUME 36 NO. 7  
Basin, WY 82410 (307) 568-2419  
FAX 307-568-2402 1-800-564-2419  
[bhrec@bighornrea.com](mailto:bhrec@bighornrea.com)  
[www.bighornrea.com](http://www.bighornrea.com)

**MANAGER: Jeff Umphlett**  
(307) 899-8153  
[jeff@bighornrea.com](mailto:jeff@bighornrea.com)

#### Staff and Crew

John Balch	JD Popkes
Clint Getzfreid	Kyle Reimer
Todd Herman	Gael Sosa
Carrie Hunt	Ron Tilley
Sheila Kampbell	Kendal Wambeke
Bill Phillips	

For Outages or Trouble

Call the office number: **ANYTIME**  
(307) 568-2419 or 1-800-564-2419

After 5 p.m., weekends and holidays all calls will be answered by our professional answering service, who will contact the appropriate person(s).

Big Horn Rural Electric Company is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

#### Board of Directors

Tom Delaney .....	President
Greybull • 765-4732	
<a href="mailto:tomdelaney@bighornrea.com">tomdelaney@bighornrea.com</a>	
Kathy Gilbreath .....	Vice President
Meeteetse • 868-2261	
<a href="mailto:kathygilbreath@bighornrea.com">kathygilbreath@bighornrea.com</a>	
John Joyce .....	Secretary
Manderson • 568-2514	
<a href="mailto:njoyce@tctwest.net">njoyce@tctwest.net</a>	
Don Russell .....	Treasurer
Basin • 568-2019	
<a href="mailto:donrussell@tctwest.net">donrussell@tctwest.net</a>	
Willie Bridges .....	Ass't. Secretary
Cowley • 548-2545	
<a href="mailto:willieb@pryormtng.com">willieb@pryormtng.com</a>	

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### DID YOU KNOW

*Every year an average of 62 good men and women working on farms are electrocuted when farm machines touch overhead power lines. Please be safe!*

### QUOTE

**"Enthusiasm is the electricity of life."**  
- Gordon Parks

# Tired of multiple pages of bills?

Many members of Big Horn REA have several accounts. This means, each month, you receive several pages worth of billing statements. We understand this can be frustrating at bill-paying time. We want to make you aware that we offer Invoice Billing.

Invoice Billing is a convenience we offer to you, our members. Instead of multiple pages each month, you will

receive one sheet listing each of your accounts and their bill amount. On the bottom stub you will see one total – all of the individual accounts added together!

We encourage you to take advantage of this program if you are a multi-account member. Call our office at 1-800-564-2419 and let us know you are interested and we will get it set up for you. That was easy!



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Periodically inspect your dryer vent to ensure it is not blocked. This will save energy and may prevent a fire. Manufacturers recommend using a rigid venting material - not plastic vents that may collapse and cause blockages.

Source: energy.gov

Five steps to help you

## Take Control of Summer Bills

**1. Sun block.** Half of all heat that enters your home comes in through the windows. Invest in a thick shade or window film to block out the sun. Save up to 15 percent on your cooling bill by shading west-facing windows, which absorb the most afternoon sun. For the hottest parts of your house, consider installing an awning or planting trees in front of the window to shade the house.

**2. Quick change.** A filter for your air conditioning system costs only a few dollars, but can save you much more if you change it every month during the summer. Dirty AC filters prevent air flow and make your system work harder. That means a higher bill.

**3. One degree.** For every degree you turn your AC thermostat up, you save up to 2 percent on cooling costs. Try setting your thermostat at 78 degrees.

**4. Wind chill.** Fans don't cool the air, but they make the air feel cooler by moving it around the room and against your skin, which creates a sort of "wind chill" effect. When the fan is running, you can move your thermostat three to four degrees higher without noticing much difference in your comfort level.

**5. Cool touch.** Replace every incandescent light bulb in your house with a CFL or LED bulb. They cost more, but CFLs use 75 percent less energy and LEDs use less than one-tenth. Plus, they emit far less heat than incandescent bulbs, so they won't make the air conditioner work harder.

## Factors that Influence Your Bill Basic Facility Charge

**M**any monthly utilities, such as your home phone, cell phone, cable or satellite TV service utilize some form of monthly charge to cover the cost of providing service to your home. For each Big Horn Rural Electric member, this monthly charge is called the Basic Facility Charge. It is a monthly, fair share investment that assures you have power when you need it.

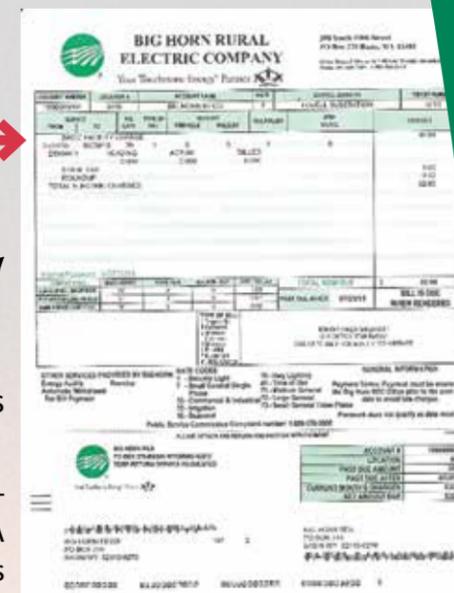
When you need electric power, all you have to do is flip a switch or plug into an outlet. What happens before that flip of the switch is a significant commitment of time, equipment, facilities and people your cooperative already has in place to ensure that power is there when you need it.

The Basic Facility Charge ensures that your expectations for continuous power and outstanding customer service are met. It gives each member a fair and equal share in the cooperative's operation. It provides funds that must be invested now to ensure that electricity is delivered now and in the future. We are looking out for you and want to help you understand just what it takes to keep the power on. It is our commitment to each member to continue providing reliable power that produced recent reliability ratings of having the power on 99.98% of the time and customer service scores that rank your cooperative among the top performing utilities in the country.

## Works for Every Member

The Basic Facility Charge Means Every Member is **Equal**.

Many things go into providing reliable power. Big Horn REA operates, maintains and continues to improve the entire system for every existing and future member. When present and future costs of operating and upgrading our basic facilities as well as the administrative, maintenance and service are included, the average expense per member for residential service reaches thousands of dollars. These costs are shared by the membership in the form of a fee called the Basic Facility Charge. This figure was determined through a cost-of-service study that revealed the fair share amount each member should contribute to ensure reliable service now and in the future. We continue to invest in all our systems and operations so each member, no matter where they are, enjoys reliable power.



## SERVICES COVERED

- The power delivery system (substations, distribution lines, transformers, power poles, etc.)
- Maintenance crews and equipment and the circumstances they work in:
  - o Severe summer/winter weather that increases repair and replacement costs
  - o Mountainous terrain which requires more of an investment of time and money for equipment installation
- Operations costs, local offices and staff
- Attentive 24/7 customer service
- Billing and account information
- Metering