



Improved Annual Meeting Your Vote Counts

Plan on coming to the Annual Meeting!

We would certainly like to see you at the annual meeting on March 19th! If you've never been to an annual meeting before, give it a try! It's your chance to be involved in the business YOU own. Plus we serve a nice meal, have childcare for the kids, and give out a Grand Prize of a \$500 bill credit! See you there!!! More information coming in your next newsletter and in your mailbox - be sure to check it out.

*Annual Meeting Coming
March 19, 2016*

The theme for this year's meeting is "Our Members...Our Power...Our Future". Registration for the Annual Meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. There will be displays featuring new and innovative energy products. Members will be able to visit with directors, employees and one another until the business session begins at 10:30 a.m. The business session will include information on the cooperative's financial status, speeches from director candidates and a presentation from our power supplier Tri-State Generation & Transmission. We will be giving away a grand prize of a \$500 energy bill credit.

We listened!!
"The meeting is too long."
"The same people win all the prizes."

Shorter Registration
9:30 am to 10:30 am

Shorter Meeting
10:30 am to 12:00 noon

Everyone Wins
Every member that registers will receive a \$50 bill credit

Have lunch on us
Lunch served at noon

INSIDE

- Director Election..... 2**
- A Year of Saving 2**
- Safety Corner..... 3**
- Manager's Message..... 4**

QUOTE

*"Nothing truly valuable
can be achieved except by
the unselfish cooperation
of many individuals."
- Albert Einstein*

CLOSED

**Big Horn
REA offices
will be
closed
February
15th in
observance of President's Day.**



The POWER of Co-op Membership

Annual Meeting Stuff

Director Election

During the meeting you will elect one director to represent you on the board. The 2016 Nominating Committee has nominated Tom Delaney and Ron Reesy as candidates for director in District 2 - Greybull/Shell area and John Joyce as candidate for director in District 3 - Ten Sleep/Hyattville area. Look for their candidate profiles in next month's issue of Highlights. You are encouraged to carefully read the candidate statements so that you can make an informed decision when voting.

Registration Gift

Each member that registers will receive a \$50 energy bill credit! The meeting will conclude with a meal of ham, cheesy potatoes, salad, rolls and carrot cake.

During the week of March 4th, each member will receive in the mail their complete Annual Meeting brochure and proxy. Make plans now to attend!!

If you are unable to attend, please send in your proxy by the deadline...you will receive a \$5 bill credit for doing so!

Big Horn's board members, employees, and Annual Meeting Committee members are dedicated to bringing you and your family an interesting and informative meeting. We are counting on you to make this annual meeting a success.



continued from previous page
you changed a filter? Replacing furnace and air conditioner filters regularly can have a big impact on a home's energy use. Dirty filters can restrict air flow and reduce the overall efficiency of your cooling system, forcing it to work harder on hot summer days.

July: Your home's cooling costs can skyrocket—right along with the temperature outside—during summer months. Keeping your thermostat set between 78 and 80 degrees Fahrenheit can save up to 8 percent on monthly

cooling bills.

August: Heading out of town on vacation? Be sure to unplug all of your electronic devices like computers, monitor, printers, TV and cable boxes, DVD players, and microwaves. Electronics with digital displays and instant-on features consume energy even if they're not in use.

September: Be a "fan-atic." While they don't replace an air conditioner or a heat pump, fans move the air so everyone feels more comfortable. On a milder day, a fan is a much more energy-efficient choice than cranking up the air conditioning. Fans cool people, not rooms, so turn them off when you leave.

October: Get ready for winter by insulating your attic. Adding

nine or more inches of insulation could save you more than \$150 a year.

November: As the weather cools down, pull up your window shades. Keeping blinds open during cold weather lets heat from sunlight in, reducing the need to turn up your home's thermostat.

December: Put a new ENERGY STAR appliance at the top of your Christmas wish list. Upgrading appliances like washing machines to ENERGY STAR-rated models can save up to \$140 per year. (Plus - we offer great rebates!)



A YEAR OF . . .

Got cabin fever this winter? Spend time making your home more energy efficient and start saving for your summer vacation!

You can trim your electric bill all year long by taking a few simple steps. Here's a list of Big Horn REA's recommendations for year-round energy and money savings!

January: Lowering your thermostat just a few degrees during winter months can save as much as \$85 per year. Programmable thermostats make it easy to save by offering pre-programmed settings

to regulate a home's temperature throughout the year.

February: Adjust your water heater. Turning down the temperature

gauge to below 120 degrees Fahrenheit can heat up your savings.

March: Stop air from escaping your home and money from escaping your wallet! Head down to your home's basement and seal those

leaky ducts.

April: A little caulk can go a long way. Air leaks in your home add up. Caulking cracks and openings to the outside could save more than \$200 a year.

May: Make sure your refrigerator is on your spring cleaning to-do list. Throw out expired items, clean the refrigerator inside and out, and check the temperature gauge. For maximum operating efficiency, a refrigerator's temperature should be between 37 and 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

June: When was the last time

Safety Corner *Space heaters can be expensive and dangerous*

Falling temperatures and rising energy costs have many looking for ways to lower heat bills. Big Horn REA reminds you to use caution when warming your home and garage with space heaters this winter:

- § Make sure the heater has an emergency shut-off feature if it tips over.
- § Check the cord and make sure heater is clean and in good condition.
- § Place heater on level, solid, nonflammable floor surface; do NOT place on carpet, counters or furniture.
- § Keep heater away from draperies, blankets, sofas and combustible liquids, such as paint and fuel.

§ Never allow pets or children near an electric space heater.

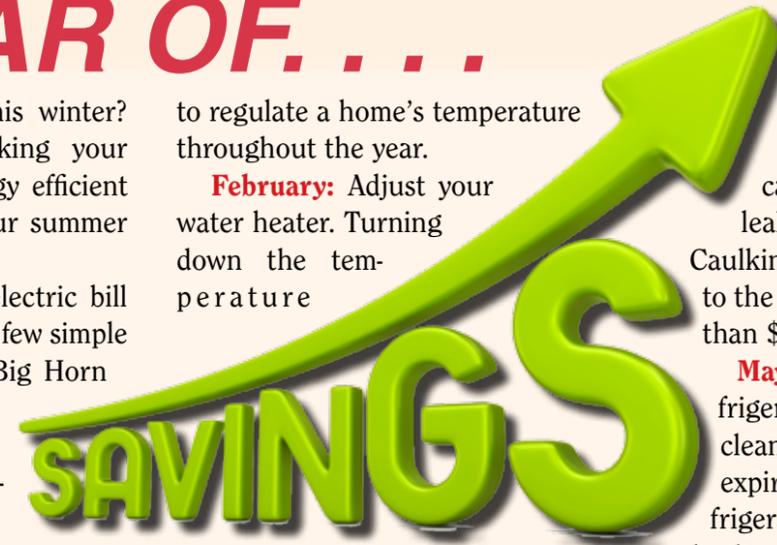
§ Never plug a space heater into an extension cord or into the same circuit as other appliances.

§ Never leave space heater unattended. Unplug before leaving the room or going to bed.

§ Don't be misled by expensive models that claim to lower heating bills. Electric heaters cost anywhere from \$30 to \$300; but no matter what the price, all 1,500-watt electric heaters use the same electricity to operate and deliver the same heat output. Be safe and stay clear of marketing hype.

As with any technology, before purchasing a space heater you

should understand how the device is used, as well as the energy claims of the manufacturer. Space heaters can heat only a small space. While they do have their place in warming a house, they simply cannot replace energy-efficient central heating or weatherization improvements in a home. While it may be technically possible to cut your heating bill by 50% using a space heater, it is impractical for most people.



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Manager's Message

It is the new year of 2016 and Big Horn is making plans for a busy year. I am not certain we are making any New Year's resolution, meaning making a promise to start doing something good at the start of the year. Big Horn's commitment and promise **every day** is to provide reliable electric energy with quality service to our member/owners. If you ever feel that you are not getting exceptional member service please contact myself or a board member. Your board of directors are committed to ensuring that Big Horn is serving its mission and is a financially sound cooperative.

The board recently approved the 2016 budget and the next four year construction work plan. Some of the projects for Big Horn in 2016 will be: installing and implementing a new automated meter reading system; upgrading a substation; building/upgrading lines to meet new service requests; right of way

management/tree removal; and pole testing.

To learn more about your cooperative, please plan on attending the annual meeting on March 19, 2016. Your involvement is important.

Senator Barrasso speaking at last year's annual meeting.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Save energy and money by lowering your water heater thermostat to 120 degrees Fahrenheit. This will also slow mineral buildup and corrosion in your water heater and pipes.

Source: energy.gov

HIGHLIGHTS

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ELECTRIC COMPANY

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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.

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