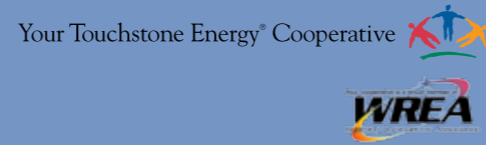


# Manager's Message



October is recognized as National Cooperative Month and Big Horn REA wants to remind its members of some of the benefits of belonging to a cooperative.

1. Democratic Member Control – Besides holding the annual meeting in March of this year, there were district board meetings recently held in Shell (June), Ten Sleep (July), and Lovell (August). These meetings give the members the opportunity to become involved with their cooperative and their five elected board members.

2. Members' Economic Participation – Big Horn returns any profits, known as margins to members in the form of capital credits that are proportionate to the amount a member pays annually towards their electric bill. When determined by the board members, capital credits are refunded as cash payment. In 2015, Big Horn refunded \$964,000.00 in capital credits. In the past 12 years the total cash refunds of capital credits has been nearly \$3.5 million.

3. Autonomy and Independence – Big Horn REA is a self-governing organization owned by

its members. Big Horn has the ability to enter into agreements with other organizations. In 2015, Big Horn refinanced its long term debt that was with the Rural Utilities Services (government loans) to loans with the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC). CFC is a non-profit cooperative that provides lending capital to cooperatives. The refinancing of approximately \$11,000,000.00 in loans will result in a benefit of cash flow and interest savings of nearly \$4,500,000.00 over the life of the loans.

4. Concern for Community – From utilization of unclaimed capital credits, Big Horn provides youth scholarships, youth tour educations, and donations to various community projects.

Big Horn REA was created to serve its member/owners. Your board of directors and employees are dedicated to serving you in a cost effective and professional manner. If you have questions or concerns, we encourage you to contact us.

Thanks for your patronage and BE SAFE.

# HIGHLIGHTS

VOL. 36, ISSUE 9

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

October 2015



## OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH



Every October, cooperatives are recognized for the qualities that make our business model unique: local democratic control, commitment to supporting the communities we serve, providing special programs and services, and the return of margins (the co-op term for profits) back to members in the form of capital credits.

Cooperatives are special. We have an obligation to provide reliable, affordable, and safe electricity, but we take that a step further.

We also have a responsibility to support our members, enrich schools and enhance our communities.

Big Horn REA is one of more than 900 electric cooperatives serving 42 million people in 47 states.

Electric cooperatives were formed because rural communities were struggling for lack of investment. Neighbors banded together and lit up the countryside when no one else would. That's what we celebrate each October.

### 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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### CALL 911



# LIEAP and WAP

**(Low Income Energy Assistance Program and the Weatherization Assistance Program)**

LIEAP is a state and federally funded program that helps people pay home heating bills November through June. The program is open to home owners and renters, and it helps cover the costs of electric, natural gas, propane, wood, diesel heating oil, coal and pellets used for heating a home.

People who are approved for assistance through LIEAP may also be eligible for Weatherization services to make their homes more energy efficient and further lower heating costs. The Weatherization Assistance Program helps households save money on home heating costs by improving energy efficiency.

Weatherizing homes often means adding more insulation, sealing leaks around doors and windows, and it always includes basic health and safety checks. An energy audit determines which weatherization measures will get the biggest bang for the

weatherization dollars spent on each home. Weatherization can save 5-25 percent on home heating bills.

Applications for LIEAP program are available beginning October 1, 2015 and are accepted until February 28, 2016. DFS accepts Weatherization Assistance Program applications every day of the year.

### Winter 2015-2016 Application Information:

Applications will be available on the DFS website <http://dfsweb.state.wy.us/economic-assistance/lieap/index.html>, at local DFS offices, senior centers and at the Big Horn REA office.

To get specific information about your application or to ask that an application be mailed to you, call: 1-800-246-4221.

**Is your application complete? Get it to the LIEAP Office today.**

**Fax:** 307-778-3943

**Mail:** PO Box 827, Cheyenne, WY 82003-0827

**Deliver:** 1401 Airport Parkway, Suite 300 Cheyenne, WY 82001



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Don't let vampires suck the life out of your energy efficiency efforts! Unplugging unused electronics — otherwise known as “energy vampires” — can save you as much as 10 percent on your electric bill.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

# Co-op Connections Updates

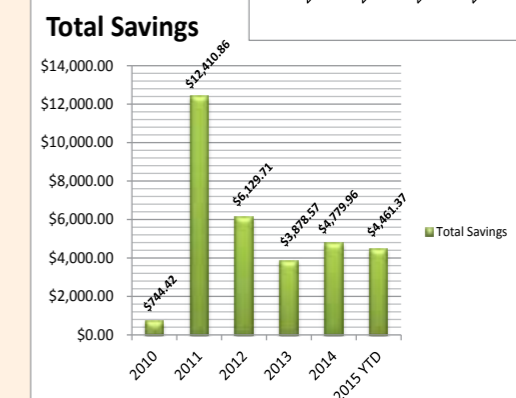
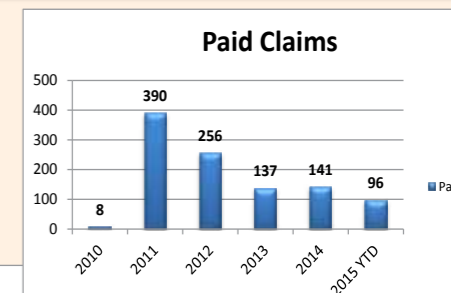
Since we rolled out the Co-op Connections cards in December, 2010, our members have saved

over **\$32,000.00** on prescriptions alone! This number is fantastic, when you take into account that the Co-op Connections card is provided to our members at no cost.

We would like to encourage all of our members to take advantage of this wonderful benefit of the Co-op Connections card. If you have prescription coverage through your insurance plan, please have the pharmacist check the price using the Co-op Connections card as well. Sometimes this will be the cheaper option for you.

As you can see from the charts below, our members are saving. But, we would like to see more of you cashing in on these savings. Not only can you save on prescriptions, but on many other products and services as well. Several local businesses offer discounts to our members. We are looking to add more businesses in all areas we serve. If you need a card, call our office at (800) 564-2419 and we will mail you one, or you can print a card from the website below.

Please check out all of your options at <http://www.connections.coop/index.php?coopID=344>.



## Safety Reminder



Fall is upon us and winter is just around the corner. With winter weather coming soon, it is a good time for a safety reminder of the hazards of downed power lines. Following are a few tips to keep you safe around downed lines.

- If you see a downed power line, call Big Horn REA at 800-564-2419 immediately.
- If someone makes contact with a downed power line, don't try to rescue them because you risk becoming a victim yourself. Call 911.
- Treat all downed or hanging power lines as if they are ENERGIZED and DANGEROUS. Lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be live. Even lines that are de-energized may become energized at any time.
- Stay at least 10 feet away from downed wires. Electricity can travel through the ground; therefore, a live wire touching the ground can harm you even if you don't touch the wire
- Electricity can also travel through tree limbs. Never remove tree limbs or other items that are touching or near a downed wire. Never use any object to move a downed wire. Rubber boots or gloves will not protect you from electric shock.
- Be careful not to put your feet near water where a downed power line is located.
- If you are in your vehicle and it is in contact with a downed line, stay in your vehicle. Warn others not to touch the vehicle and have them call for help.
- If you must leave your car because it's on fire, jump out of the vehicle with both feet together and avoid contact with the live car and the ground at the same time. This way you avoid being the path of electricity from the car to the earth. Shuffle away from the car.
- Do not drive over downed lines.