

September 2013

HIGHLIGHTS

From Big Horn Rural Electric Company

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Your cooperative is a proud member of
WREA
Western Rural Electric Association



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:

Dear Member Owners:

On July 20, 2013, former Director Kevin Anderson passed away. Kevin served as your Director representing District 3 (Ten Sleep/Hyattville area) from 1998 to 2006.

As a Director, Kevin was always prepared for every meeting. He would ask the "tough" questions in a time when your board was dealing with some difficult issues. Kevin was conservative and always had

the membership's best interest in his heart!

Our hearts and prayers go out to his wonderful family - parents Gene and Doris, wife Stephanie, daughter Brittany and son Glen. He will be missed by all that knew him!

Sincerely,

Tom Delaney, President



Kevin Anderson
1968 - 2013

Read Your Meter

Here's the scenario...there was a problem found with a meter. The meter itself was working correctly, but the "Turtle" - the automatic meter reading system - inside the meter was only reading part of the time. Therefore, at billing time, the office downloaded a reading which showed usage, but not the correct usage. When the problem was caught, several months had gone by and the KWh that were used but not billed were significant, hence a large bill was due.

To protect yourself, we encourage you to periodically read your meter on the first of the month and compare the reading to that on your bill. It will be slightly different, as we download as close to the first of the month as possible, but it doesn't always fall

on the first. The reading should be close to what shows on your bill. In this way you can prevent an unexpected high usage bill. To read



your meter, record the five numbers that you see in the face of the meter.

If you find a large difference in the meter reading and what is on your bill please call the office. We thank you for your help in this matter. By working together, we can eliminate these types of unpleasant surprises.

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Manager's Message...

Big Horn REA held its June board meeting in Meeteetse and the July meeting was in Ten Sleep. These meetings were well attended and we appreciate the members who attended the meetings. These district meetings are a great opportunity for you the member/owner to discuss issues with your local board members and become informed on issues affecting the cooperative. Additionally these meetings offer a great time to visit with your friends and neighbors and enjoy a fine lunch.



At these meetings, President Delaney informed those attending some of the following items:

1. Big Horn REA was founded in 1937 and still exists today to serve you – the member/owner. We do not take your business/patronage for granted.
2. Big Horn earnestly tries to manage costs and be effective with our resources. Every month the board reviews such things as: revenues/expenses, work projects, outages, and cash position.
3. In 2014 Big Horn REA does not forecast needing a rate increase on behalf of Big Horn's operations. However, our power supplier, Tri State Generation & Transmission may have a rate increase to generate revenue for regulatory costs, such as environmental and legislative requirements and for other power production requirements.
4. Members need to read your newsletter and keep informed. There may be a time we need to inform you of pending issues that could have an impact on the operations and costs of the cooperative. We want to have your support at the "grass roots" level when necessary. Remember, we want to keep the control of your cooperative at the local level and avoid increasing rates.

During the July meeting, the Wyoming Rural Electric Association's Executive Director, Shawn Taylor spoke



on pending issues such as clean air requirements, liability for wildfire damage costs, and power production requirements. Shawn urged members to "Get Involved" and join the Wyoming Rural Electric Association's Grassroots Network. In the following months more information will be provided regarding the "Grassroots Network". You can also obtain information at www.wyomingrea.org.

BE SAFE.

Co-op Connections Card Puts Value in Your Wallet

Big Horn Rural Electric's commitment to you goes beyond providing safe, reliable, and affordable electricity. We're always looking for ways to provide value to our members and our community, especially during tough economic times. Big Horn REA's Co-op Connections Card is a money-saving tool we're proud to offer our membership. The card connects you with discounts on everything from hotel stays to prescription drugs.

A variety of merchants throughout our community accept the card – Midway Clinic, Valley Hardware, David's Candy Shop, Basin Auto Care and Gottsche Wellness Center. Be sure to present the card at the register to receive your discount!

We hope local businesses participating in the Co-op Connections program benefit from increased traffic from Big Horn REA members. Businesses can sign up for the program at no cost.

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We Serve Our Members Through Safety Education



Basin Line Foreman Fred Sherburne demonstrated what high voltage can do to a tire.

Big Horn Rural Electric Company is committed to providing you with reliable and safe electricity. Part of that commitment includes educating our members and the community about the power and danger of electricity.

Big Horn recently created a high voltage trailer to use for educational purposes. “We want to raise public awareness and share the common ways the public can come into contact with our high voltage lines and the deadly consequences this can have,” stated Assistant Line Superintendent Kendal Wambeke. All of Big Horn’s line crew was involved in the creation of the trailer, and this muscle along with generous donations from

Border States Electric, Midwest Electrical Products, Geotek Pupi, Hubbell Power Systems, Cooper Power Systems and T.E. Connectivity, the concept became a reality.

The debut of the safety demonstration trailer was at the Big Horn County Fair. Line crews had three separate demonstrations that were attended by approximately 300 people. “It was extremely well received,” said

Wambeke. “The most common question we had was some form or other of ‘What would happen if....?’ We had great crowd participation.”

Big Horn is available to provide electrical safety awareness classes to businesses, first responders, fire or police departments, Scout troops or Senior Citizen groups. We will educate any company or organization that would like to educate their employees or members about the danger of electricity. We use visual aids to help bring the safety message alive. We have a tabletop display that illustrates what happens when a kite or ladder comes into contact with an

electrical line. We will also use the high-voltage display that emphasizes the importance of knowing where overhead and underground lines are located.

If your school, community group or other organization is interested in Big Horn presenting an electrical safety program, please contact Kendal Wambeke, Big Horn’s Assistant Line Superintendent at 800-564-2419 or 568-2419.



A good crowd was on hand for the debut of Big Horn REA’s high voltage demonstration trailer at the Big Horn County Fair.

Safety education is another service that enhances the quality of life for you, our members, by enabling you to work and play safely while enjoying the comfort and convenience that electricity brings to your lives.

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The card also gives you access to online savings at more than 95 national retailers like Barnes&Noble.com, Hertz Rental Cars, Best Western hotels and ProFlowers.com. You can check out these great national discounts at www.connections.coop.

One of the most valuable features of the Co-op Connections Card is the pharmacy discount. While it is not insurance, the discount can mean savings of 10 to 60 percent on prescription drugs. The logo and information on the back of your card is recognized at more than 60,000 national, regional, and local pharmacies.

The pharmacy discount has been

widely used by members of Touchstone Energy co-ops across the country, resulting in combined savings of nearly \$20 million on prescriptions. To date, Big Horn REA members have saved over \$22,000.00! Want to find out more? Log on to www.locateproviders.com to search for pharmacies in our area honoring the card. Use code 22203 as the group number under the “Groups” login section. Next, enter your zip code.

As a Touchstone Energy co-op, Big Horn REA strives to serve our members according to four core values: integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community. Our

Co-op Connections Card is one of the ways we live up to those values.

We’re eager to answer any questions you have about the card and how to take advantage of the discounts it provides. Call us at 800-564-2419 to find out more, or log onto www.bighornrea.com.

Co-op Connections® Card



Big Horn Rural Electric Company
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



ALLOCATION NOTICES

It's that time of year again... Big Horn REA has sent out Capital Credit Allocation notices to each member. This is a statement of how much was allocated to your Capital Credit account for the year 2012. This is for informational purposes only. **It is not a bill.** It is not saying you will be receiving this amount of money now. This amount will not be credited to your electric bill.

Because Big Horn REA is a non-profit cooperative, all revenues we receive that are in excess of all expenses, are allocated back to our members based on the amount of power they consumed. These funds are retained by the cooperative and used to build and maintain the electric system. The amount and timing of capital credit distribution is determined by the Board in the exercise of its discretion.

Your capital credits remain on the books in your name and member number until they are retired. Because payments are made approximately 30 years after credits are earned, you should ensure that Big Horn REA always has your current mailing address.



BIG HORN RURAL ELECTRIC COMPANY
208 South Fifth Street PO Box 270
Basin, WY 82410

Dear Member:

This is a statement of the patronage capital that you have furnished your electric cooperative for the year and reflect the current un-retired balance. However, capital credits have no cash value outright and cannot be redeemed to your electric bill.

Patronage Capital represent the cooperative's margins each year - the difference between its income and expenses - allocated to members in proportion to the amount of electricity each member has purchased for the cooperative.

Capital credits are held by the cooperative and the money they represent is used as working capital and equity. Capital credits may be paid back or "retired" to the membership in the form of checks when the financial condition of the cooperative permits. To be decided by your local board of directors. Thank you for your support of Big Horn Rural Electric Company!

Please make sure to notify us if your address changes and you no longer purchase energy from Big Horn REA so we will be able to forward payment(s) when capital credits are refunded for the year or years of your membership with us. Capital credit payments or retirements that remain unclaimed for two years from the date of issue will be considered as donated capital and will be used for member-based programs, such as scholarships, youth hours, and any other purpose that will benefit the cooperative's general membership.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at 1-800-564-2419.

Member Number	Current Allocation	Grand Total	Year
12637	\$80.84	\$159.63	2010

PLEASE REMEMBER:

- THIS IS NOT A BILL. YOU DO NOT OWE THIS AMOUNT.
- THESE AMOUNTS ARE NOT NOW PAYABLE AND DO NOT REPRESENT CASH, BUT RATHER YOUR 2012 EQUITY IN YOUR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE.
- YOU CANNOT APPLY THESE AMOUNTS TO YOUR ELECTRIC BILL.



Big Horn REA
PO Box 270-Basin, WY 82410
YOUR SERVICE RETURN REQUESTED

123 824 4 ANYTOWN, US 98765

HIGHLIGHTS

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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).



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Like homes and other businesses, farms of all types can lower their electricity bills by turning off or reducing use of lights and small equipment in outbuildings. Timers and sensors can help, too. Regular cleaning, maintenance, and seasonal tune-ups help keep larger equipment running at top efficiency.

Source: E Source