



## Come to YOUR 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

*Shining the Light on Service*

### Grand Prize

One lucky member will win a \$500 bill credit!

#### Registration

9:00 am to 10:30 am

#### Meeting

10:30 am to 12:00 noon

#### Register by 10:30 am

Every member that registers by 10:30 am will receive a \$50 bill credit

#### Have lunch on us

Lunch served at noon



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### DID YOU KNOW

If all our nation's households swapped just one incandescent light bulb with an Energy Star Certified LED bulb, we would save enough energy to light more than 2 million homes for a year.

### CLOSED

*Big Horn REA offices will be closed Monday, February 18th in observance of Presidents' Day.*



## Jan Barnett

### District #2

I was born in Hot Springs, SD. I attended school at Tongue River and have attended numerous classes in marketing, computer and business. I've lived in the Shell area for 39 years. I was employed at Wheelers IGA in Basin for 13 years and performed duties in most departments of the store. I worked my way up to managing the bakery/deli where my duties were scheduling, ordering, marketing and inventory. My husband of 32 years, Fred Barnett and myself own and operate Barnett Ranch between Shell

and Greybull. I'm actively engaged in the farming and ranching operation. I started my business Quilting By The Creek in 2003 which I own and operate. I was the first woman to be elected to the Big Horn County FSA Committee serving 9 years (3 terms). I'm currently the Shell Creek Reservoir secretary also helping husband Fred with the water regulation on both Shell Reservoir and Adelaide throughout the irrigation season. I'm a hunter and a lifetime member of NRA, I've served on the Shell Community Hall Board, the Chief Election Judge in the Shell Precinct

and have served for numerous years on the Big Horn REA Advisory Committee for the annual meeting.

If elected to Big Horn's Board of Directors I would serve the members to the best of my ability being conservative with a common sense and honest approach.



## Dan Vanderploeg

### District #2

Who is Dan VanderPloeg? I wasn't born in Wyoming although my parents fled IA and the high land costs as soon as they were able. From the age of 2 I lived on a farm between Greybull and Basin. Going to both High Schools and graduating without honors from Riverside in 94. Shortly thereafter I went to UW and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Agriculture. I sought my fame and fortune in Colorado for a time before the pull of the Cowboy state and real freedom brought me home again.

I now raise three children 12 miles east of Greybull. I am a member of Basin Baptist church and can be found there

Sunday morning if you're looking for me. I work daily with farmers from all over WY and MT as an agronomist for Dow/Dupont and see specifically how center pivots and the power that runs them is changing agriculture in our Area. I have managed large groups of sales people in CO and know how to intermediate between diverse opinions. I also own a large real estate company in CO (run from here in WY). As both an entrepreneur and a W2 Employee I have experience from both sides of the budget line.

Should you decide to elect me to the Big Horn REA Board you will find that I am an even tempered easy to get along with,

stubborn man. I enjoy my life and freedom here and will do whatever I can to pass that way of life down to my children. Ultimately this means keeping power accessible, affordable, and lowering regulatory burdens when possible.

I appreciate your vote!



## Steve Helburn

### District #2

I was born and raised on a small farm outside of Bozeman, Montana, participating in 4-H and spending summers and vacations working on various ranches.

After four years in the Navy, where I qualified as a First Class Diver, I attended Oregon State University on the GI Bill obtaining an engineering degree with highest honors.

I worked for 10 years with CBI Industries as a welder, diver and engineer and eventually Manager of the Underwater Construction Division. Then I went to Oceaneering International for 20 years starting as General Manager of the Gulf Coast Division and eventually Senior VP of Worldwide Operations. CBI and Oceaneering gave me the opportunity to live and work all over the world including extended periods in places like Scotland, Brazil, the Middle East and Asia as well as Houston and Louisiana.

While with CBI I spent two years as a Board Member of the Association of Diving Contractors (a contractor organization with over 400 member companies), later returning for several years with Oceaneering in-

cluding two years as President. I received the Galletti Award for "significant achievements in the field of commercial diving" and was inducted into the Commercial Diving Hall of Fame in 2005.

In 1998 I opted for a complete change of pace and moved to Bear Creek Ranch north of Shell becoming a member of BHREA. I believe I was the first person to have renewable power on BHREA, a mini-hydro system I installed myself, during which time I worked with most of the BHREA management and employees.

Since I am selling my ranch and moving closer to town I will have more available time and would like to give back to the Big Horn community. I think working with BHREA best fits my education and experience.



## Annual Meeting Coming March 23, 2019

The theme for this year's meeting is "Shining the Light on Service". Registration for the Annual Meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. 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.

### Director Election

During the meeting you will elect directors to represent you on the board. The 2019 Nominating Committee has nominated Jan Barnett, Steve Helburn and Dan Vander-

Ploeg as candidates for director in District 2 - Greybull/Shell area and John Joyce as candidate for director in District 3 - Ten Sleep/Hyattville area. Their candidate profiles are in this 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 by 10:30am will receive a \$50 energy bill credit! The meeting will conclude with a meal of ham, cheesy potatoes, salad, rolls and cupcakes.

During the week of March 11th, each member will receive in the mail their complete Annual Meeting brochure and proxy. Make plans now to attend!!

February 2019

## John Joyce

### District #3

I appreciate the opportunity to run for the Big Horn Rural Electric Company Board. My wife Nancy and I have farmed outside of Manderson since 1980. We have two sons, Sam and Jeff. I am also the manager for the South Big Horn County Rural Water District and Big Horn Regional Water System. I have a B.S. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Wyoming. I have served on the Big Horn Rural Electric Company Board of Directors for four terms now and have completed the Credentialed Cooperative Director Program. I have enjoyed serving on the board in the past and would appreciate your vote for another term. Thank you for your support!



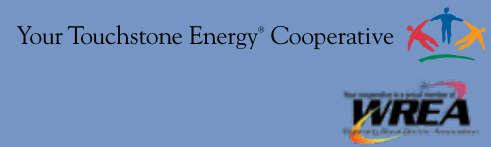
## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Laundry Tip: Dry towels and heavier cottons separately from lighter-weight clothing. You'll spend less time running the dryer for lighter-weight items, which saves energy.

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



# Manager's Message



I want to report on just several items from the year of 2018. First, thanks to all of Big Horn's dedicated employees for practicing safe work habits and having no lost time accidents/injuries in 2018. Big Horn's last lost time accident was in March 2013. Big Horn is also concerned about the safety of our members and the general public. Please be aware when operating equipment near power lines. We just recently had an operator get a track hoe tangled with a guy wire and break two poles. So please be reminded: Safety: Think About It!

Also, in 2018 your board of directors authorized the payment of capital credits in the amount of \$650,000.00. In the past, checks were usually provided at the Annual Meeting and those checks not picked up were then mailed. Instead, this year the checks were sent just before Christmas to those members receiving service during the years of 1996 – 1998. Thus, in the

past four years nearly \$4,200,000.00 has been refunded to you the member/owners of your local electric cooperative. Please note we still want our members to attend the upcoming Annual Meeting on March 23, 2019 but remember the capital credit checks were sent and will not be handed out.

Some of the fires that occurred in California in 2018 presumably from power lines are a reminder of the risk your cooperative faces with power lines on Forest Service land. Your board for years has attempted to meet with area Forest Service representatives and get a viable vegetation management plan approved that would reduce risks from trees that come into contact with our power lines. The recent California fires will certainly be creating discussions relative to liability due to a wildfire or extreme outage situation. Big Horn will continue to work for appropriate measures in the upcoming year.

We feel that 2019 started off very well and hope that you noticed for the second year in a row Big Horn has had no increase from our wholesale power provider Tri-State Generation & Transmission, and hence no pass-through rate increase/adjustment. Coupled with that, Big Horn has not raised rates for a general rate increase since 2015.

Also, in 2019 your cooperative will be work on such projects as: building/upgrading lines to improve system capacity; testing of poles; tree removal; and new services. Just in the past week, Big Horn has had requests for the possibility of ten new services. We will continue with our efforts of providing reliable power.

We hope you attend the upcoming annual meeting, that you follow us on Facebook, and that 2019 is a positive year.

Be Safe.

## HIGHLIGHTS

is an official publication of  
BIG HORN RURAL  
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.

### Board of Directors

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