

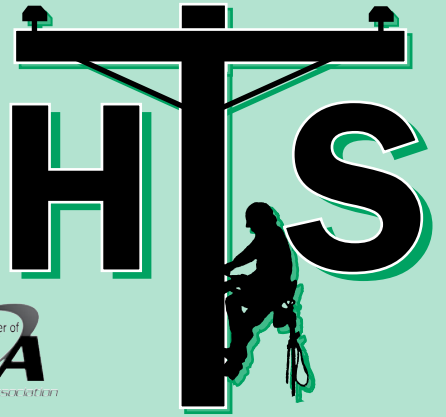
March 2014

# HIGHLIGHTS

From Big Horn Rural Electric Company

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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



## Dear Big Horn Rural Electric Company Member-Owners:

It is annual meeting time for your electric cooperative. The 75th annual meeting will be held on March 15, 2014, at the Greybull High School gym, beginning at 11:00 A.M. The election of Directors for District 1 (Burlington, Emblem, Otto) and District 4 (Meeteetse) will be held. Reports concerning the condition of your company and challenges we are facing in the years ahead will be presented.

Your Board of Directors,

Management and dedicated Employees are committed to continue to provide you, the member-owners, the best possible service at the lowest cost, using sound business practices. The success of your company has been brought about by local control and member-owners like yourself participating in your annual meeting.

Please plan to attend or at least be represented by proxy.

Regards,

Thomas P. Delaney  
Board President



## ANNUAL MEETING March 15, 2014



**HOWDY  
PARTNERS!  
Riding into a  
promising  
future...**

### Inside...

<b>Director Candidates .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Notice of Annual Meeting.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>How Do I Get There?.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Why The Jump In My Bill?.....</b>	<b>4</b>

# Director Candidates

**Donald M.  
Russell**  
District #1



I have resided in Basin my entire life. My wife, Cheri, and I have been members of Big Horn REA for 30 years.

I received my accounting degree from the University of Wyoming. I am currently a partner in Russell & Russell, CPA's with my son Richard, in Basin.

Cheri and I are also involved with farming/ranching with Richard, who is also a member of Big Horn REA. We are very aware and appreciative of the continued excellent service that Big Horn REA provides its members.

Having received both the NRECA Credentialed Director and Board Leadership Certification, I am able to continue in the position with a working knowledge of the Board and its commitments. My accounting experience in budgeting and finance will also be an asset to the Board.

As a past county commissioner, I can bring to the Board a background of dealing with the rural communities and their concerns.

If re-elected to the Big Horn REA Board, I will do my best to continue to serve as a leader and meet the challenges of providing affordable services and at the same time keeping the distribution system modern and up-to-date in a growing cooperative.

I would appreciate your vote for District #1 Director.

**Merilee Kathy  
Gilbreath**  
District #4



I was born in Thermopolis, Wyoming and raised on the family ranch on Owl Creek. Life experiences have been an Officer and Branch Manager in banking, served on County and District Boards in Hot Springs and Park County and ownership of Gilbreath Cattle Company. I currently own a respite business for adult and child brain injury patients. My husband Don and I have three children, four grandsons and one granddaughter. I enjoy being outdoors working with livestock, sewing and reading.

I appreciate you allowing me to serve as the Director from District 4, the Meeteetse area. It has been an honor, with challenging and awesome responsibility. I have been a consumer of rural electric co-op energy for 50 years and understand why co-ops were formed and why they are so important to our rural communities. Your board works on rate issues, power supply, system reliability, and system growth while improving service. I attend Director training education classes, State and regional meetings that give me the information and knowledge needed to make informed decisions affecting the welfare of our co-op. I sincerely believe that by working together, the management team, the employees, and the Board of Directors under your local control, we have a financially sound company.

Come to YOUR annual meeting. It's important!!

If re-elected, I will continue to work for what is best for all members of our co-op, Big Horn Rural Electric, in supplying reliable, reasonably priced electricity to our rural communities, industries and agriculture. I would appreciate your vote to serve another 3 years as Director on your Big Horn REA Board.

# NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The 75th Annual Meeting of Big Horn Rural Electric Company will be held at the Greybull High School Gymnasium in Greybull, Wyoming on Saturday, March 15, 2014 at 11 a.m. for the purpose of electing a director from Directorate District #1 and Directorate District #4 and to receive and vote on reports covering the previous fiscal year and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

/s/ John Joyce, Secretary



## How Do I Get There?



To get to the Annual Meeting, take Highway 16-20 through Greybull to Ron's Food Farm. Turn west on 9th Avenue North. Follow the signs to the Greybull High School Gymnasium.



Professional day care of children during the meeting will be available at the Li'l Red Wagon Day Care. To get to Li'l Red Wagon Day Care, turn east at the stoplight. At the last street before the Big Horn River bridge, turn right. Li'l Red Wagon Day Care is approximately three blocks down on the right. It is located at 300 3rd Ave S. They can be reached at 765-2227.

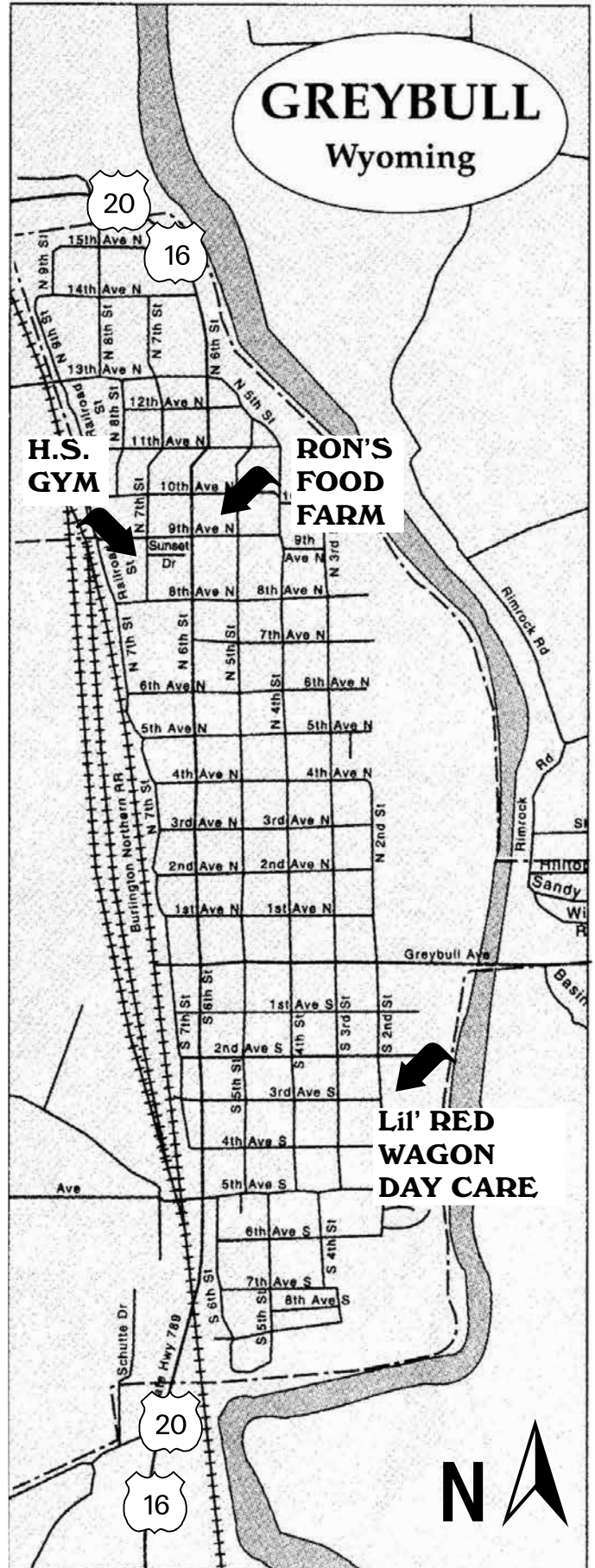
## AGENDA

- 9:45 a.m. Registration Begins, View Displays
- 11:00 a.m. Business Session Begins
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch is Served
- 1:00 p.m. Reconvene Meeting

## Lunch

Spiral ham, cheesy hashbrown casserole, baked beans, tossed green salad, rolls, cookies

- Election for Director in
- District #1 - Burlington, Emblem, Otto area
- District #4 - Meeteetse area



# Why the jump in my bill?

When Old Man Winter is working his magic outside, spending the day inside baking bread or snuggling on the sofa with a stack of DVDs is a good way for you to stay warm. Thinking about your electricity use is not likely high on your list of concerns. You throw in a load of laundry or turn on the home computer, confident in your power source. Not until the next month when your power bill arrives do you wonder, "Why is my power bill so high?"

This time of year it is not uncommon for Big Horn REA employees to receive calls concerning higher power bills: "I wasn't even home," "I never change my thermostat," "I'm sure the meter isn't working correctly, because I have nothing plugged in."

Even when no one is home, your house is busy keeping things running. Refrigerators, freezers, water heaters and heat all continue to work even if you are not home. Keeping your home hot or cold, depending on the season, accounts for a big chunk of your annual budget.

Colder temperatures outside cause your heat to come on inside, and your increased use reflects that. Your use typically mirrors the outside temperatures. While your thermostat setting is the same, the colder temperatures outside require your heating system to run more often.

Some of the common causes of high bill complaints are the following:

**\*\* Space Heaters:** Sizes from 600-1,500 watts on 10 hours a day can drive your bill up by \$12 to \$29 per heater a month. Use space heaters sparingly. If you're considering a new space heater, do some research. Some claim they'll save you 50 percent on your electric bill, but a 1,500 watt heater by any manufacturer plugged in for 24 hours will use the same amount of electricity and cost you the same.

**\*\*Engine Block Heaters:** Sizes vary from 1,000-1,800 watts and can add \$23 to \$42 a month. You only have to plug most vehicles in for one or two hours before starting. Consider purchasing an outdoor rated timer and extension cord.

**\*\*Stock Tank Heaters:** Sizes vary from 750 to 1,500 watts and can run \$34 to \$70 per month in the coldest months. Look for low-use or energy efficient models.

**\*\*Well Pumps:** A 2-horse power (hp) pump with a broken shut-off switch or faulty check valve will run non-stop and consume about 1,500 watts an hour. This added load could boost your monthly bill by \$69.

If you suspect that your bill is artificially high, start with a load test. Turn all your breakers off and while one person watches the meter, turn each breaker back on one at a time to see which makes the meter spin the fastest. Whatever is on that breaker is making your bill higher.

Learn more about saving energy costs at [www.TogetherWeSave.com](http://www.TogetherWeSave.com), or on the Big Horn REA website at [www.bighornrea.com](http://www.bighornrea.com).



## Energy Efficiency

### *Tip of the Month*

Programmable thermostats can save up to \$160 a year in energy costs. Match thermostat settings to your schedule: cold when you're away and warm when you're at home. In winter, set the thermostat to 68 degrees during the day (lower at night when you're snug in bed). By turning your thermostat down 10 to 15 degrees for at least eight hours, you can shave 5 to 15 percent from your heating costs.

Source: [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com), U.S. Department of Energy

# HIGHLIGHTS

is an official publication of  
**BIG HORN RURAL  
ELECTRIC COMPANY**



Touchstone Energy®

Box 270                      VOLUME 35 NO. 2  
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)

---

**Board of Directors**  
Tom Delaney ..... President  
Greybull • 765-4732  
[tomdelaney@bighornrea.com](mailto:tomdelaney@bighornrea.com)

Kathy Gilbreath ..... Vice President  
Meeteetse • 868-2261  
[kathygilbreath@bighornrea.com](mailto:kathygilbreath@bighornrea.com)

John Joyce ..... Secretary  
Manderson • 568-2514  
[njoyce@tctwest.net](mailto:njoyce@tctwest.net)

Don Russell ..... Treasurer  
Basin • 568-2019  
[donrussell@tctwest.net](mailto:donrussell@tctwest.net)

Charles Monk ..... Ass't. Secretary  
Lovell • 548-6686  
[charliemonk@bighornrea.com](mailto:charliemonk@bighornrea.com)

---

**Staff and Crew**  
John Balch                      Fred Sherburne  
Todd Herman                      Gael Sosa  
Carrie Hunt                      Ron Tilley  
Sheila Kampbell                      Kendal Wambeke  
Bill Phillips                      Colton Whisonant  
Kyle Reimer

---

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).