

Remember to Use Caution When **Burning**

Each spring, all across Big Horn REA's territory, members prepare to burn ditches and fields for the upcoming growing season. And, every spring, Big Horn's employees witness damage being done to co-op poles and equipment by "controlled" burns. Please be aware that burning or even scorching a pole will compromise the integrity of the structure.

Power poles are treated with a protective coating that prevents moisture from entering the core of the pole and causing deterioration. If a pole is scorched or blackened, the protective coating is damaged. Though it may appear as just a discoloration or slight burn, this is in fact, damage to the pole. This will significantly shorten the life of a power pole. This pole may then become a hazard and could cause an outage.

Big Horn once again reminds members to plan burning before you begin. It is much cheaper to prevent a pole from catching fire than to pay for a new pole. Members will be held liable for the replacement cost

of pole(s) and/or equipment due to fire damage. This cost may vary from \$1,000 to more than \$2,000 depending on the structure of the pole and equipment. It only takes a little extra effort to prevent pole damage and help control costs for you and your cooperative.

Burning of pastures and ditches does not have to result in the burning/scorching of power poles. If there are power poles in the area to be burned, clear the vegetation/weeds at least four feet around the base of the pole and wet the base of the pole with water before beginning to burn.

If the fire does get away from you and a pole becomes engulfed in flames, immediately call the fire department and Big Horn REA. Do not spray water close to the power lines! Water and electricity do not mix! This may cause a short circuit.



You and/or the firefighters could be in the path of that current and serious injury or death may result.

Report any fire-damaged pole to Big Horn REA immediately. Not reporting the damage may cause a serious accident to happen later. A pole that has been burned through is likely to fall over. This can leave the energized lines about a foot off the ground. If a person comes into contact with the line, they most likely will be seriously burned or even killed. This carelessness could cost a life!

SAFETY: Think About It

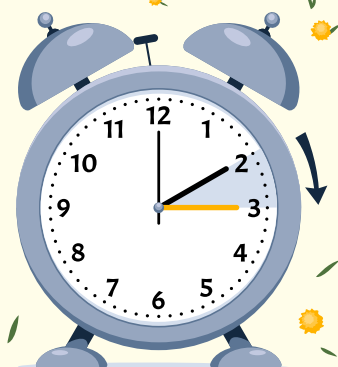
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DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME


SPRING FORWARD

March 12, 2023



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

DISTRICT MEETINGS



Big Horn Rural Electric Company
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

One of the benefits of belonging to a cooperative is local access to the Board of Directors that you have elected. Big Horn REA would like to invite you to the next district meeting in your district.

This is the schedule for the meetings in each district. Each meeting will go from 5:30pm-6:00pm with dinner to follow from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

May 3rd: Meeteetse School Cafeteria catered by Pablo's Salsa Shack

May 4th: Shell Community Hall catered by Shell Store

May 9th: Ten Sleep School Cafeteria catered by Sleepy Coyote

May 10th: Burlington Fire Hall catered by Bean Baron BBQ

May 11th: Deaver Community Hall catered by 310 Restaurant

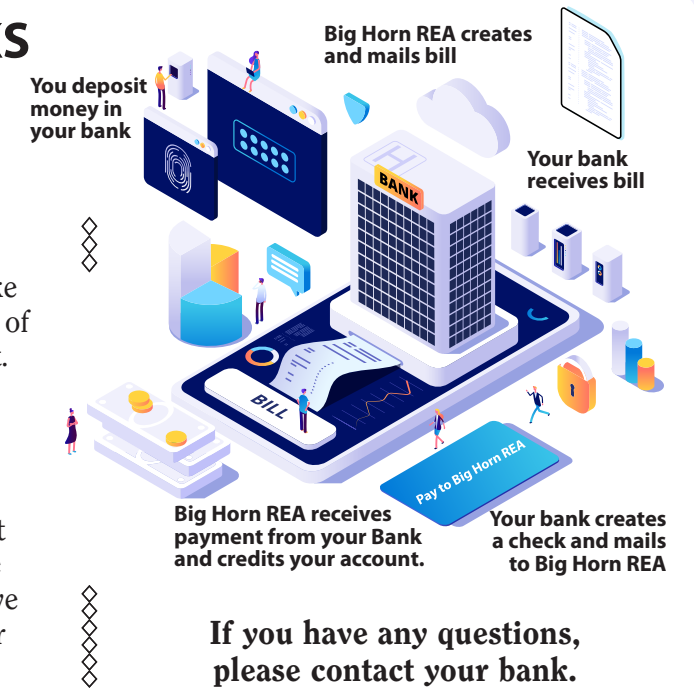
Board members and prospective candidates for 2023 elections will be in attendance. Everyone will have time to meet with the board. We encourage you all to take advantage of this opportunity to learn about Big Horn REA!

It's YOUR company!

HOW BILL PAY WORKS

Attention Bill Pay Payers!

We have been getting quite a few calls from members who use Bill Pay. The misconception comes when members think that the day they make the payment/the payment comes out of their account we receive the payment. Unfortunately, we don't receive it that same day. The bank you use for bill pay then prints a check and mails it to us which typically takes 5-6 business days, but with the mail it might take a little longer. The day we receive these checks is the day that we process the payment and post to your account.



Is your electric bill higher than your neighbor's? Why?

FACT: Your electric bill reflects the amount of electricity used by you and your family in your home.

- Does your neighbor have fewer people living in and visiting the home?
- Is the neighbor's house smaller? Newer? Better insulated? Does it have new windows and doors?
- How much hot water does your neighbor use? And what about your neighbor's use of appliances and lighting?
- What is your thermostat setting in summer and winter, compared to your neighbor?

No matter how similar you think your house is to your neighbors, you can never know what exactly is going on in the other house. It's like comparing apples and oranges...it just doesn't compute.





HAPPY Saint Patrick's Day

-MARCH 17-



BIG HORN REA HISTORY QUIZ

History Quiz - Circle the correct answer to each question and return this quiz to the Big Horn REA office between now and April 14th for a chance to win a \$50 bill credit! One winner will be drawn from all correct quizzes returned. The answers will be printed in next month's newsletter!

Questions and choices are as follows:

1. Where was Big Horn's first office located?

- a. Methodist Church
- b. Basin Library
- c. Basin Courthouse

2. Who was the longest serving board member?

- a. Foster Mills
- b. Nahne Jensen
- c. George Hinman
- d. Tom Delaney

3. How much was the original membership fee?

- a. \$2.00
- b. None
- c. \$5.00

4. From Oct 1, 1937 to Nov 15, 1937 how many miles of line were built?

- a. 85
- b. 72
- c. 43

5. In 1938 Big Horn turned on the lights to 225 homes; at the end of 1940 how many homes had electricity?

- a. 300
- b. 1,100
- c. 975
- d. 850

6. From 1938 to 1949 the board meetings were held at 8 pm as President Ralph Mercer had the meeting changed to 2 pm because?

- a. Worked better for his schedule
- b. Weather
- c. Saw a ghost
- d. Allowed members time to attend board meetings

8. What happened to Kane, WY?

- a. Destroyed by fire
- b. Consolidated with Lovell
- c. Flooded with creation of Yellowtail Dam
- d. None of the above

9. In May, 1938, 3 months after getting power, the Otto church was requesting power for?

- a. A larger church building
- b. Softball fields
- c. Street lighting

10. Meeteetse Light & Power was purchased by Big Horn in 1939 for the sum of?

- a. \$4,000
- b. \$10,000
- c. \$6,500

11. How much was the 1st REA loan for?

- a. \$50,000
- b. \$250,000
- c. \$82,000

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Washing windows and screens is a great way to practice energy efficiency during spring cleaning. Clean windows and screens make your home brighter by allowing more sunlight in, reducing the need for lamps and fixtures. Clean screens also allow more fresh air in the home when the windows are open to recycle indoor air. Natural light and clean air are energy savers, and they enhance overall health and productivity.



Source: energy.gov

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).

Big Horn Rural Electric Company is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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