



PREMA

July 2019

PLUGGED IN WITH . . .
Panhandle Rural Electric Membership Association

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PREMA's 74th Annual Meeting

Panhandle Rural Electric Membership Association (PREMA) held its 74th Annual Meeting Thursday, May 30 in Alliance.

RD Sutphen, President of the Board for PREMA, called the meeting to order and reported on the results of the director election. Bryan Monahan and Marty Larsen were elected to three-year terms both from District #1.

President Sutphen reported that 2018 was a good year both financially and operationally. Sutphen thanked the employees for their work over the past year, noting their contribution to a successful year.

General Manager, Ryan Reiber, reviewed the 2018 Report to Members with a series of slides highlighting the previous year's operational activities and financial condition.

Reiber reported that 2018 was a successful year in terms of safety. There were no Lost Time Accidents in 2018 and there has been no Lost Time Accidents since 2011. PREMA also kept its very favorable Workers Compensation Experience Rating which was well below the State average for the seventh straight year.

Reiber informed the attendees, PREMA invested nearly \$1,400,000 in upgrades and replacements of infrastructure which included 777 new poles and 177,000 feet of new conductor (wire). Net margins for 2018 were \$399,772 with operating margins at negative \$17,067. **PREMA returned \$426,536 of capital credits to its members with over \$10,000,000 being returned to members since inception.**

Four PREMA employees were recognized for achieving milestone years of service in the calendar year 2018 which included: Nick Paradeis, 10 years; Lorealee Young, 5 years; Kayla Kulas, 5 years and Ryan Reiber, 30 years.

Reiber gave several examples of how PREMA gives back to the membership and the area communities which included: the WNCC Utility Line Program, economic development loans, energy efficiency rebates and college scholarships.

Reiber also touched on some of the new technology PREMA is using which allows members to save money and bring more efficiency to PREMA. PREMA offers Smart Hub, which permits the members to view their account information, compare weather history and billing data. PREMA currently has 510 accounts using autopay. PREMA is using Facebook and the website to inform and communicate with members. This year's annual meeting was available live on Facebook.

Thank You for Your Service!

Recently four PREMA employees celebrated some milestones years of service. Paul Grosz, Operations Manager, celebrated 40 years. Boone Manion, Alliance Foreman and Tim Sherlock, Load Control/SCADA Coordinator each celebrated 20 years. Doug Hickox, Alliance Journeyman Lineman, celebrated 5 years. Thank you all for your continued service to PREMA and our members.



Pictured left to right: Paul Grosz, Boone Manion, Tim Sherlock and Doug Hickox



Have a happy and safe 4th of July!!

Our office will be closed Thursday, July 4 and Friday, July 5 so our employees can celebrate with their families.

Don't Sacrifice Safety for Speed During Harvest

For many farmers, the harvest season is a flurry of activity with long hours and little rest. The pressure to harvest as much as possible — in combination with fatigue and looming deadlines — can result in too little attention being paid to potential hazards. Safe practices should never be compromised for the sake of speed. Doing so could potentially end in tragedy.

Farmers and agricultural workers have dangerous occupations. One of the causes of injury and death in the agricultural industry is electrocution. Of those injuries, overhead power lines are the most common cause of electrocution.

If you are a farm operator or worker, be aware of the location of power lines and keep the following safety guidelines in mind during the harvest season:

- Always use a spotter when operating large machinery near lines.
- Use care when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from lines — at all times, in all directions.
- Inspect the height of the farm equipment to determine clearance.
- Always remember to lower extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If a power line is sagging or low, call PREMA.
- If your equipment does hit a power line do not leave the cab. Immediately call 911, warn others to stay away, and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.



The only reason to exit equipment that has come into contact with overhead lines is if the equipment is on fire, which is very rare. However, if this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area. To help ensure a safe harvest, stay alert for power lines, exercise caution, and always put safety first. If you or someone you know would like more information on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When it's warm out, avoid using the oven. Try cooking on the stove, using the microwave or grilling outside instead.

Source: *energy.gov*



Notes From Load Management

With the abundant moisture, PREMA has not controlled the month of May or first fifteen days of June. Load Management is active June, July, August and September. When control is active, participants in Load management can verify which groups are being controlled by going to PREMA's web site at www.prema.coop. Load control status can be viewed on smart phones via PREMA's web site. Status can also be checked by calling the office, during regular and after hours.



Serving Arthur, Box Butte, Cherry, Dawes, Garden, Grant, Hooker, McPherson, Morrill, Sheridan and Sioux Counties

PREMA

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OPERATIONS AND STAFF

**Ryan Reiber—General Manager
Paul Grosz—Operations Manager
Dale Knapp—Staking Engineer
Janet Toedtli—Office Coordinator**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Dale Berndt — Lakeside
Michael Collins — Alliance
Wayne Crawford — Alliance
Marty Larsen — Whitman
Bryan Monahan — Hyannis
RD Sutphen — Lakeside
Phil Zochol — Alliance

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