



May 2019

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Panhandle Rural Electric Membership Association

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PREMA

74th Annual Meeting

Where: PREMA Office Conference Room, Alliance

When: Thursday, May 30, 2019

2:00 pm

On January 26, 2016, the board approved changing the meeting to a basic format. This change will help use the membership money wisely while still providing an adequate annual meeting. The following is additional information on the meeting.

- The annual meeting will be in conjunction with the regular board meeting lasting less than 20 minutes.
- There will be light refreshments served and will be a great opportunity to visit with Directors and PREMA staff.
- The annual meeting will consist of mainly brief reports about the finances and other major happenings of the coop. This information is also available anytime during our regular business hours.



Preparation and Awareness are Keys for Farm Electrical Safety

Farming is among the more dangerous occupations for several reasons, including potential for encounters with electrical hazards. Before taking to the fields, the Safe Electricity program urges farm workers to be aware of overhead power lines and to keep equipment and extensions far away from them.

Safe Electricity encourages farm managers to share this information with their families and workers to keep them safe from electrical accidents.

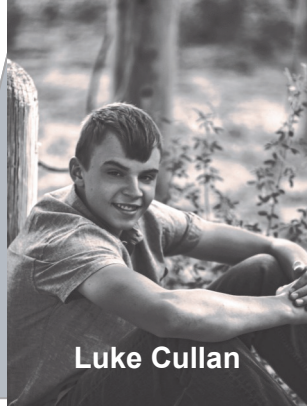
- Start each morning by planning your day's work. Know what jobs will happen near power lines and have a plan to keep the assigned workers safe.
- Keep yourself and equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines in all directions, at all times. Use a spotter when moving tall equipment and loads.
- Use care when raising augers or the bed of a grain truck. It can be difficult to estimate distance, and sometimes, a power line is closer than it looks. Use a spotter to make certain you stay far away from power lines.
- Always lower equipment extensions, portable augers, or elevators to their lowest possible level, under 14 feet, before moving or transporting them. Wind, uneven ground, shifting weight, or other conditions can cause you to lose control of equipment and make contact with power lines.
- Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting larger modern tractors with higher antennas.
- Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path. If power lines near your property have sagged over time, call your utility to repair them.
- Don't use metal poles when breaking up bridged grain inside and around bins.
- As in any outdoor work, be careful not to raise any equipment, such as ladders, poles, or rods, into power lines. Remember, non-metallic materials, such as lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes, and hay, will conduct electricity, depending on dampness and dust and dirt contamination.
- Use qualified electricians for work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems.

If you are on equipment that contacts a power line, do not exit the equipment. When you step off the equipment, you become the electricity's path to ground and could receive a potentially fatal shock. Wait until utility workers have de-energized the line and confirmed it is safe for you to exit the vehicle. If the vehicle is on fire and you must exit, jump clear of the vehicle with both feet together. Hop as far from the vehicle as you can with your feet together. Keep your feet together to prevent current flow through your body, which could be deadly.

Electrical work around the farm can also pose hazards. Often, the need for an electrical repair comes when a farmer has been working long hours and is fatigued. At such times, it's best to step back and wait until you've rested.

PREMA's 2019-2020 Scholarship Winners

Eight area students will receive scholarship funds from PREMA and its power suppliers. Ryan Reiber, General Manager of PREMA, announced that Abigail Elder, Megan Oligmueller, Madison Reiber and Ezra Ray of Alliance, Vonn Dubs of Ashby, Zane Musgrave of Bingham, Luke Cullan and Jacob Horstman of Hemingford will receive scholarships from PREMA, Basin Electric Power Cooperative of North Dakota and Tri-State Generation and Transmission of Denver, Colorado.



Luke Cullan

Luke Cullan will be a freshman; he is going to attend the University of Wyoming and will be studying Finance. His parents are Joei and Chris Cullan of Hemingford. **Photograph by Just Shoot Me Photography*



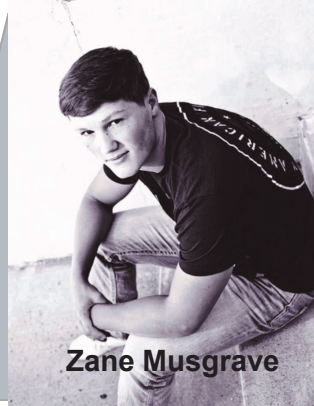
Megan Oligmueller

Megan Oligmueller will be a freshman. She is planning to study either Early Childhood Education or Athletic Training and will be attending the University of Nebraska-Kearney. Her parents are Jenny and Kevin Oligmueller from Alliance. **Photograph by Heidi Barnes Photography*



Jacob Horstman

Jacob Horstman, son of Kay and Rex Horstman of Hemingford, will be a senior at Bryan College of Health Sciences. His major is Biomedical Sciences. He will receive \$1,000 from Basin Electric Power Cooperative. **Photograph by Clicks by Kim*



Zane Musgrave

Zane Musgrave, also an incoming freshman, will be attending Chadron State College. He is undecided on his major. Zane's parents are Jacki and Scott Musgrave of Bingham.



Abigail Elder

Abigail Elder was the winner of the \$500 Chadron State College Foundation Scholarship. Abigail will be a Senior at Chadron State College studying Business Accounting. She is the daughter of Lisa and Allen Bright from Alliance.

PREMA awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to Madison Reiber and \$500 each to Luke Cullan and Zane Musgrave.



Madison Reiber

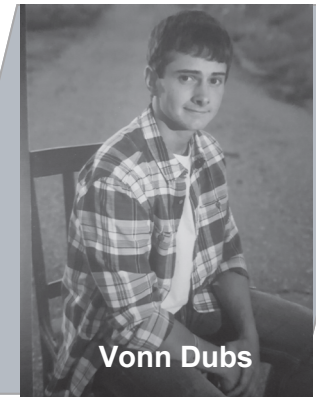
Madison Reiber will be a senior at the University of Nebraska-Kearney. Her major is Advertising and Public Relations. She is the daughter of Nancy and Ryan Reiber from Alliance.

The Tri-State Scholarships, \$500 each, were awarded to Ezra Ray and Megan Oligmueller.



Ezra Ray

Ezra Ray will be a sophomore attending Eastern Wyoming College where he is studying Welding and Joining Technology. His parents are Kayla Kulas of Alliance and Paul Ray of Hemingford. **Photograph by Blue Skies Photography Studio*



Vonn Dubs

Vonn Dubs was awarded the \$1,000 WNCC Powerline Scholarship, sponsored by PREMA. He will be attending the Powerline School in June. His parents are Tammie and Troy Dubs from Ashby. **Photograph by Audrey Powles Photography and Design*

The PREMA, Tri-State and Basin Scholarship winners were chosen at random from twenty applicants who met all of the qualifications. All entrants are dependents of PREMA members or PREMA employees. The scholarships are offered annually to students in PREMA's service territory.

2019 Youth Energy Leadership Camp

Nebraska State 4-H Camp, Halsey, NE

July 8-12, 2019

This camp is FREE to children of PREMA members who are currently in the 9th, 10th or 11th grade.

Please contact our office by May 15th for an application.



Notes From Load Management

The Load Management program is in place and ready to initiate control when the kW peak occurs during months May thru September. PREMA’s kW peak can happen anytime between the hours of 12 noon and 10:00 PM Monday through Saturday. PREMA uses past kW history to assist in determining when load control is implemented. We also monitor weather patterns and possible rain showers that move through PREMA’s territory. By curtailing kW during the monthly peak, it provides a savings on PREMA’s power bill. This savings is then passed back to participating irrigation accounts that are signed up for Load Management.



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

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