



# PREMA

October 2020

PLUGGED IN WITH . . .

Panhandle Rural Electric Membership Association

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October 2020

Dear Member:

The PREMA Board of Directors approved a general retirement of patronage capital at their meeting held September 1, 2020. Since 1976, PREMA has returned more than \$9,110,000 in member's equity, which demonstrates financial stability and helps keep the cost of electricity as low as possible.

**The 2020 total retirement of member's equity payment to members is \$399,816. The checks were mailed late September.**

The retirement payment is calculated by taking one twenty fifth (1/25) of the PREMA Patronage Capital Account balance and the cash payments received from other sources such as Tri-State, CFC and Federated, for PREMA membership equity retirements. The 2020 retirement allowed PREMA to refund the rest of 1998 and a portion of 1999 PREMA allocated margins.

As a bonus, PREMA offers estates a discounted lump sum payment based on the present dollar value of future payments owed to the estate. If you represent a member estate and want to take advantage of this option, please contact the office.

Sincerely,

*Ryan Reiber*

Ryan Reiber  
General Manager



# THIS LADY IS RETIRING

**TWENTY FOUR YEARS AND SEVEN MONTHS OF DEDICATION BUT WHOSE COUNTING**



**Gina Briggs started with PREMA February 1, 1996 and has been a part of our team ever since. To say she has been an asset to us is an understatement.**

**HAVING SOMEONE LIKE GINA AS A COWORKER HAS BEEN NO LESS THAN A GIFT. WISHING HER A WONDERFUL RETIRED LIFE AHEAD! SHE WILL BE MISSED, BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN.**



## Hunting electrical equipment is never in season

As various hunting seasons continue, please remember that electrical insulators, conductors and electrical equipment are **NOT** on the hunting season list.

Your electric cooperative encourages hunters to be aware of electrical equipment while enjoying the great outdoors. Be aware of what's behind that big buck or it might cost big bucks. Repairs can be costly in both equipment and outages to our members. As a non-profit cooperatives, owned by the members, we all share in this expense.



Hunters and other gun owners should not shoot near or toward power lines, power poles and substations. A stray bullet can cause damage to equipment, could be deadly to the shooter and potentially interrupt electric service to large areas.

Sometimes the damage isn't noticed for several weeks or months, and is only discovered when an unexplained outage occurs.

Landowners are also encouraged to remind those hunting on their property to be aware of power lines.

We recognize the majority of hunters practice safe hunting and understand the potential risks when discharging a firearm. We encourage experienced hunters who are familiar with the area to identify the locations of utility properties and equipment to young or new hunters in their group and remind them to avoid shooting toward these facilities.

Enjoy the great outdoors. Just be sure to hunt only what's in season.

### **Safety tips:**

- Do not shoot at or near power lines or insulators.
- Familiarize yourself with the location of power lines and equipment on land where you shoot.
- Damage to the conductor can happen, possibly dropping a phase on the ground. If it's dry and the electricity goes to ground, there is the possibility of electrocution and fire.
- Be especially careful in wooded areas where power lines may not be as visible.
- Do not use power line wood poles or towers to support equipment used in your shooting activity.
- Take notice of warning signs and keep clear of electrical equipment.
- Do not place deer stands on utility poles or climb poles. Energized lines and equipment on the poles can conduct electricity to anyone who comes in contact with them, causing shock or electrocution.
- Do not shoot at, or near, birds perching on utility lines. That goes for any type of firearm, including pistols, rifles or shotguns.
- Do not place decoys on power lines or other utility equipment. Anything attached to a pole besides utility equipment can pose an obstruction – and a serious hazard – to electric cooperative employees as they perform utility operations.

Our lines are shaped  
by you, the members  
we serve.

**October is National  
Co-op Month.**

**#PowerOn**



## *Notes From Load Management*

Load Management ended on September 30 and provided above average savings for wholesale power cost. With this summer's warmer conditions and higher peak kW demand, the Load Management program was very effective. PREMA appreciates all those that were part of the Program.

Load Management allows PREMA to lower the system demand (kW). By doing so, PREMA reduces its electricity costs from Tri-State (PREMA's power supplier) and can provide power bill discounts to participating irrigation customers. Money that is saved thru Load Management is not sent to Tri State therefore, these funds are passed back to those taking part in the program and the money stays in our local economy.

PREMA irrigators interested in Load Management for 2021 can call the office at 308-762-1311 and ask for Tim.



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

### **PREMA**

**251 BRAYTON ROAD  
P.O. BOX 677**

**ALLIANCE, NE 69301-0677**

### **OPERATIONS AND STAFF**

**Ryan Reiber—General Manager  
Paul Grosz—Operations Manager  
Dale Knapp—Staking Engineer**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**(308) 762-1311 or 800-585-4837  
FAX—(308) 762-5750**

