



# PREMA

October 2021

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Panhandle Rural Electric Membership Association

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## Patronage Capital Paid to Members

The PREMA Board of Directors approved a general retirement of patronage capital at its meeting held August 31, 2021. **The 2021 total retirement of member’s patronage capital is \$444,502.**

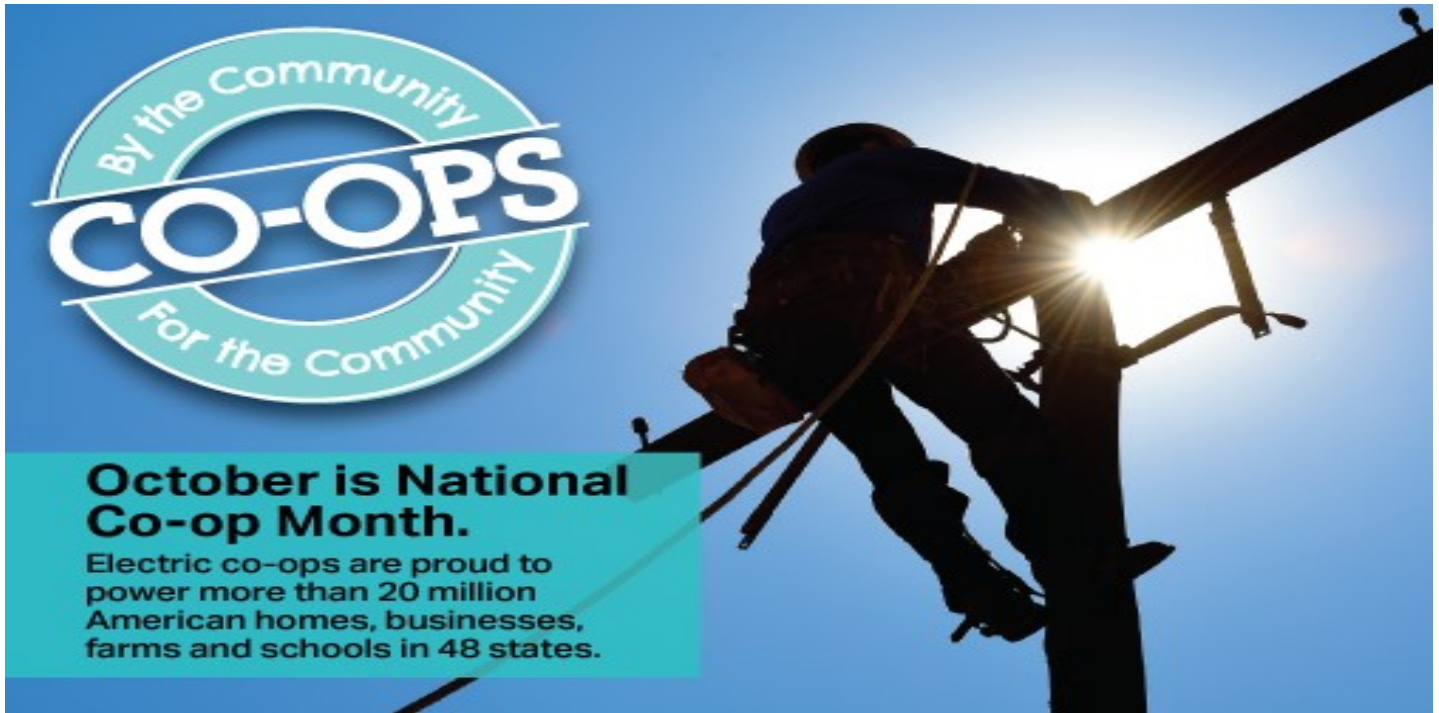
Since 1976, PREMA has returned more than \$9,554,000 of member’s equity, which demonstrates financial stability and helps keep the cost of electricity as low as possible.

The retirement 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 2021 retirement allowed PREMA to refund the rest of 1999 and a portion of 2000 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 at

308-762-1311.





## October is National Co-op Month.

Electric co-ops are proud to power more than 20 million American homes, businesses, farms and schools in 48 states.

### Attention Smarthub Users

Paperless billing is an option on Smarthub. If you are a landowner and you choose to do this, please keep in mind that this turns it on for your renters as well - they do not have access to your online account.

Unfortunately, when an account is turned on for paperless billing, PREMA does not get a notification. If this is a feature you would like to utilize, please let Allison know so that we can make sure that a copy of the bill still gets mailed to the renter.

Call Allison at 308-762-1311 or email [billing@prema.coop](mailto:billing@prema.coop).



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Cooler temps are just around the corner! Is your home's heating system ready? Remember to replace furnace filters once a month or as recommended. If you heat your home with warm-air registers, baseboard heaters or radiators, remember to clean them regularly to increase efficiency.

*Source: energy.gov*



## Shoo away vampires this Halloween

Little ghosts, goblins and princesses are a welcome sight on Halloween night. But beware of the vampire lurking inside your home.

You could be paying for vampire energy—electricity that leaks from your appliances, computers and entertainment systems—if you leave them plugged in even when they're turned off.

Any cord that is plugged into an electrical outlet draws electricity. So if you leave your mobile phone charger plugged in after you've removed the phone or you leave your computer and scanner plugged in after you shut down for the evening, you could be wasting—and paying for—unused energy.

Most people leave electronics plugged in all the time because it's convenient to be able to turn them on without having to plug them in again and again, day after day. The worst offenders are "remote-ready" appliances, like computers, cable boxes, stereos, TVs, microwave ovens, garage door openers and video game consoles.

As long as they're plugged in, they remain in a "ready" state so they don't have to wake up or warm up when you turn them on. That can cost you between \$165 and \$440 per year in wasted electricity, depending on how many devices you have.

A tip: Invest in a high-quality power strip—one that will sacrifice itself during a power surge rather than letting the surge ruin the appliance. Plug multiple items into the power strip and unplug the strip before bedtime. That's easier than unplugging and replugging lots of appliances.

A caution: Don't overload your home's electrical circuits by plugging too many appliances into a single power strip. Especially if you live in an older home, consult an electrician about how much of an electrical load your single outlets can handle.



### Halloween Safety Tips

- ◆ **Never trick or treat alone**
- ◆ **Know the neighborhood**
- ◆ **Obey traffic rules**
- ◆ **Carry a flashlight or reflector**
- ◆ **Stay with the group or parents**
- ◆ **Eat only wrapped candy**
- ◆ **Don't eat all the candy at once**
- ◆ **Have Fun!!**

## Notes From Load Management

The 2021 Load Management program has ended; it was a successful season. Control hours were below average and saving to our members was good.

The Load Management program allows PREMA to curtail demand (kW) through direct load control. By curtailing demand PREMA lowers its wholesale power bill and that savings is distributed to the participants.

Money that is saved through Load Management is money that is not sent to Tri State (PREMA's power supplier) and the savings is passed back to our irrigators that participate in the program.

PREMA irrigators interested in Load Management for 2022 can call the office 308-762-1311.



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

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Paul Grosz—Operations Manager  
Dale Knapp—Staking Engineer

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

