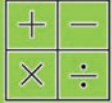


# HIGHLIGHTS

VOL. 42, ISSUE 11

Look for us online @ [www.bighornrea.com](http://www.bighornrea.com)

DECEMBER 2021



### What are Capital Credits?

As a member-owned cooperative, Big Horn REA does not technically earn profits. Instead, if revenues exceed the cost of doing business (i.e. expenses), the co-op has earned "margins." These margins are allocated to active members in the form of capital credits in a ratio proportionate to the amount of electricity the member purchased during the year that margins were earned.



### How are Capital Credit retirements made?

Big Horn REA issues a check therefore it is important to always inform Big Horn REA of your most current address.

## Big Horn REA Board Authorizes a \$842,442 Capital Credit Retirement!

In December 2021, Big Horn Rural Electric Company is issuing checks to our members for the retirement of capital credits. This 2021 retirement of capital credits is for the years of 2001, 2002 and 2003. The retirement includes a percentage of our power supplier's (Tri-State Generation and Transmission) allocations.

### What is the difference between allocated and retired capital credits?

Allocated capital credits are the amounts assigned to each member who was billed for service during a year in which margins were earned. While the credits are assigned to members, they are retained by the coop for a period of time—approximately 20 years—and are used as capital, which reduces Big Horn REA's need to borrow money. Allocated capital credits reflect your ownership/equity at Big Horn REA. When the Board of Directors determines to retire capital credits, a check will be issued.



### Who received a Capital Credit retirement?

Anyone who was a member in the years of 2001, 2002 and 2003.



### REDEEM CHECKS PROMPTLY!!

Capital Credit checks are void after 180 days and are generally not accepted by banks after the 180 days.

We suggest seeking the advice of a tax professional for specific questions.

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**MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION**

One of the seven cooperative principles that Big Horn adheres to is Members' Economic Participation. This payment of \$842,442.00 to our members is Big Horn REA's way of fulfilling that principle and exemplifying the value of being a member of Big Horn REA. A big thank you to ALL Big Horn REA's members for their patronage.

**Our office will be closed December 24th and 31st for the Holidays. Please call 1-800-564-2419 in case of outage or emergency.**

# Holiday Electric Safety Tips

As the holidays approach, it is a great time to remember those who are close to us. While everything is merry and bright, it's also a time when dangers around the home are increased, especially if you have family visiting for the holidays. There are many potential mishaps that can happen, from Christmas tree lights to ladder accidents, open-flame candles, or oven fires.

To keep up the holiday cheer, and to avoid anything that looks like a 'Griswold's Christmas', we've outlined a list of very important electrical safety tips to follow to keep you and your family safe.

1. As all of us know, decorations and cords get damaged over time and after each use. Before hanging them make sure to inspect all electric decorations for any damage before using them. Don't try to fix them with tape. Toss any damaged items and replace them.

- When hanging lights up outside, make sure to use lights that are designated as "outdoor" lights. Outside lights should have a fuse built into each strand's plug and may be labeled "for outdoor use."
- As much as you would like to be the brightest house on the block, you may have to turn it down a notch, depending on your outlets. Overloaded electrical outlets and faulty wires are a common cause of fires during the holidays. Avoid overloading electrical outlets.
- Make sure your electrical cords aren't getting damaged. Keep an eye on pets and make sure they are away from electrical cords. Electric cords should never be pinched by furniture, placed under rugs, or attached by nails, tacks, or staples.
- Instead of an open flame candle, try a battery-operated candle. Most of the time battery-operated candles look warm and realistic, without the fire hazard.
- Turn off and unplug all decorations when unattended or



when you are leaving home.

- If you are decorating a live Christmas tree, make sure to keep it well-watered daily or as often as needed. If real Christmas trees aren't watered regular, the needles get dry and become a fire hazard against the lights that get too hot.
- Try using LED lights instead of using incandescent lights. Not only are they energy efficient, but they also don't get as hot as traditional light bulbs do. Planning and following safety tips can make all the difference for an enjoyable and safe holiday season!

Source: [tristate.coop](http://tristate.coop)

# Watt's Cookin'

At Big Horn REA

## BILL DAHLKE



Bill is the Line Superintendent. He has worked for Big Horn REA for 6 years. Prior to coming to Big Horn REA, Bill

worked at Carbon Power & Light in the southern end of the state for 35 years.

### What do you bring to your co-op?

Experience, leadership, and the cooperative value of we work for the people who own us.

### What is the best thing about working at Big Horn?

Working with the people and working with the staff, we have one of the best if not the best group of people to work with.

## Bill's Drunken Mussels

### Ingredients:

2 lbs of fresh Mussels (cleaned and debeaded)	1 lemon, zested
2 C dry white wine	Fresh ground pepper to taste
2 Tbsp of butter	1 C fresh parsley chopped
4 cloves of garlic, minced	2 slices bread, grilled
½ tsp red pepper flakes	2 lemon wedges for garnish

### Directions

- Melt butter in large pot over medium heat. Add garlic and let sizzle for about 30 seconds. Season with red pepper flakes and lemon zest. Stir for about 45 seconds
- Quickly pour in wine into pan. Bring sauce to boil. Stir in Mussels and cover immediately. Shake pot and let boil for 1 minute.
- Stir mussels, replace cover, and let boil for 2 more minutes. Shells should begin to open. Stir in parsley cook until rest of the shells open.
- Serve with grilled bread and lemon wedge
- Enjoy!!

### What is your favorite meal from childhood?

Burnt grilled cheese because it was made with my mother's love.

## 5 Ways To Pay Your Bill

**1** **IN-PERSON**

Stop by our Basin office

**2** **PHONE**

Call toll free 1-800-564-2419

**3** **MAIL**

Send via the US Postal Service

**4** **ONLINE**

Login at [www.bighornrea.com](http://www.bighornrea.com)

**5** **AUTOMATIC**

Deduct from a bank account each month

### At Big Horn REA we offer multiple ways to pay your bill.

#### Here are a few things to keep in mind.

- Bills are due on the 25th of each month. If your account is on draft your payment will be taken out automatically on the 21st of each month. Keep in mind, if the 25th falls on the weekend the due date will

be moved to the following Monday. The same is applicable to the accounts on draft.

- If your account is on bill-pay, keep in mind that it doesn't happen automatically. Bill-pay

payments are mailed to us, so sometimes we get them after the 25th of the month.

- There is a penalty of 1.5% for late payments. Late payments are considered the day after the due date.

## Big Horn Rural Electric Offers Scholarships

Big Horn Rural Electric Company will be awarding scholarships to recognize and encourage the continuing education of the cooperative's member-students.

In addition, the Mike Lowe Memorial Scholarship is being offered to an applicant who plans to attend an approved regional electrical lineworker training program. Applicants must be current members or dependents of current members receiving electricity at their primary residence from Big Horn Rural Electric.

Wyoming Rural Electric Association is also offering a \$3000 electrical lineworker scholarship to encourage, promote, and educate lineworkers for careers with Wyoming's electric cooperatives. This scholarship is available to high school graduates and older "non-traditional" students interested in a career in the electric industry. Applicants do not have to be members of Big Horn Rural Electric to qualify.

Applications for all scholarships are available at the office of Big Horn Rural Electric, 415 South St. in Basin, on the web-

site at [www.bighornrea.com](http://www.bighornrea.com), and at each of the area high schools. **All applications are due by February 4, 2022, by the end of the business day.** Offering scholarships is just another way that Big Horn REA practices the cooperative principle of Concern for Community.





# Manager's Message

*As we look back upon the past year, we would like to acknowledge our members who have helped us shape our business. We are wishing all our members a merry and bright holiday season, and we look forward to serving you and our community in 2022!*

Last year, it was stated in the December 2020 newsletter the following: "The news for the year of 2020 seemed to be dominated by politics and COVID-19 and seems like it will also be the news talk of 2021." Well then, we can now add inflation and supply chain issues to the news stories that were prevalent for 2021, and probably will be in 2022 also.

Big Horn continues to have great news for 2021 and 2022. At the October 2021 board meeting, your board voted to refund capital credits. The total amount of cash refund to be made in December 2021 is slightly over \$842,000.00! Since 2009, there has been over \$8,100,000.00 of patronage capital refunded to our members.

Even though costs continue

to increase, Big Horn does not plan on a rate increase in 2022. The last increase was a 3.5% increase in 2017 and was for a pass through of wholesale power costs. Big Horn has not had a rate increase to cover the general operations for such things as: plant improvements; line maintenance; right of way clearing; pole testing; debt costs; capital credit payments and for that matter to cover any expenses or costs since the year of 2015. That will be seven consecutive years of no rate changes to cover operational costs! Big Horn will continue to operate as effectively and efficiently as possible in order to provide quality


service and reliable electric energy.

On behalf of the board of directors and employees, we want to say we sincerely appreciate working for you the member/owners and look forward to a productive new year.

Merry Christmas and Best of Wishes for 2022. We look forward to serving you in 2022.

Be safe!

**Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month**



LEDs consume far less electricity than incandescent bulbs, and decorative LED light strings such as Christmas tree lights are no different. Not only do LED holiday lights consume less electricity, but they also have a few advantages:

- Safer- much cooler than incandescent lights
- Sturdier- made with epoxy lenses, not glass
- Longer lasting- the same LED string could still be in use 40 holiday seasons from now
- Easier to install- up to 25 strings of LEDs can be connected end-to-end without overloading a wall socket.

source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

## HIGHLIGHTS

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Box 270 VOLUME 42 NO. 11  
Basin, WY 82410 (307) 568-2419  
FAX 307-568-2402 1-800-564-2419  
bhrec@bighornrea.com  
www.bighornrea.com

**MANAGER: Jeff Umphlett**  
(307) 899-8153  
jeff@bighornrea.com

### Staff and Crew

Dotti Brown	Heather Lawrence
Rusty Burden	Linda Molina
Bill Dahlke	Anthony Nelson
Clint Getzfried	Bill Phillips
Todd Herman	Tristen Snyder
Reece Hill	Greg Tharp
Jazmin Jara	

### 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.

### Board of Directors

John Joyce .....	President
Manderson • 568-2514	
jnjoyce56@gmail.com	
Willie Bridges.....	Vice President
Cowley • 548-2545	
willieb@pryormtng.com	
Steve Helburn .....	Secretary
Greybull • 765-2900	
stevhelburn@gmail.com	
Sara Schlattmann .....	Treasurer
Otto • 921-2024	
hortonwyo@gmail.com	
John Fernandez .....	Director
Meeteetse • 272-1553	
john@bighornrea.com	