




# NEWS

Your Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup> Cooperative   
The power of human connections

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2009

## Manager's Message

Dear Members: \_\_\_\_\_ by Jeff Hohn



### BOARD PRESIDENT RETIRES

For those of you who are not aware, Randy Marton, our current Board President as decided to retire. He will not be seeking re-election at our Annual Meeting in March. His retirement will bring an end to a 25 year Rural Electric career. Randy began his career when he was elected to the Hot Springs County Rural Electric Board of Directors in 1984. He began his tenure as President in 1991, and carried it over to the newly formed High Plains Power, Inc. in 1998. Randy was instrumental in making the merger between Hot Springs County and Riverton Valley, not only possible, but a success. He has been the only President since High Plains Power, Inc. was formed.

Randy has not only been involved with matters concerning your local Cooperative, he has also been involved in statewide matters. He served on the Wyoming Rural Electric Association "WREA" for six years. During that time he served as WREA's Secretary-Treasurer.

Being the Board President requires a lot more time than just the monthly Board Meetings, and I would like to take the time in this newsletter to express my personal gratitude to Randy. The guidance and advice that he has given me over these past three years are a major factor in my success. Over the past three years, I have looked to Randy to

bounce ideas off of and get his opinion. His insight and knowledge of the utility business will be sorely missed. The bad thing about his leaving is that we will not understand how much he contributes until he is gone. If you can attend the Annual Meeting, just stop him, shake his hand, and tell him thanks.

#### ANNUAL MEETING

Well, it is that time of year again. It seems like we just had the Annual Meeting a month ago. This year's meeting is scheduled at the Thermopolis Middle School on March 21, 2009, with the business meeting starting at 1:00 p.m. Registration and lunch will begin at 11:00 a.m. With Randy Marton retiring, you will be electing a new Board Member. The two candidates running are Mark Park and Bob Cheney. Not only will you find more information about these two candidates in this newsletter, there will also be bios in the Annual Meeting notice. There will also be a lunch, door prizes, and great information about your Cooperative. It will also give you an opportunity to shake Randy's hand and tell him thanks for his 25 years of dedicated service. I hope to see everyone in Thermopolis on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

If you would like to contact me for any reason, my email address is [jhhpp@wyoming.com](mailto:jhhpp@wyoming.com).

**Please  
remember the  
scholarship  
application  
due date is  
March 13th.**

# 11th Annual Meeting

## March 21, 2009

The 11th Annual Meeting has been scheduled for March 21, 2009 to be held at the Thermopolis Middle School in Thermopolis, Wyoming.

Elections for directors in districts 2, 8, 11 and 12 will be conducted at the meeting.

The nominating committee met on January 23rd and submitted the names of the nominees who will be running to represent their respective board districts.

**District 2: Lee Shaffer**

**District 8: Hearley Dockham**

**District 11: Bob Cheney  
Mark Park**

**District 12: Bob Cardwell**

Members can also be nominated by petition. The petition requirement is that fifteen (15) or more members act together by signing a petition nominating a member to represent a district that is up for re-election.

Petitions can still be accepted until 15 days prior to the annual meeting. Nominations can also be taken from the floor during the annual meeting.

The annual meeting notices and proxy cards will be mailed around March 6th. If you do not receive this mailing by March 13th please call the office.

Please plan to attend as your annual meeting is an important opportunity to vote for director representation and to get informed about the business of your electric cooperative. It also provides a chance to visit with friends and enjoy a meal. You may even win one of many valuable door prizes.

If for some reason, you cannot attend the meeting, please give your proxy card to another person who will be attending the meeting, or return the proxy card by mail to the High Plains Power office by March 16th.

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### Director Candidates

District 2  
**Lee Shaffer**



Lee Shaffer is the incumbent Board member seeking reelection for District 2.

Shaffer is a native of Wyoming and has lived in District 2 for almost 40 years. He and his wife Patty, own a ranch northwest of Lander. He raises cattle and quarter horses.

Lee states, "I have served 12 years as a Director for High Plains Power and have learned a lot about the power industry. We face many challenges as an electric cooperative. I would like to continue to serve as a director and help furnish reliable, good service from High Plains Power and maintain that at the lowest possible cost."

District 8  
**Hearley Dockham**



Hearley Dockham has served on the Board of Directors since 1996. Currently he is serving as the High Plains

Power Board of Directors Secretary. He also serves on the Wyoming Rural Electric Board of Directors. He seeking reelection to represent District 8.

Hearley and his wife, Joyce, have three grown children. They own a farm near the Pavillion area.

Dockham states, "I hope by serving on the Board, I will be able to contribute in some small way to maintain the reliable and affordable electricity that we are so dependent upon in our every day lives."

District 12  
**Bob Cardwell**



Bob Cardwell and his wife, Sharon have 2 grown children. They own and operate a cattle ranching operation. He is

the incumbent Director seeking reelection for District 12.

Cardwell has been a member of Hot Springs REA and High Plains Power all of his life and has served on the Board since 1985.

Bob states, "I want to help deliver safe, reliable power at the least possible cost. It has been a pleasure to work with the people who represent their respective districts over the past several years."

*(continued on page 4)*

## Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs: Do Energy-savings Outweigh Mercury Hazard?

Release date: 01/29/2009  
Contact Information: Donna Heron  
215-814-5113 / heron.donna@epa.gov

PHILADELPHIA (January 29, 2009) - With the issue of climate change on everyone's mind these days, people are looking for ways to cut down on energy use. Many people are turning to compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs), which use 75 percent less energy and last up to 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs.

But there is also a concern because CFLs contain a small amount of mercury. One Pennsylvania resident recently emailed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's mid-Atlantic region to ask what she should do:

"The problem with CFLs," she wrote, "is that these bulbs contain mercury and they need to be disposed of properly but the box does not give any instructions. Should we be more concerned with energy saving or mercury hazards?"

EPA's electronics recycling specialist Dan Gallo, who responded to the question, says the benefits of lower energy consumption outweigh the disadvantages but "EPA promotes and encourages the safe

disposal of old CFLs to prevent the release of mercury into the environment,"

"Although CFLs do contain mercury, it is present in trace amounts -- five milligrams -- an amount that would cover the tip of a ballpoint pen," said Gallo. "It would take 100 CFLs to equal the amount of mercury contained in older thermometers, which is about 500 milligrams."

The good news is that old CFL bulbs can be taken to Home Depot, IKEA and Ace Hardware for recycling. And Wal-mart is piloting a CFL recycling program at its stores in the Richmond, Va. area.

Since CFLs use 75 percent less energy than traditional incandescent light bulbs, if every American switched one incandescent bulb to a CFL, it would save more than \$600 million in annual energy costs and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions from 800,000 cars.

"Using CFLs is a quick and easy way for Americans to save energy and money everyday, while they also protect the environment," Gallo said.

But if a bulb accidentally breaks, proper clean-up is necessary.

"The first thing you want to do is to get everyone out of room, including pets," Gallo said. "Open a window to air out the room for at least 15 minutes. If you broke the bulb on a hard surface, take a piece of stiff paper or cardboard and scoop up as much of the debris and residue as you can."

Gallo advises to use an old glove or sock to protect hands and then wipe up any remaining residue with a moist paper towel. "If you broke the bulb on a carpeted surface, you'll want to use sticky tape to blot up any residue. Put everything in a plastic bag or a jar that can be sealed with a lid and dispose of it with the regular household trash."

For more information on CFLs go to:

<http://www.epa.gov/osw/hazard/wastetypes/universal/lamps/index.htm>

<http://www.epa.gov/osw/hazard/wastetypes/universal/lamps/faqs.htm>

### Compact Fluorescent Lamps

High Plains Power is collecting compact fluorescent lamps that were given out at our annual meetings. Members are encouraged to bring those burned out CFL's to our offices in Riverton, Casper, Dubois and Thermopolis so that we may dispose of them in an environmentally friendly manner.

**Director Candidates** (continued from page 2)

District 11  
**Bob Cheney**



Bob Cheney is running for Board of Director for District 11.

Cheney states, "I feel like it is my civic duty to represent fellow ranchers. I want to continue to hold down costs while at the same time provide good service. I believe it takes the Board of Directors to keep things in order and I would like to be a 'hands on' director."

Mr. Cheney owns and operates a cattle ranch. He purchased the ranch from his folks in 1987. He has been associated with Hot Spring REA/High Plains Power all of his life. His grandparents and parents were members when he was growing up and now he is a member.

District 11  
**Mark Park**



Mark Park is running to represent District 11. Mr. Park is the ranch manager for Grey Reef Ranch. His wife is Dena.

Mr. Park states, "I was approached by others to run for this position. If they thought enough about me to nominate me, I decided I would do it. I think the longevity of employment of the employees who work at High Plains Power speaks well for the company. I want to continue with the forward progress that High Plains Power has accomplished. I want to help keep members' rates low and still provide good service. If elected, I would try and provide service to the best of my abilities."

Mr. Park was born and raised in this area. He was in the Sweetwater previously and has been with Grey Reef for the last three years.

**Good Luck Charlie Owen**



June and Charlie Owen

**A**fter over 41 years of service, Charlie Owen turned in his line hooks and hard hat. Charlie retired on January 15th.

He and his wife, June, plan on doing some remodeling around their house and then hope to do some traveling.

Some of Charlie's friends and family, past and present employees,

and some directors were here to celebrate a luncheon in his honor on January 9th.

Charlie was the line foreman for the Casper district.

We appreciate your hard work and dedication you provided for us here at High Plains Power. We wish you and June a happy and healthy retirement!



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 Randy Marton - President  
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 Hearley Dockham - Secretary  
 Robert Cardwell - Asst. Sec.  
 Matt Brown - Treasurer  
 Bret Gardner  
 Gary Gordon  
 Richard Haun  
 Jim Miller  
 Jeff Milton  
 Lee Shaffer  
 Harold Thompson

**General Manager**  
 Jeff Hohn

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