



# Manager's Message

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



## Past Board Member Receives Award

**R**andy Marton, High Plains Power past Board President received the Craig Thomas Cooperative Service Award at the recent Wyoming Rural Electric Association Annual Meeting held in Jackson. Randy became a Board Member of Hot Springs Rural Electric Cooperative in 1984. He was elected to the position of Board President of Hot Springs Rural Electric Cooperative, where he served until the merger between Hot Springs Rural Electric Cooperative and Riverton Valley Electric Cooperative in 1998. He was then elected President of the newly formed High Plains Power, Inc. He served in this capacity until his retirement in 2009.

This award was created in remembrance of Senator Thomas, who served as the Executive Director of the Wyoming Rural Electric Association before embarking on his career as a State Senator. The award is given in recognition to an individual who has shown a commitment to the well-being of Wyoming's Rural Electric Cooperatives. Those that are eligible include directors, managers or other officials of electric cooperative systems, cooperative employees,

elected public officials, government administrators, communicators, educators, and other public figures.

In order to be considered for the award, the nominee must have contributed clearly above and beyond the normal routine call of duty in furthering the principles and progress of electric cooperatives in Wyoming. The nominee must also have demonstrated outstanding work in advancing the goals of the Wyoming Rural Electric Association and/or an individual Wyoming Cooperative.

Having worked with Randy, I saw firsthand his dedication and loyalty to, not only the member/owners of High Plains Power, but to the member/owners of all Rural Electrics in the State. There is not enough room in this newsletter to talk about all of Randy's accomplishments. The one question that Randy always asked was, "How is this going to affect the member/owner at the end of the line?" Randy would never support anything that had a negative effect on the member/owner.

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*High Plains Power will be closed November 25 and 26th for Thanksgiving.*

# Winter is coming

As I sit and write this article, on this sunny, warm day in October, it's hard to believe that winter is just around the corner. The crisp, cool mornings and evenings serve as the gentle reminders of what's to come.

So when you are digging out those sweaters, coats, and mittens don't forget that you also need to prepare your home for winter.

## **Furnace:**

Make sure to replace the filter in your furnace. Also, make sure that your furnace is in working order before the cold temperatures because if it's below zero outside and your heater is not working, you and others will be probably calling the repairman. It's a good idea to have a your furnace inspected every year. As was stated in last month's newsletter, those of you with ETS

units, make sure they are in good working order before the cold, cold temperatures set in.

## **Gutters and Downspouts:**

Clean out gutters and downspouts of leaves and debris. Also, make sure the gutters and downspouts are securely fastened to your house. With the Wyoming winds, these can become loose and unstable. You should also check your roof for peeling/ missing shingles and potential roofing problems. Once again, the winds can take a toll on your roof.

## **Insulation:**

It's a good idea to check around your outside doors and windows. If there is any air infiltration, you will be losing heat right out the doors and windows. Also, check for air coming in around switch plates and outlets. At your local hardware store, you

can purchase weatherstripping to go around your doors and windows. You can also buy foam outlet insulators and switch plate seals that will provide a layer of insulation to keep the cold air out.

## **Other tips:**

If you have a fireplace or wood burning stove, it may be a good idea to have your chimney cleaned in preparation for the colder weather.

Make sure any of your pipes that are on an outside wall are insulated. You might also save a little money by insulating the pipes so they will hold heat longer.

Change the batteries in your carbon-monoxide and smoke detectors and most of all, make sure they are still working.

By doing the above, we hope you have a safe and warm winter.



## What to do if the lights go out

When severe weather causes power outages, you can be sure that the employees of High Plains Power begin working immediately to restore service as soon as possible. Primary lines serving hundreds of members are serviced first, and then the secondary lines serving just a few members are restored.

When your lights go out, look outside and see if your neighbors are also in the dark. If they're not, check your fuse box or circuit breaker to see if you can locate the problem.

Outages that occur in severe weather, or that last for an extended period of time, can place a heavy burden on the system at the moment power is restored. To prevent an overload on the system and possibly another outage, take these steps:

- Turn off every inside light except one.

- Turn down your thermostat.

- In cold weather, close drapes to save heat. Pick one room on the warm side of the house. Close the door to the rest of the house and use blankets to insulate your windows.

- Turn off all unnecessary appliances.

- Avoid opening the refrigerator and freezer doors.

- If you see a downed power line, STAY AWAY! Call High Plains Power at once.

- When power comes back on, slowly switch your appliances and lights back on and gradually return your thermostat to its normal setting.

High Plains Power works hard to keep the power on for its members, but severe weather can sometimes put us in the dark. You'll be safer and less inconvenienced if you have the following emergency supplies on hand:

- flashlight with fresh batteries
- candles and holders
- matches
- firewood and kindling
- non-perishable food
- radio with fresh batteries
- blankets
- wind-up clock
- manual can opener
- paper plates & plastic utensils
- bottled water

### Youth Energy Leadership Camp

Are you a sophomore or junior in high school? Do you want to learn more about electric cooperatives? Do you want to spend a week at the Glen Eden Resort near Steamboat Springs Colorado in July? Do you want to meet other high school students from Wyoming, Colorado, Kansas or Nebraska? Do you want to

do all of this at no cost to you? Well then, the Youth Energy Camp is for you!

The Youth Leadership Camp offers a great opportunity, for high school students in our service territory, to learn about a cooperative, tour a generation facility, learn about government and build on their communication and

leadership skills. Camp begins on Sunday, July 10, 2011 and ends on Friday, July 15, 2011.

Watch for more information in the December newsletter. Deadlines for applications will be due the first part of January 2011.

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### TRI-STATE ANNOUNCES NO RATE INCREASE

At the September Board Meeting, the staff of Tri-State presented the 2011 budget to the Board. Following the presentation, the staff recommended to the Board that there not be a change in the rate structure for 2011. The Board unanimously voted to accept the staff's recommendation. Therefore,

there **will not be a rate increase for 2011.** High Plains Power is not expecting to have a retail rate increase for 2011 either. We are beginning the 2011 budget process, so we are not sure what the result will be, but we don't foresee a requirement for a rate increase. We are not expecting to see rate

pressure until 2012, but will keep you informed of our financial requirements.

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



Randy Marton, former High Plains Power Board of Directors President - recipient of the Craig Thomas Award at the recent WREA annual meeting.

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## Changes to your Account

If you have had a change of phone number or any other pertinent information on your account please contact us to let us know about these changes. It is important to keep your information current so we can notify you of planned outages or anything else that may pertain to your service.

**High Plains Power**

**NEWS**

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