

Director nominating process underway

The 2024 PRECorp Board of Directors election process is officially underway with the designation of the nominating committees for four PRECorp counties.

The following are ways to get on the ballot:

- Be nominated by the committee appointed by the PRECorp Board of Directors.
- Return a nominating petition, signed by at least 25 PRECorp members, by June 14, 2024.

Nominating committees for Crook, Johnson, and Sheridan counties are as follows:

Crook County (Paul Baker, incumbent):

- Wade Dennis, phone: (307) 680-3813
- Rick Good, phone: (307) 756-9724

Johnson County (Mike Lohse, incumbent):

- Ben Schiffer, phone: (307) 217-2032
- Thad Stoltz, phone: (307) 736-2602

Sheridan County (Jim Baumgartner, incumbent):

- Jim Fennema, phone: (307) 758-4555
- Mike Latham, phone: (307) 737-2219

Any PRECorp member from the aforementioned director districts can run for a three-year term on the Board, providing the member meets the following qualifications:

- Must reside within the service territory of the county from which he/she is elected.

- *However, members taking service outside the counties of Campbell, Crook, Sheridan, Johnson, or Weston shall be deemed to be a member of and within the area served by the county closest to the nearest meter serving the members' residence;*
- Must be a member receiving electric energy from the Corporation;
- May not be in any way employed by, or have a substantial financial interest in, a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Corporation.

If you have specific questions regarding eligibility, contact PRECorp at 1-800-442-3630.

Election process dates:

- Friday, May 24: Deadline for nominating committees to post their list of candidates.
- Friday, June 14: Deadline for candidates to file nominating petitions at a PRECorp business office.
- Tuesday, July 16: Publication of director candidates, notice of August 24 Annual Meeting, mail-in ballot, and Annual Report.
- Saturday, August 24: PRECorp Annual Membership Meeting, Upton Elementary/Middle School. In-person voting, vote tabulation, announcement of results.

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#ThankALineworker



BRIAN MILLS,
CEO

Telephone Townhall meeting Wednesday, May 29

Plan to join me on Wednesday, May 29, for an important Telephone Town Hall with the PRE-Corp membership. I will be joined by PRECorp VP of Operations Rich Haloran as we share some insights on PRECorp's Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan and answer your questions about the cooperative and our service. We will call PRECorp members at 6:30 p.m. to start the call. Also, join us on Facebook live, or dial toll free 888-886-6602 to participate via phone.

April weather in northeast Wyoming is like a box of unlabeled chocolates, you never know what you may get. Usually by this time, we have typically experienced a nice day or two that foreshadows the warmer days coming and brightens our spirits.

This past winter, the PRECorp Team and I talked about what it means to serve our member-owners. We all knew that we weren't searching for uncharted territory of service, rather, we were finding a way to share our objectives simply and concisely in serving you. Our discussion also served to keep us focused and motivated, squarely representing your expectations. In this month's article, I am going to share what we came up with, and carry on, with you, the conversation we started.

I want to first recognize that at the heart of this cooperative, from its inception, its purpose was centered around improving the lives of its members. Pretty simple. Bringing electricity to rural northeast Wyoming no doubt improved the lives of the members. And that same simple mission still resonates today, your Board of Directors have assured us. So, the question is, how are we going to make good on the mission?

We arrived at three things that we can provide in our service to you to ultimately honor our mission of improving lives. Again, these aren't revolutionary concepts in member service, but more so, they represent the shared commitment we made to one another as we work together as a team in service to you. They capture the heart and intention. And we get to make good on them each day.

The first objective is to deliver "**A+ Member Experience.**" When we talk about this...everybody knows what an A, B, C, etc. looks like from school. 'A' means you hit the mark and met expectations. 'A+' means you exceeded, went above and beyond. I am reminded of my dad's encouragement to "leave it better than you found it." It is a value-add mentality. This past year we achieved the highest rating we have ever received in member satisfaction surveys. We were designated as one of the top 25 member-rated coops in the nation. As the team considered this, attaining that level is a good start and proves we can continue to im-

prove the member experience even more.

The second objective is "**Great Rates.**" Simply put, great rates are rates that are stable and predictable; they are competitive; and they are sufficient to operationally provide safe and reliable power. In our last telephone town hall meeting, we talked about the financial health of the company and the topic of rates came up. I provided an explanation about rates and what we are trying to accomplish. As we took questions, a member, in the politest way possible said, "Without all those fancy words, just tell me how much did my rate go up last year and what is it going up this year." Another caller also offered a comparison of our rates to a neighboring utility. After that call, we changed how we were talking about this objective. It is clear what "Great Rates" means to you.

The third objective is to become a "**Trusted Energy Partner.**" This objective represents all the changes that are coming and how you, the member, will manage and consume energy. Things are changing, and we are going to have to change the way we do things to maintain our relevance. The ultimate goal is to earn your trust to serve you, however, the energy industry may change. I was sharing this idea with a member this past month, and they responded, "We don't have a choice, we have to be your member." While that may be true, we don't want to serve you with a mentality of entitlement but rather with a mentality that we want you to choose us. We want you to be proud that you are a member because of how we serve you. That will build the trust between us so we can navigate the changes together.

So, there you have it. Our mission is about improving lives, and we will provide an **A+ Member Experience, Great Rates,** and a **Trusted Energy Partner.** With those three objectives, we can focus our efforts upon your expectations. I look forward to continuing this conversation with you over the next few months in our town halls and publications ahead of our Annual Meeting on August 24 in Upton.

May is Electrical Safety Month

May is National Electrical Safety Month. But at PRECorp, safety is a daily emphasis, throughout our system, all year long - at work and at home.

Because we are looking out for the best interests of our members, we raise awareness about safety and ways to avoid accidents, keep our employees safe, and provide reliable service for our members.



Although you don't see the actual electricity flowing through the line, you would certainly feel it if you had an encounter with electricity. Touching lines or equipment with high voltages can not

only cause injury, it can take a life.

However, safety concerns stretch beyond the immediate tasks of climbing poles and restoring power. We must consider safety in all aspects of our day.

People have accidentally driven vehicles and large

equipment into power poles and overhead lines. Diggers sometimes discover too late they have hit power cables buried underground.

Animals and even tiny insects are also in the picture. These creatures find ideal hangouts on our power lines, cross arms, insulators, and other attachments. Bugs hide in the tight spaces in the guards and insulators, and birds daringly try to root them out. The resulting electrocutions of the predators can knock out power or cause a fire.

Vines, trees, and bushes tend to grow quickly into our lines. Keeping vegetation trimmed and away from the poles, power lines, and other electrical equipment takes regular maintenance. Fires can start when lightning hits a pole, or wind slaps power lines together. It does not take much of a spark on dry grass or timber for high winds to push a fire several miles across open Wyoming countryside.

Are there some hazards around power services to your residence, ranch, or business that could result in a tragedy? If you notice potential hazards involving PRECorp facilities, call 1-800-442-3630, to report the facility location and nature of the problem.

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Calendar:

The list of PRECorp events includes Board meeting dates, holidays, telephone town hall meetings, and more.

- **Tuesday, May 21** - PRECorp Board of Directors meeting, 9:30 a.m., Gillette.
- **Monday, May 27** - Memorial Day Holiday, PRECorp **OFFICES CLOSED**. Call 888-391-6220 to report an outage.
- **Tuesday, May 28** - PRECorp Foundation Board of Directors meeting, Gillette.
- **Wednesday, May 29** - PRECorp CEO Telephone Town Hall meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- **Saturday, June 1** - Durham Ranch Buffalo Stampede 5K/10K.
- **Thursday, July 4** - Independence Day Holiday, PRECorp **OFFICES CLOSED**. Call 888-391-6220 to report an outage.
- **Saturday, August 24** - PRECorp Annual Meeting, Upton Middle School.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

A well-designed landscape can add beauty to your home and reduce home heating and cooling costs. Plant deciduous trees with high, spreading crowns to the south of your home to block sunlight in the summer and reduce the need for air conditioning. Deciduous trees lose their leaves in the winter, allowing sunlight to warm your home.

Plant evergreen trees and shrubs with low crowns to block winter winds. Dense evergreen trees and shrubs planted to the north and northwest are the most common type of windbreak and can help lower energy used for home heating.

Source: energy.gov



Surplus PRECorp vehicles up for auction on eBay May 24 through June 2

Retired PRECorp surplus vehicles will be up for auction on eBay on May 24 through June 2, 2024.

Beginning at 7 p.m., May 24, one unit will be listed every 15 minutes until all units are listed. This will allow for one closing every 15 minutes beginning at 7 p.m. on June 2, in the event an individual is bidding on more than one unit.

The items below will be listed in the vehicle auction May 24 through June 2:

- 2014 Ford F550 e-cab 4x4 120,483 miles 6.8 v10 gas engine with Automatic Transmission; Aerial inoperable, Good service body
- 2009 Ford F350 4x4 8' bed. 164,554 miles 6.8 v10 gas engine with automatic Transmission
- 2015 Ford F250 4x4 e-cab Chassis 165,228 miles 6.2 gas
- 2001 International 4x4 4800 series dt466 diesel, Manual trans, boom is inoperable; Good Service Body

These vehicles were used for field service work. They have been regularly serviced and records are available. The trucks were actively working in the field until the day it was retired from the fleet. All decals will be removed prior to sale, and trucks will be cleaned.

All units can be viewed at PRECorp Fleet office in Gillette if desired.

How to access PRECorp unit information on eBay:

1. Starting May 24, go to www.ebay.com
2. At top of page to the far right click on "Advanced"
3. On the "Advanced Search Page", scroll down the page to "Sellers"
4. Check the box titled "Only items show from:"
5. In the blank box, type in: vehiclesinwyoming
6. Click on "Search", or hit "Enter"
7. The PRECorp vehicles for auction will appear on the start date and time of the sale.

Once the auction ends, eBay will send out a notification to the winning buyer and PRECorp. At that point, PRECorp will e-mail the buyer with information on how to make contact, payment, and where to pick up the unit.

Note to bidders:

Prior to the opening of the sale on May 24, please obtain more information via e-mail at fleet@precorp.coop. This is the only source of information on these items prior to the opening of the sale. Please do not inquire with our offices or outposts because they do not have information on these vehicles. Details of each unit along with pictures will be on eBay at the start of the sale.



2009 Ford F350 4x4 8' bed; 164,554 miles; 6.8 v10 gas engine with Automatic Transmission.



2015 Ford F250 4x4 e-cab Chassis; 165,228 miles; 6.2 gas engine.



2014 Ford F550 e-cab 4x4 120,483 miles 6.8 v10 gas engine with Automatic Transmission; Aerial inop; Good service body.



2001 International 4x4 4800 series dt466 diesel; Manual trans, boom is inop. Good service body.



2024 Apprentice Lineman Scholarship Fundraiser

FOUR SPECIAL DRAWINGS!

Buy a ticket and get a chance to win a side-by-side; a Mule Deer hunt; engraved gun; or a designer purse!!

\$ 100 per ticket with only 350 tickets sold!
Special limited-entry drawings for a WINNER'S CHOICE:
2024 Polaris Ranger 1000 Side-By-Side

- OR -

A Mule Deer hunt at D-Ranch/or \$2,500

- OR -

PRECorp 80th Anniversary Henry rifle

- OR -

Pure Dixie designer purse with pistol.

TICKETS:
\$100 each

PRECorp Member Service
at 1-800-442-3630; or
Call Rick at 307-283-4930.



Why donate?

Help us maintain a scholarship fund for future generations. Help us provide funds for scholarships for locally-grown apprentices who live, work, and contribute to our northeast Wyoming communities.

Keep our best and brightest in our communities where they can be active citizens and leaders. Train quality and hard-working linemen that provide safe and affordable electricity to rural northeast Wyoming.

This program is an employee-based initiative that supports the cooperative's mission and vision of being an employer of choice throughout the region and enhancing service to our member/owners.

The Apprentice Lineman Scholarship Program is administered through the Powder River Energy Foundation, the charitable arm of Powder River Energy Corporation.



Electrical Safety Month...

from page 3.

In the home

Because of the higher loads of the newer electric devices, demand for energy can overburden an older home's electrical system.

Some tips:

- Make sure entertainment centers and computer equipment have plenty of space around them for ventilation.
- Use extension cords as a temporary solution, and never as a permanent power supply.
- Do not place extension cords in high traffic areas, under carpets, or across walkways, where they pose a potential tripping hazard. Heat from the cord can also be trapped and cause a fire.
- Use a surge protector to protect your computer and other electronic equipment from damage caused by voltage changes. This equipment is designed to break so be prepared to change them frequently.
- The wattage of the bulbs you use in your home should match the wattage indicated on the light fixture. Overheated fixtures can lead to a fire.
- Keep all liquids away from electrical items such as televisions and computers.
- Heavy reliance on power strips is an indication that

you have too few outlets to address your needs. Have additional outlets installed by a qualified, licensed electrician.

- Check refrigerator coils quarterly to eliminate dirt buildup. This can increase efficiency and remove fire hazards.
- Ensure all countertop appliances are located away from the sink. GFCI outlets are required in kitchens, bathrooms, and outdoors.
- All appliance cords should be placed away from hot surfaces. Pay particular attention to cords around toasters, ovens, and ranges. Cords can be damaged by excess heat.



And remember fire safety:



- The top and the area above the cooking range should be free of combustibles, such as potholders and plastic utensils. Storing these items on or near the range may result in fires or burns. Range hood filters also need to be replaced regularly.
- Nearly two-thirds of fire deaths result from fires in homes without working smoke alarms. Smoke alarms should be located on every level of your home, inside each bedroom and outside each sleeping area.
- Test smoke alarms every month. Batteries - even in the hard-wired models - should be replaced every six months, and remember smoke alarms have a limited life expectancy.
- Consider installing a carbon monoxide detector.
- Clean your dryer filter with each use, and check the dryer vent periodically for lint buildup. It can be a fire hazard.
- Talk to your family - including small children - on planning an emergency escape route - they are more likely to remember a plan they help create.

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Electrical Safety... from page 6.

Outdoor hazards

- Do not attach anything to a power pole. Nails, tacks, staples, wires, satellite dishes, deer stands, basketball hoops, signs, and other items create immediate hazards for you and our crews if they need to respond to an outage.
- Be aware of clearances with your vehicles, equipment, or roof work. Look up. Look all around you to make sure you are at least 15-feet from a pole or overhead line. A few seconds to look can save you the aggravation of an accident or power outage.
- Do not plant, build, pile or stack anything beneath a power line.
- Look up. Carefully check the location of all overhead wires before using a ladder. All ladders that touch

power lines - even ladders made of wood - can shock or electrocute people touching them.

- (Right) Call 811 or 1-800-849-2476 (One Call of Wyoming) at least two business days before you dig. Make sure locates are

completed. Because of landscaping or erosion, lines could be close enough to the surface that you could hit them with that first plunge of the shovel. The service is free in some cases. Repairs are not.

- Heed the warning signs posted on PRECorp electrical facilities.
- Check for weather damage around your home, ranch, or business.
- If you encounter a damaged power pole or line, always assume it is energized. Do not touch or try to move downed power lines.
- Stay in your vehicle if you hit a power pole or power line.
- If you must get out of the vehicle, keep both feet together and jump clear. Do not step onto the ground while touching your vehicle.
- If you happen upon an accident involving a pad-mount transformer (that green box), power pole, or line, call 911 immediately. Do not approach the scene because electricity from energized lines can kill you, even if you are several yards away.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY DO'S AND DON'TS

DON'T: 

 Overload outlets with too many devices.

 <p>Know what's below. Call before you dig.</p> <p>STARTING A NEW PROJECT?</p> <p>Here are 5 steps for safe digging.</p>	<p>1 NOTIFY</p>  <p>Call 811 or make a request online two to three days before you plan to start your project.</p> 
<p>2 WAIT</p>  <p>Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will mark underground lines.</p>	<p>3 CONFIRM</p>  <p>Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 811 call center notified.</p>
<p>4 RESPECT</p>  <p>Respect the markers and use them as a guide for the duration your project.</p>	<p>5 DIG CAREFULLY</p>  <p>If you can't avoid digging near the provided markers, consider moving your project.</p>

**April is
Lineman
Appreciation Month
#ThankALineworker**



**To our heroes in the
hardhats, thanks for
keeping the lights on!
Like our salutes on Facebook!**



POWDER RIVER ENERGY CORPORATION
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Regular business: 1-800-442-3630
Report an outage: 1-888-391-6220
www.precorp.coop

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