



PRECorp News

AUGUST 2022

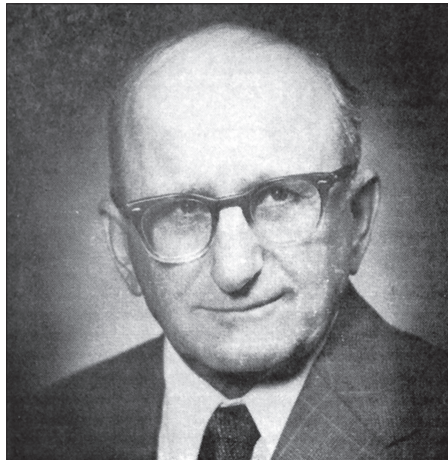
J. Harold Cash to posthumously receive the Earl Christensen Award

The Powder River Energy Corporation (PRECorp) Board of Directors will recognize the late J. Harold Cash as the 2022 recipient of the Earl Christensen Award. The award is presented to members and directors who have tirelessly promoted the cause of cooperative rural electrification in northeast Wyoming.

Cash lived up to those ideals during his 35-plus years of service as a director of the Sheridan-Johnson REA from 1947 through 1983. He was president of the S-JREA Board from 1949 through 1977, president of the Wyoming Rural Electric Association (WREA) from 1954 to 1960, and on the National Rural Electric Cooperative Board from 1971 through 1977.

He was an early pioneer for the installation of power lines to rural areas of Johnson County including the extension of power lines into the Kaycee, Barnum, Sussex, and Arvada areas. He also worked to unlock funds to put additional power lines along the Powder River.

Harold also was a unifier of the Wyoming electric cooperatives as he developed and implemented the first



statewide publication for the WREA *The Wyoming Rural Electric News*, still known as the WREN today. It is the most-read monthly magazine in Wyoming. In addition, Cash helped organize the WREA managers for regular meetings for information sharing, which continues to this day.

In addition to promoting rural electrification, Cash was an important developer of the Johnson County Fair Board and a strong supporter of 4-H programs in the county.

A 1970s recognition from S-JREA reads: "Sheridan-Johnson REA is justly proud for having had such a dedicated man of wide-ranging interests, great human warmth and intense individualism to guide the affairs of the cooperative through the past 25 years."

Harold grew up and lived most of his life on the family ranch near Mayoworth northwest of Kaycee. He died in 1983 at the age of 76.

The award will be presented during PRECorp's 77th Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday, August 27, at Gillette Cam-Plex Energy Hall.

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BRIAN MILLS,
CEO

As you read this message, I will have been the CEO of PRECorp for about three weeks. PRECorp's former CEO of 22 years, Mike Easley continues to play a role, but as an on-call advisor. As mentioned in previous articles, I am no stranger to the cooperative world, and definitely not a stranger to northeast Wyoming, having grown up here and serving the members of PRECorp for the past 18 years.

I am looking forward to meeting as many members as possible in the coming months through telephone town hall meetings, the

Annual Meeting, and informally at local events or even in the office.

The 2022 CEO transition was formalized in January, and has involved a lot of people making this as smooth as possible. Board President Reuben Ritthaler has invested a lot of his time on this change, and his leadership is much appreciated. He will be stepping down from service as a Director after the Annual Meeting and his four-decades of promoting the cause of the cooperative spirit and representing the membership is unmatched.

One aspect that gives optimism about our future as a cooperative is the energy and dedication of the PRECorp employee team. Most of our employees have known only one CEO throughout their career at PRECorp. Mike has taken the cooperative to an unprecedented level by building a culture of safety, service, integrity and innovation. I am confident the PRECorp employee team will continue to live these values moving forward.

Our Vision:

We will be pioneers of excellence in the Cooperative Network while delivering extraordinary value to our members, embracing a visionary outlook, leveraging accelerating technologies, empowering our team and engaging our membership.

Our Purpose:

Positively influencing and improving lives for those we serve by providing reliable energy and services while paving the way for access and affordability.



Our Moonshot:

Drive down costs so that the first megawatt hour of energy usage is at or near zero cost by 2050.

We strive toward controlling costs, enhancing reliability, adding member-friendly programs, and creating a positive experience when you contact us.

As a cooperative, an engaged membership base is our strength. Likewise, serving the membership is the noble purpose that motivates us to constantly pursue improving services that will benefit the membership. We strive toward controlling costs, enhancing reliability, adding member-friendly programs, and creating a positive experience when you contact us.

The Annual Meeting gives us a good way to show you the innovations and programs we have been working on. Please plan on attending this year's Annual Meeting on August 27 at the Gillette Cam-Plex Energy Hall. We will offer a few attendance rewards such as prizes, a free lunch, and a wellness blood draw.

Most significantly, this will be your opportunity as members to cast votes for your future Board of Directors. While this year is an important inflection point in the history of the cooperative, I plan to share with you some exciting ideas of how we are holding the line on costs and safely delivering reliable power to you.

I look forward to seeing you very soon.

Now is a good time to consider new rate, billing options, member programs

With fall and winter weather approaching, members may consider making some changes to realign business customer rates, consolidate other rates, improve the billing process, and take advantage of new rate options.

Please call PRECorp Member Service at 1-800-442-3630 if you have any interest in these options and how they might improve your service from PRECorp.

Invoice Group billing bundles many accounts

One way to consolidate multiple bills and accounts is an option called Invoice Group Billing. Members can put all accounts, *that are on the same rate*, on one billing statement. Members still have all the information on the various metered services they own, but in a much more consolidated format and a bottom-line number for the monthly bill.

Many options to avoid late fees

Recent changes to Public Service Commission rules require payments to be received in our office, or paid electronically, by the due date. With mailed payments, some instances allowed for a postmark date as a basis to waive late fees. Now, however, any payment received after the due date – postmarked or not – is subject to a late fee.

The best way around this is to utilize on-line payment options. AutoPay ensures timely payment through our online automated payment feature. SmartHub allows members to control when they pay their bills by scheduling the payment using a PC or the phone app. Additionally, members can securely pay anytime over the phone with toll-free Interactive Voice Response (IVR).

Heat Rate offered across rate classes

For the past year, members in all classes can utilize a discounted electric resistance heat option, simply referred to as the Heat Rate. A dedicated Heat Rate meter must be installed to measure your heating usage, and calculations are made accordingly. The Heat Rate Program allows members to receive a credit per kilowatt hour for the electricity they use to heat their homes and businesses each October through April.

Budget Billing flattens the curves

Residential members who prefer to pay the same monthly amount, and who have at least 12 months of usage history,

should explore the Budget Billing option. This program calculates a monthly amount for the next 11 months based on a member's average monthly usage over the previous year. The usage is reviewed twice yearly, to ensure there are no major variances. October is the clearing month for Budget Billing accounts. Accounts are brought back to a zero balance, and the monthly amounts for the next 11 months are calculated.

PREPay MyWay!

PREPay MyWay! is designed as a 'pay-as-you-go' service offering for those members who want greater control over their electric usage and costs. At its simplest, members

prepay for their electric service by establishing a credit balance on their PREPay account. As that credit balance gets low, they receive email or text notifications to make additional payments to avoid suspension of their electric service. Other advantages include no deposit is required at sign-up and there is no reconnect fee to restore power. PREPay users need to be aware of their account

balance and have the ability to put funds toward their account when notified. Additionally, PREPay users implement their own solutions to reduce usage to make their power dollars go further.

Time of Use program could lower your bills

Our Time-of-Use Rate option is one more way we continue our promise to provide members with affordable rates and options that fit their individual energy needs. The concept behind this program is fairly simple: rather than a single flat rate for each unit of energy used (e.g. kWh,) you pay different rates for the electricity you use based on the time of day and season. Under this voluntary rate option, when you consume electricity is just as important as the amount of electricity you use.

On Time-of-Use, rates are lower during evenings and overnight because of the decreased demand for electricity during those times. To help lower costs, you can shift energy use to off-peak periods (when electricity prices are lowest).

Our Time-of-Use Rate also changes seasonally, because electricity demand differs between summer months and the rest of the year. These rates can make a big difference for members particularly in the areas of heating and cooling, major appliances, and water pumping equipment.



CONGRATULATIONS

To the 2022 Powder River Energy scholarship winners.

The PRECorp Scholarship programs awarded a total of \$36,500 to college and post-secondary students of members in Campbell, Crook, Johnson, Sheridan, and Weston counties, with dollars from unclaimed Capital Credits, memorials, and funds raised through charitable events. The Powder River Energy Foundation Board of Directors reviews the applications and awards the scholarships. Apprentice Lineman Scholarship and Kathleen Tavegie Memorial Scholarship awardees are also noted on this page.



Ellie Thomas
Wright



Lauren Morgan
Hulett



Katie Cuthrell
Moorcroft



Ella Bifulco
Sundance



McKinly Hepp
Buffalo



Timber Buhr
Clearmont



Matthew Ingalls
Sheridan



LaKacee Lipp
Newcastle



Alyson Louderback
Upton



Kylee Myers
Gillette



Mason Jensen
Buffalo



Sarah Wood
Gillette



Ashylnn Fennema
Leiter



FaithHoney Anderson
Devils Tower



Rachel Morgan
Hulett



Other recipients not pictured:

Natalee Cook, Gillette; Avery Chick, Newcastle
Hunter Henderson, Gillette; Joseph Reyes, Wright

Basin Scholarship: Risa Pilon, Gillette

Tavegie Scholarship: Bailey Benshoof, Newcastle

Apprentice Lineman Scholarship: Kaden
Moeller, Sheridan; and Parker DeLong, Gillette



Regular business: 1-800-442-3630 Report an outage: 1-888-391-6220

www.precorp.coop

Powder River Energy Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer.