

Want to serve on the Board?

The Board of Directors has appointed the following members to the Nominating Committee: Brandon Dilts and Kyle Innes of Campbell County; Ben Schiffer and Thad Stoltz of Johnson County; and, Robert Cowger and Ty Miller of Weston County. This committee is responsible for nominating qualified candidates for election to the Board of Directors.

The 2019 Annual Meeting of the PRECorp membership will be Saturday, August 24, at Buffalo High School.

Following are ways members can stand for election to the Board:

How you can 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.

Are you qualified?

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:

1. 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, Johnson, Sheridan 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;
2. Must be a member receiving electric energy from the Corporation;
3. 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, please contact PRECorp at 1-800-442-3630.

Dates to remember:

According to the PRECorp bylaws, the following are some dates to remember regarding the election process:

Wednesday, April 24: Deadline for PRECorp Board of Directors to appoint nominating committees in each county.

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.

Friday, July 19: Publication of director candidates, notice of Annual Meeting, mail-in ballot, and Annual Report.

Friday, August 23: Deadline to submit mail-in ballots to a PRECorp business office.

Incumbent Board members up for election this year are:

Campbell County:

Gerry Geis

Johnson County:

Jim Purdy

Weston County:

Reuben Ritthaler

2019 Nominating Committee Members

CAMPBELL COUNTY:

Brandon Dilts

6546 State Highway 59 S.
Gillette, WY 82718
307-464-0652

Kyle Innes

888 Black and Yellow Rd.
Gillette, WY 82718
307-660-2323

JOHNSON COUNTY:

Ben Schiffer

34 Mountain View
Buffalo, WY 82834
307-217-2032

Thad Stoltz

1334 Upper Powder River Rd.
Arvada, WY 82831
307-736-2602

WESTON COUNTY:

Robert Cowger

PO Box 516
Upton, WY 82730
307-468-2805

Ty Miller

509 Mushcreek Rd.
Newcastle, WY 82701
307-746-9483

Advanced metering system installation update

For the past year, PRECorp has been implementing plans to replace the current automated meter reading (AMR) system (and meters) with a more robust and feature-rich advanced meter infrastructure (AMI) system.

The work has reached a critical phase where the testing and pilot installations are perfected and a planned roll-out to the entire PRECorp membership will begin.

Members in Crook and Weston counties will be the first to receive notifications that work is being done to install network equipment and eventually, new meters.

The new AMI system comes with an improved solid-state meter and a two-way communication network. This receives readings like the older AMR system, but can also transmit signals to the cooperative when it is experiencing a problem.

Like when there's a power outage.

The AMR meters perform as intended, but are approaching the end of useful life. Industry suppliers no longer support these meters with parts and repairs.

The new AMI system is the current industry standard. More specifically, PRECorp will be installing an integrated system of meters, communication networks, and data management systems that enable two-way communication between PRECorp and its meters.

"Moving to the new industry-standard for meters and communications will save the cooperative money in the long-term, can be implemented without having a negative impact on rates, and will provide for improved service to our membership," said PRECorp VP of Member Service Jeff Bumgar-

ner. The AMI system and meters record member usage and report that information back to PRECorp, just like AMR systems.

However, the AMI meters can also respond to requests or send information on their own, such as voltage readings, allowing the cooperative to verify or be notified of a member's power outage.

"Reliability is expected to improve with features such as advanced outage reporting and improved voltage monitoring," Bumgarner said.

This can save members money by avoiding an unwarranted trouble call when a breaker has tripped or by allowing members to notify the cooperative of a verified outage.

With this level of information, we can pinpoint the members affected, more quickly diagnose the location of the problem, and speed up restoration of service.

Today, the AMR system captures and records daily member usage, which the cooperative provides to members enrolled in Smart-Hub, the cooperative's online member portal, under the "My Usage" tab.

The AMI system will provide additional benefits as well, like the capture and recording of usage data.

The AMI system will be capable of capturing usage data more frequently, several times daily, and the usage data retrieved will contain individual readings that are captured every 15 to 30 minutes, providing better data to members to help diagnose high-use events or simply better understand and manage their electrical usage. The detailed usage data will also enable the possibility to develop optional flexible pricing plans, like

What is an AMI meter?

- **Two-way communications between the meter and the cooperative.**
- **Near real-time meter reading through low-frequency radio signals.**
- **Real-time oversight for system operations (outage, voltage problems).**
- **All transmitted data is encrypted.**
- **An AMI meter has no idea what a consumer-member uses the electricity for, and it doesn't care.**

time-of-use plans, where members who shift usage to off-peak hours of the day can save even further.

PRECorp members have indicated in surveys and direct communications with the cooperative that they want more information and control over their energy consumption and costs. It all starts with a way to measure electricity use on the system in more frequently and in greater granularity. Finding out 30-days later is like trying to drive your car using only the rear-view mirror. Timely measurement is the first step toward that goal.

Some might be wondering if investing in the new AMI system will have a negative impact on rates. "Your rates will not increase because of the AMI project," Bumgarner said. "PRECorp has been planning for the need to upgrade the meter reading system and will begin retiring the old system as the new system is phased in."