



PRECorp News

OCTOBER 2019

Foundation golf tournament raises funds for local charities

Eighty champions for northeast Wyoming charities played in the annual PRECorp Foundation golf scramble at the Golf Club at Devils Tower on Friday, September 6. These men and women, through their donations and participation in the event, support the Foundation's mission for families in need, Veterans, elderly, and community arts and education programs.

This was the 12th annual event and brings together PRECorp vendors, community businesses, and private donors for a day of golf at one of the premier golf courses in the region, while giving a helping hand to local charities. The event raised approximately \$20,000 for Foundation programs that reach across northeast Wyoming into every county and community.

The primary Champion Sponsor for this event is Bell Lumber & Pole Company. Bell Lumber & Pole Company is a 109-year-old, privately held, family company with headquarters in Minneapolis, MN. Bell is a wood-first provider of electrical utility delivery systems as well as industrial and commercial infrastructure solutions. Bell's primary business is providing and servicing the utility market with treated, wooden utility poles.

The 2019 event was one of the larger turnouts in recent history and also one of the most successful for the Foundation. The Foundation exists thanks to the voluntary donations from Powder River Energy members who participate in the Operation RoundUp® program or who donate their Capital Credits, as well as fundraising events such as the golf scramble.

"Anyone can make a difference," said Foundation

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Photo by Tim Velder/PRECorp

Golfers open the 2019 scramble with a putting contest.

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PRECorp Moonshot

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

PRECorp Purpose

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

VISION 2030

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.



MIKE EASLEY,
CEO

I am very grateful that you take the time each month to read my CEO article. At our last annual meeting I was so pleased to hear from many of you that you read it each month.

October is Cooperative Month and we pause to remember just what a “cooperative” is. I have had the pleasure of working in a cooperative system since 1983. That is 36 years from Oklahoma to Alaska to Michigan, and now Wyoming, since 2000!

I have thoroughly enjoyed working with members, much like you, all over the country, helping to improve the quality of life in rural America. The cooperative’s foundation draws from the concept of self-determination and neighbor helping neighbor. While it is important that cooperatives are financially healthy, we embrace our not-for-profit status by focusing on serving our members, not by being served by our members.

You can look in the headlines and see so many stories of businesses that have found themselves in deep trouble as they made profit, at all costs, their main goal. Cooperatives also draw strength from principles and values that define and reflect our commitment to our membership and the democratic process.

I hope that you take the time to review the seven Cooperative Principles and to reflect on them as a member-owner of PRECorp, Wyoming’s largest electrical cooperative. These principles, combined with our Purpose and our Vision, give us guidance and direction in how we serve you in addition to laying the foundation for an amazing future inspired by our Moonshot.

1. Open and voluntary membership

Signing up for electric service means you are joining the membership in Powder River Energy. We are obligated to serve you and bring electricity to your home, ranch, or business. Since our founding in 1945, this has been a cooperative where members choose to join and participate.

2. Democratic member control

As a member, you have a say in how PRECorp is run. This is shown outwardly when you attend the Annual Meeting and vote for the Board of Directors. Your board representatives are members just like you, and they collectively represent your interests as the operation of the cooperative is delegated to management. You can also share your opinion and give feedback through regular member satisfaction surveys, asking questions during our quarterly Telephone Town Halls, or just dropping us a note from time to time.

3. Member economic participation

This principle is tied to the grass-roots nature of an electric cooperative. There are no shareholders or Wall Street investment bankers who benefit when PRECorp is successful financially. You, the members, provide the capital to run the cooperative, and you see the cumulative financial benefits in the form of cost-based rates and capital credits based on your volume of power purchases during a given year.

4. Autonomy and independence

PRECorp’s Board of Directors create bylaws and policies to guide the operation of the cooperative. The Board works within these guidelines, operating independently of other cooperatives and power providers.

5. Education, training and information

Part of our commitment to PRECorp members is to provide information about the cooperative and bring safety and energy efficiency information to you. We provide various channels for members to receive this information ranging from printed materials, to electronic media such as websites, Smart phone apps, and social media. We also provide electrical safety programs for children and adults throughout the service territory.

6. Cooperation among cooperatives

PRECorp’s strategy of expanding economies of scale has brought three cooperatives together for the benefit of all. Relationships with Members 1st Power Cooperative, Basin Electric, and Wyoming Rural Electric Association help us ensure not for profit cost based rates for our wholesale power costs and collaboration and support on projects of mutual interest.

7. Concern for community

This principle is more than giving cash donations to community organizations. Concern for community includes getting involved in the economic well-being of our communities. This is evident through employee-driven fundraisers and donations of personal time to support community activities. Your participation in Operation RoundUp® empowers the Powder River Energy Foundation to help in a meaningful way. We are working to provide assistance for community and economic development, from large-scale support to one-on-one work with individual businesses.

These are challenging times for Wyoming, and we are ready and willing to meet those challenges to better serve you and northeast Wyoming.

Dates to remember from now through December:

The PRECorp Board of Directors meets the third Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. rotating between the Sundance, Gillette, and Sheridan offices. Meetings might be moved to avoid conflicts with state or national cooperative events. The tentative remaining dates for 2019 are as follows:

November 20 - Gillette

December 18- Sheridan

January 21 - Sundance

Other events to remember:

- **Monday, November 11:** Veterans Day observance, PRECorp offices closed.
- **Wednesday, November 20:** Telephone Town Hall, 6:30 p.m. Dial toll-free 844-881-1317.
- **Thursday and Friday, November 28-29:** Thanksgiving Day holiday, PRECorp offices closed.
- **Tuesday and Wednesday, December 24-25:** Christmas, PRECorp offices closed.



Go to the PRECorp Facebook Page to see the Telephone Town Hall live at 6:30 p.m. on November 20.

Michelle Edwards appointed to PRECorp Foundation



Michelle Edwards

The PRECorp Board of Directors recently appointed Michelle Edwards of Sheridan County to the PRECorp Foundation Board of Directors. She will represent Sheridan County as an at-large director.

Michelle was born and raised in Green River, the seventh generation of her Wyoming family. After completing Bachelors' and Masters' degrees in civil engineering at the University of Wyoming, she moved to Sheridan.

Shortly after moving to Sheridan, Michelle discovered the Jaycees organization which provides development opportunities to young people to empower them to create positive change in their communities. She has served many roles in this organization including local chapter president, state president, and at the national level as a program manager.

She has been involved in numerous other civic activities in Sheridan, including serving as the event chair for Sheridan County's Relay For Life event.

Michelle works for the Wyoming Department of Transportation as the District Traffic Engineer for the northeast region of the state, covering Sheridan, Johnson, Campbell, Crook, and Weston counties. In this role, she provides management and oversight of all things traffic and safety-related; signing, pavement markings, traffic signals, etc. In her free time, Michelle enjoys traveling, cheering on the Wyoming Cowboys, reading, playing the piano, and any outdoor activities.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Heating requires more energy than any other system in your home, typically making up about 42% of your energy bill. With proper equipment maintenance and upgrades like additional insulation and air sealing, you can save about 30% on your energy bill.

Source: energy.gov



AMI project reaches deployment phase

For the past year and a half, Powder River Energy technicians have planned the replacement of the cooperative's automated meter reading (AMR) system with a more robust and feature-rich advanced meter infrastructure (AMI) system.

The work of installing relays in Weston County [a series of wireless communication pods attached to selected power poles] has reached a new phase. Through the end of 2019, a planned roll-out of new meter installations in Weston County will take place at the same time as relay installations in Crook County. Meter installations will follow in Crook County.

PRECorp releases communications to members when our crews or technicians will be working in your area. Please contact our offices at 1-800-442-3630 if you have specific questions about the project in your area.

Eventually, project technicians will install relays and meters in Campbell, Johnson, and Sheridan counties to complete the network.

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.

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.

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

The cooperative saves money in the long-term by moving away from a higher-cost, unsupported meter system. No adverse impacts to the annual operating costs of the cooperative or its rates are expected as a result of the implementation of the AMI system. The benefit is improved service to our membership.

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.

This can save members money by avoiding an unwarranted trouble call when a breaker trips.

With this level of information, PRECorp crews can speed up finding the location and cause of the outage. This will expedite restoration efforts.

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

The AMI system will be capable of capturing usage data more frequently, several times daily, and the usage data retrieved will



PRECorp photo

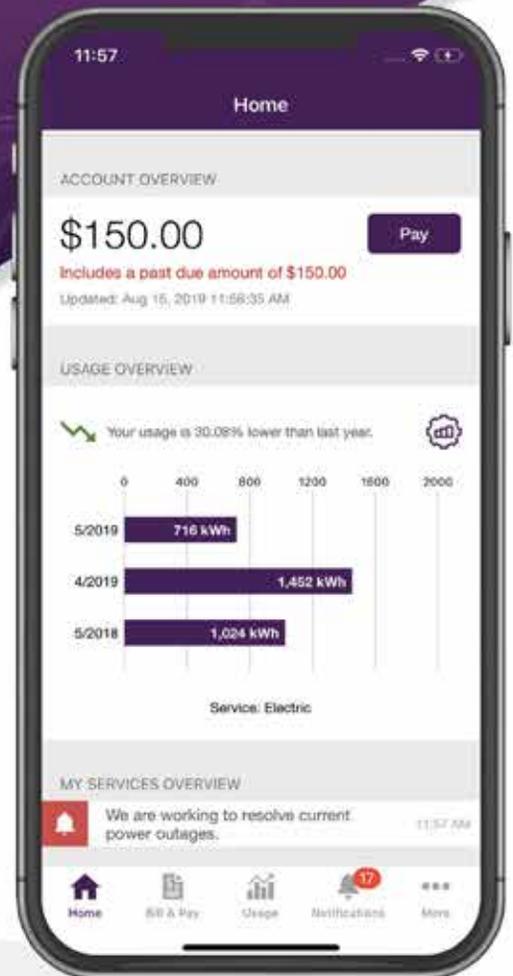
An AMI relay is attached to a PRECorp power distribution pole. These relays will become a common sight on PRECorp poles in the coming months.

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, such as Time-Of-Day 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 more frequently and in greater detail. Timely measurement is the first step toward that goal.



INTRODUCING A NEW SMARTHUB EXPERIENCE



New Look. New Experience. Same SmartHub.

Manage your account like never before with the new, improved SmartHub. An enhanced app design is coming your way soon. Usage details are right up front, allowing you to monitor your account quickly and easily. The same SmartHub features – view and pay your bill, contact us quickly and easily – are available at the tap of a button with the new SmartHub, coming soon!

SMART MANAGEMENT. SMART LIFE. SMARTHUB.

2nd Annual Christmas Giveaway

Two separate drawings for 25-pound bundles of beef and pork at 8 a.m. on Monday, December 2.

Operation RoundUp[®] members are already in the drawing.



Not enrolled in Operation RoundUp[®]?

Sign up today by calling 1-800-442-3630.

Sign up by Wednesday, November 27, and be entered in the bundle of meat drawing to be held Monday, December 2.

Foundation...

Executive Director Jeff Bumgarner. "Our larger corporate donors such as Bell Lumber & Pole, to those individual members who donate a few cents every month through Operation RoundUp, are having a meaningful impact improving the lives of those in need in northeast Wyoming."

Because of all of those donations, the 12-year-old Foundation surpassed \$1 million in total donations to charities in northeast Wyoming in 2019.

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Along with 18-holes of golf in glorious weather, the golfers received commemorative prizes and lunch. Others won special competitive prizes for lowest team scores, hole prizes, and even for competing in a putting contest.

Next year's event is already being planned for Friday, August 28. For more information on being a sponsor, contact communications@precorp.coop

Thank you! To our 2019 Foundation Golf Sponsors

Anadarko Petroleum

Anixter

ARC Media

Ashley Homestore

Basin

Bell Lumber & Pole

**Bighorn Construction &
Reclamation #1**

**Bighorn Construction &
Reclamation #2**

C.H. Guernsey & Company

Calloway Oil & Gas

Climate Solutions

CoBank

Durham Ranch

EATON

Edward Jones

Eide Bailly

Electrical Consultants Inc. (ECI)

Electrotech

Golf Club at Devils Tower

GrandPeaks Properties

Hamilton Associates

HDR Engineering, Inc.

Hirst Applegate

Hubbell

JPC Keyhole, LLC

NRTC

Okonite Company

Peter Barron Stark

**RMG Financial/
Reid Grossmann**

SignBoss

Solomon

Summit ESP

Sundance State Bank

WREA





October is National Co-op Month.



Co-op lines are shaped by you, the members we serve, right here in our local community.



**Community Born.
Community Led.
Focused on You.**



Defined by Principles:

1. Voluntary & Open Membership
2. Democratic Control
3. Members' Economic Participation
4. Autonomy & Independence
5. Education, Training & Information
6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives
7. Concern for Community

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.