

# PRECorp News

OCTOBER 2021



**Community born.  
Community led.  
Focused on YOU.**

**October is  
National Co-op Month!**

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MIKE EASLEY,  
CEO

As proclaimed on the front page of this month's PRECorp News, October is National Co-op Month. This is a time when cooperatives of all kinds remind their members of all the benefits cooperatives bring to the American society and economy.

It is also a time we at Powder River Energy can look internally and gauge our progress of delivering upon the founding principles that make rural electric cooperatives unique and unmatched for service, reliability, affordability, and community support.

While October is an appropriate time to stop and reflect upon the great things we have accomplished together, it is also important to keep these ideals at the top of our minds every month of every year.

It is these principles, guided by the overarching idea that we are here to serve you, that help us work through the daily challenges that come with delivering power and quality of life in rural north-east Wyoming.

I will briefly describe how we live these principles with examples of our focus on you, the consumer-members of PRECorp.

**1 Open and Voluntary Membership:** PRECorp provides service to anyone in our service territory who requests it. We are obligated to serve and provide safe and reliable power to our members.

**2 Democratic Member Control:** Each spring, we publish information on how members can run for the Board of Directors. In July, we provide information on our Annual Meeting and the voting process for the Board. We adhere to a 'one-member-one-vote' system and encourage all members to participate in how their cooperative is run.

**3 Members' Economic Participation:** PRECorp is not run by shareholders or Wall Street, therefore, any excess profits after expenses are returned to our member-consumers. Each year, our Board allocates Capital Credits back to the members who purchased power in that year. This allocation stays with the member through their life. In most years, PRECorp returns a portion of that allocation in the form of a Capital Credit check. This amounts to millions of dollars returned to the membership every year as these capital credits are retired.

**4 Autonomy and Independence:** Because PRECorp is member-governed, no other neighboring utility or industry group can influence how we do business. Our Board of Directors acts in the best interests of our membership as a whole.

**5 Education, Training, and Information:** It is our duty to keep the members informed about the happenings in the cooperative. Four times a year, I hold a telephone town hall meeting for our members to ask any question about what we are doing. We provide monthly newsletters and bill inserts, as well as updates on work projects in your area. Part of our strategy is to research and develop new technologies to improve your service. Some of these projects include Advanced Metering Infrastructure, Electric Vehicle research, pre-paid metering, faster outage detection and response, as well as special rates for electric heating and time of use.

**6 Cooperation Among Cooperatives:** As business conditions change, it is important that cooperatives share success stories and real solutions with each other. Some of this sharing results in collaboration, and even formal partnerships. Members 1st Power Cooperative is an example of PRECorp joining forces with Tongue River Electric Cooperative and Fergus Electric Cooperative – both in Montana – to ensure long-term rate stability through our wholesale power supplier Basin Electric.

**7 Concern for Community:** This principle is likely the most obvious to our rank-and-file members.

The PRECorp Foundation leverages a variety of funding sources, including fundraisers and matching funds, to make meaningful donations to local food banks, families in crisis, veterans' organizations, arts and education programs, and emergency responders. (See page 3 for an example.) One way is through Operation RoundUp, which rounds up members' bills to the nearest whole dollar and donates the extra cents (which add up to thousands of dollars each year) to help fund these worthy causes in our communities.

PRECorp facilitates multiple channels of giving back to the communities we serve. This can be through event sponsorships, scholarships, economic development loans, or direct giving to community-based charities to help them with the good work in their communities.

*Mike*



# WyoGives event sends help to VFD's

The PRECorp Foundation has facilitated \$10,000 in direct donations to local volunteer fire departments through a single day of fundraising in July this year.

Called the WyoGives 'Day of Giving,' the annual online fundraiser gives local charities an opportunity to raise funds and leverage matching funds to increase the total dollars raised.

The 24-hour online fundraiser was held on July 14, and the PRECorp Foundation dedicated 100 percent of the money raised to local volunteer fire departments in Campbell, Crook, Johnson, Sheridan, and Weston counties.

After matching funds and other direct funds were added together, the Foundation Board of Directors topped off the total to make it an even \$10,000 to be spread evenly across the five counties in PRECorp's service territory.

"Following the dry summer of 2021, we truly appreciate and support our neighbors who selflessly put their lives on the line to keep us safe," said Foundation Executive Director Jeff Bumgarner. "When the call comes, you respond. You are the best of the best!"

Funds will be used for personal protective equipment,

equipment maintenance, repair or replacement – however the departments can best use the funds.

Bumgarner also thanked the dozens of individuals who donated during the event to help make it a success. "We are all in this together, and together we take care of our own - local needs met through local support - it's just how we roll in northeast Wyoming," Bumgarner said.

The giving will assist these locally-focused volunteers with \$2,000 to each county. They include:

- **Campbell County:** 56 volunteer staff at fire stations throughout the county.
- **Crook County:** Support maintenance, tools, fuel, and equipment for outposts throughout the county.
- **Johnson County:** Supplemental funding for the three entities providing volunteer firefighting services for Johnson County.
- **Sheridan County:** Direct funding for volunteer departments in Big Horn, Clearmont, Dayton, rural Sheridan, Story, and Ranchester.
- **Weston County:** Direct funding for volunteer departments in Newcastle, rural Weston County, and Upton.

## Geier, Kiser join Foundation Board

Two new directors have been appointed to the PRECorp Foundation Board.

Mary Geier of Weston County, and Joanie Kiser of Sheridan County, were appointed over the summer by the Powder River Energy Board of Directors.



**Geier**

Geier was born and raised in Buffalo, and received a B.A. in Sociology from the University of Wyoming and certification to teach elementary and special education from Black Hills State College. For the last 37 years, Mary has ranched with husband Marlin in Weston County. Her community involvement includes helping at Gateway Fellowship's Community Christmas Dinner and annual car care clinic, helping at the Newcastle High School Rodeo, being an election judge, and serving on various committees.



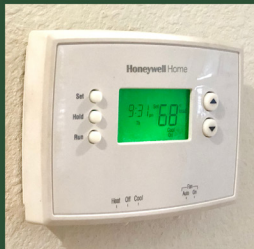
**Kiser**

Joanie Kiser and her husband have 'semi-retired' to Clearmont where she began substitute teaching. She also worked part-time at the local library and still works part-time at the Clearmont Fire District. Over the years she has been involved with many organizations such as Sheridan Jaycees, Casper Lions Club, Ombudsman for the USS Thach, Clearmont Women's Club, and Clearmont Community Church. She remains active in her church where she heads up several programs and leads a team of volunteers who work with a Sheridan food pantry.

Other members are John Flocchini (Chair), and Phil Jordan, Campbell County; Susan Berry (Vice-chair), Johnson County; Mary Yemington and Zeta Anderson (Secretary-Treasurer), Crook County; Michelle Edwards, Sheridan County; and John Riesland, Weston County. Go to [www.precorpfoundation.org](http://www.precorpfoundation.org) for more information.

1

Set your thermostat to 68 degrees or cooler to give your heating system a break.



2

Replace your HVAC filter regularly. Check it monthly to make sure it's not too dirty.



3

Open blinds and other window coverings to let natural light in to warm your home.



Daylight Savings Time ends  
**Sunday, November 7.**  
Set your clocks  
back one hour.

## Miss the Annual Meeting?

You can still pick up a free 2022 PRECorp Calendar - while supplies last - at our offices in Sundance or Gillette. The calendars feature the photographic talent of PRECorp employees and the natural beauty of northeast Wyoming.



Blue Chevy in the pasture. Photo by PRECorp Plant Accountant Cindy Stoddard.

## MARCH 2022

FEBRUARY 2022							APRIL 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
27	28						24	25	26	27	28	29	30
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY							
	28	1	2	3	4	5							
6	7	8	9	10	11	12							

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[www.precorp.coop](http://www.precorp.coop)

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