

Director nominating process underway

The 2023 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 16, 2023.

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

Campbell County (Alison Gee, incumbent):

- Jaime Tarver, phone: (307) 680-9715
- Troy Swartz, phone: (307) 689-5230

NOTE: PRECorp Board Director Alison Gee of Campbell County has announced she is not seeking re-election in 2023.

Crook County (Philip Habeck, incumbent):

- Wade Dennis, phone: (307) 680-3813
- Rick Good, phone: (307) 680-7776

Sheridan County (Mike Helvey, incumbent):

- Leo Ankney, phone: (307) 751-2345
- Mike Latham, phone: (307) 737-2219

Weston County (Clay Branscom, incumbent):

- Walt Christensen, phone: (307) 746-2421
- Everett Kraft, phone: (307) 680-2513

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, 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:

- Monday, May 22: Deadline for nominating committees to post their list of candidates.
- Friday, June 16: Deadline for candidates to file nominating petitions at a PRECorp business office.
- Monday, July 17: Publication of director candidates, notice of Annual Meeting, mail-in ballot.
- Saturday, August 26: PRECorp Annual Membership Meeting, Buffalo High School. In-person voting, vote tabulation, announcement of results.

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BRIAN MILLS,
CEO

As I continue on my journey as CEO, I find myself being curious as to the “why’s” or “how-did-it-get-here’s” of different concepts that I may have previously taken for granted.

One of those very instances happened for me as I was working with Board President Jim Purdy in preparation for a meeting we were going to have with our Nominating Committee. You see the Nominating

Committee is just one step in PRECorp living out the Cooperative principle of the Democratic Control; “...controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions.” So here comes my curiosity. How and when did the cooperative model begin and establish Democratic Control as a principle?

Here is what I found. One of the earliest, if not the earliest, recorded existences of a cooperative goes back to Rochdale, England in 1844.

“At the time, the Industrial Revolution had created harsh working conditions for many people, with low wages, long hours, and poor living conditions. In response to these challenges, a group of 28 weavers and other workers decided to pool their resources and establish a cooperative grocery store, which they named the Rochdale Equitable Pioneers Society.

The Pioneers were inspired by the cooperative ideals of Robert Owen, a social reformer who had advocated for the establishment of cooperative communities. However, the Pioneers added a new element to the cooperative model: democratic control. They decided that each member would have an equal vote in the management of the store, regardless of their investment.

The Pioneers also established clear rules and procedures for the operation of the cooperative, which included regular meetings, open accounting, and a commitment to selling high-quality goods at fair prices. They also created a system of patronage, in which surplus profits were returned to members in proportion to their purchases.

The Rochdale cooperative was an immediate success, and soon became a model for other cooperatives around the

world. The Pioneers’ emphasis on democratic control helped to ensure that the store remained focused on the needs and interests of its members, and that all members had a say in the store’s affairs.

Today, the Rochdale Pioneers are widely recognized as the founders of the modern cooperative movement, and their emphasis on democratic control remains a core principle of cooperative organizations around the world.”

(Brockman, G., Cheung, V., Pettersson, L., Schneider, J., Schulman, J., Tang, J., & Zarembka, W. (2016). Openai gym. ArXiv Preprint ArXiv:1606.01540.)

Pretty interesting! And to bring it to life, Democratic Control is lived out in a few different actions:

- 1. One member, One Vote:** Equal say in decision-making.
- 2. Active Participation:** Member Meetings and Committees, and voting.
- 3. Education & Training:** Informed members make meaningful contributions.
- 4. Democratic Structure:** Efficient representative governance structure that provides for democratic control of members, elections.
- 5. Accountability:** Ensures the cooperative remains focused on the needs of its members.

So, as Chairman Purdy and I met with the Nominating Committee, it was just one small way we continue to live the principle of Democratic Control. The Nominating Committee is tasked with finding willing participants to become part of the elected governing body representing the membership. From there, the membership will cast their vote in support of a candidate that will best represent them on that governing body.

For PRECorp, that takes place in a couple ways. First, in-person at our Annual Meeting which is scheduled for August 26th in Buffalo. Second, by mail-in ballot from your July WREN magazine. From there the elected board of directors oversee the management of the cooperative - ultimately accountable to the needs of the members.

While I speak of this type of governance, it is hard to not think about those in uniform that have and are currently standing strong to defend the ultimate form of democracy in action, the United States of America. Thank you to all that have and are currently serving.

Calendar:

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

- **Thursday, April 20** - PRECorp Board of Directors meeting, 9:30 a.m., Sundance.
- **Tuesday, April 25** - PRECorp Foundation Board meeting, 10 a.m., Gillette.
- **Tuesday, May 16** - PRECorp Board of Directors meeting, 9:30 a.m., Gillette.
- **Monday, May 22** - Deadline for county committees to post their list of PRECorp Director candidates.
- **Tuesday, May 23** - PRECorp Foundation Board meeting, teleconference.
- **Monday, May 29** - Memorial Day, PRECorp offices closed.
- **Wednesday, May 31** - PRECorp CEO Telephone Town Hall meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- **Saturday, June 3** - Durham Ranch Buffalo Stampede 5K/10K Walk/Run.
- **Friday, June 16** - Deadline for PRECorp Director candidates to file nominating petitions.
- **Tuesday, June 20** - PRECorp Board of Directors meeting, 9:30 a.m., Sheridan.
- **Tuesday, June 27** - PRECorp Foundation Board meeting, Gillette.
- **Tuesday, July 4** - Independence Day, PRECorp offices closed.
- **Monday, July 17** - Publication of notice of Annual Meeting in the July WREN magazine.
- **Saturday, August 26** - 78th PRECorp Annual Meeting, Buffalo High School.
- **Friday, September 15** - PRECorp Foundation Golf Scramble, Golf Club at Devils Tower.

Tampering is not safe, and not tolerated

Incidents of vandalism, copper theft, or other intentional damage to PRECorp poles, lines, meters, and transformers is an ongoing concern.

Some incidents involve shots fired at poles or substations. Others involve the removal of copper wire from PRECorp infrastructure as a direct theft. Thefts of copper, aluminum and bronze have been committed locally and across the nation at unguarded industrial or construction sites, empty homes and—most dangerous—at power poles and even substations.



PRECorp takes a firm stance against these types of behaviors because any contact with energized equipment can cause high-voltage shocks with severe burns, or fatal electrocution. Thieves in other parts of the nation have been seriously injured and even killed attempting to steal metal from power facilities.

Another cost is to the law-abiding members. All it takes is one incident to put hundreds of PRECorp members in the dark.

Tampering, theft, and vandalism do not always show up immediately, but eventually crews discover the damage during routine inspections or maintenance. Sometimes the damage causes delayed-reaction outages that must be repaired.

PRECorp crews work very hard in all conditions to provide high-quality power, and man-made outages due to vandalism or theft put them at risk and create unnecessary hardships for our members. As PRECorp members, we share ownership of this equipment equally and acts of vandalism come at a cost to us all, by impacting the cost to safely deliver power.

We need your help to keep our equipment safe, prevent outages and protect lives. If you see anyone other than our utility personnel or contractors around substations or other electric facilities, report it to your local authorities, or call the PRECorp 24-hour dispatch number at 1-888-391-6220.

PRECorp works with local law enforcement to investigate the crimes. If anyone has any information about specific incidents of vandalism, copper theft, or suspicious tampering with PRECorp equipment, please call local law enforcement. All information will be kept anonymous.

Enter the Moonshot Logo Contest to win a prize.

1. Look for the Moonshot logo in 2023 editions of the PRECorp News or PowerLines bill insert.
2. Email communications@precorp.coop with your name, phone number, and where you saw the logo in this edition. That's it! Don't have email? Call our office at 1-800-442-3630 to enter. Mention the "Moonshot Logo Contest".
3. Each month we will hold another drawing for a Moonshot prize package. Previous non-winning entries remain in the hunt for drawings throughout the year.



March winner:
Audrey W., Gillette

Surplus PRECorp vehicles up for auction on eBay May 26 through June 5

Retired PRECorp surplus vehicles will be up for auction on eBay on May 26 through June 5, 2023.

Beginning at 7 p.m., May 26, 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 5, in the event an individual is bidding on more than one unit.

The items below will be listed in the vehicle auction May 26 through June 5:

- 2014 Ford F550 4x4 Chassis; 148,621 miles; 6.7 Diesel with an automatic transmission
- 2010 Ford F350 4x4 with service body; 136,902 miles; 6.2 gas engine with an automatic transmission
- 2014 Ford F350 4x4 with service body; 113,753 miles; 6.2 gas engine with an automatic transmission

These vehicles were used for field service work. They have been regularly serviced and records are available. The truck was 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 26, 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.



2014 Ford F550 4x4 Chassis; 148,621 miles; 6.7 Diesel with an automatic transmission



2010 Ford F350 4x4 with service body; 136,902 miles; 6.2 gas engine with an automatic transmission



2014 Ford F350 4x4 with service body; 113,753 miles; 6.2 gas engine with automatic transmission

Note to bidders:

Prior to the opening of the sale on May 26, 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.



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

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We ♥ Trees, Too.

Trees and power lines are a dangerous mix. Your safety is most important. Trees touching or slapping against power lines are a fire danger. They also pose a risk of shock or electrocution to anyone climbing those trees.

Routine tree trimming keeps the lines clear. It helps restore outages more quickly. It reduces the cost of system repairs. And improves our power reliability.

- Please do not plant trees within 15 feet of our lines, or within 30 feet of transmission lines.

Call PRECorp at 1-800-442-3630 to report trees or branches hanging within 15 feet of our lines (30 feet for transmission). We can clear those branches or trees at no cost to you.





2023 Apprentice Lineman Scholarship Fundraiser

Buy a ticket and get a chance to win a side-by-side or a Mule Deer hunt!



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.



SPECIAL DRAWINGS!

D-Ranch Mule Deer Hunt by Philip & Jeanne Habeck
Open hunt, choice of hunting date including opening day.

\$100 per ticket with only 350 tickets sold!

Special limited-entry drawings for a WINNER'S CHOICE:

2023 Polaris Ranger 1000 Side-By-Side - OR -

A Mule Deer hunt at Crook Co. D-Ranch

Drawing will take place on **Saturday, August 26**, during the PRECorp Annual Meeting in Buffalo. Need not be present to win. Second drawing gets remaining prize. **Winner of hunt must be eligible to hunt in Wyoming and is responsible for purchasing appropriate state licensing. Winner of side-by-side is responsible for applicable federal tax.**

For tickets call Rick at 307-283-4930 or or PRECorp at 1-800-442-3630

Others to contact:

Campbell County:

Rich Halloran, Aaron Meek, Brad DeLong

Crook/Weston counties:

Rick Gill, Eric Anderson, Ethan Devlin

Sheridan/Johnson counties:

Tommy Nimick, Travis Geis, Bruce Burr



2023 Polaris Ranger 1000
From Peak Power Sports of Sheridan

Electrical Safety... from page 5.








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.

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.

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 <p>STARTING A NEW PROJECT?</p> <p>Here are 5 steps for safe digging.</p>	<p>1</p> <p>NOTIFY</p>  <p>Call 811 or make a request online two to three days before you plan to start your project.</p> 
<p>2</p> <p>WAIT</p>  <p>Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will mark underground lines.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>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</p> <p>RESPECT</p>  <p>Respect the markers and use them as a guide for the duration your project.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>DIG CAREFULLY</p>  <p>If you can't avoid digging near the provided markers, consider moving your project.</p>

Electrical Safety Month...

from page 7.

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.



Regular business: 1-800-442-3630

Report an outage: 1-888-391-6220

www.precorp.coop

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