



# Kilowatt Korner

SEPTEMBER 2023

As with all businesses, the fourth quarter is a crucial time for companies to prepare for the upcoming year. The WREA Board of Directors and management have been in the throes of financial reviews, 2024 budgeting, approving construction work plans for important upgrades and maintenance and digging deep into rate design components. A thorough review of each rate component plays a critical role in ensuring WREA meets its mission to provide reliable and responsible electric energy at the most reasonable cost possible to our end consumers.

In July, our wholesale power supplier, Tri-State G&T, announced a 6.36% rate increase for all its members beginning in 2024. That announcement, coupled with an energy landscape that is changing at a rapid pace, set the stage to begin a thorough WREA rate analysis. With the help of rate consultants, WREA staff continue to work through a “cost-of-service study”, which allows experts to examine the direct costs incurred by each rate class and provide suggestions for the most equitable spread of those costs. Currently, WREA has not determined the exact impact of the wholesale rate increase to WREA members for 2024. Once the rate study is complete, the WREA Board will carefully review its findings and communicate any anticipated rate change to the membership.

In the meantime, WREA board officials have immersed themselves in complimentary financial training offered by the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC). The CFC is one of only a few banking institutions that provide lower interest loans to rural electric cooperatives across the nation and understand the financial make-up of an electric cooperative better than most.

“The trainings can feel like you are drinking from a firehose,” said Hal Pearce, WREA Board President. “Our members elect us with the expectation that we will make decisions in the best interest of WREA. We have to stay educated so we can do that, and we never walk away from a CFC training feeling like we didn’t learn something important.”

WREA members also play an important role in the co-op’s success by remaining engaged and by voting in the annual director election. Sixteen WREA members who cast votes during this year’s director election in July were randomly selected to receive a 40-pound box of beef, pork and lamb purchased at the RBC County Fair. The winners are:

Arthur and Lila Cox	Matthew Griffith
Kristine and Mary Casey	Dan and Carol Brauch
Bernard and Anne Gantt	Melinda Parker
Parr Family Trust	Faith Baptist Church
Ed Coryell	Elizabeth (Libby) Morton
James C. Richardson	LK Ranch Livestock
Craig and Trudy Nielsen	Brianna Nay
Bobbie and Amanda Jackson	Gianinetti’s Ltd.

WREA is proud to support the hard-working and dedicated youth who compete in the county fair each year and pay tribute to the nearly 350 members who allowed their voices to be heard in the most recent director election. Thank you for remaining active in the cooperative election process and congratulations to each of the above listed winners.

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