

WATTS&VOLTS

The Official Publication of *IREA*

February 2020

DIRECTOR NEWSLETTER

Greetings! As your elected representative on Intermountain Rural Electric Association's board of directors, I have several pieces of association news to share:

Pole attachment audits to begin

IREA audits attachments to our poles on a 5-year cycle. These attachments are not owned by us, so we collect a pole attachment fee to cover costs. These attachments typically include communication lines such as broadband, telephone and cable television. The audit confirms placement and ownership of the attachments and identifies those that might not meet industry standards, which are then addressed by attachment owners. Work on this year's audit will take place through the spring and summer, and will be mostly performed using drones to minimize field work.

Contractors working for IREA will require access to some customers' properties during the audit. They will have IREA-issued identification and documentation, and will provide it upon request. Updates and additional information will be available at www.IREA.coop throughout the project.

Capital credits

I am happy to announce that we will refund to our members a portion of IREA's 2019 margins in the form of capital credits. Each year, these margins are allocated to members based on each member's electricity usage.

My fellow board members and I voted last month to refund a total of \$16.1 million. If you purchased electricity from us prior to 2020, you will receive your share of that refund.

Most current customers will see the refund as a line item on their March bill. To receive a check instead of a bill credit, click the Bill Credit Opt In/Out link under Capital Credits on our website: www.irea.coop. Your opt-out request must be submitted by Feb. 27 to receive a check this year.

This is the seventh straight year in which we have approved refunds totaling in the double-digit millions.



MICHAEL KEMPE
District 1



In those seven years, IREA has returned more than \$105 million in capital credits.

Visit www.IREA.coop/capital-credits to learn more about capital credits.

Renewable energy

IREA's investment in renewable energy will continue growing in 2020. We expect another 80 megawatts of solar-generated power when the Pioneer Solar facility comes online by the end of the year. Before year end we will have nearly 100 megawatts of solar generation in production with more under separate contracts and slated to come online in 2021.

Our solar power purchases are made under the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act. IREA pays avoided cost, which is what we would otherwise pay for the same amount of energy from other sources.

Just considering contracts which are currently in place or development, we expect to have nearly 200 megawatts of solar energy producing by 2025. This is in addition to more than 16 megawatts of distributed generation from customers currently interconnected to our system. IREA is making great progress in adopting solar energy and will continue to do so at a rapid pace.

Payment options

IREA has introduced several features that improve the payment process:

- Customers enrolled in electronic billing can make credit or debit card payments from within their eBill.
- A new guest log-in feature makes it easier for family, caretakers, and other guests to pay on behalf of an IREA account holder.
- Recurring credit/debit card payments also are available. There is a transaction limit of \$500 so consider automatic payments via a savings or checking account if your bill typically exceeds \$500.

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These new options are in addition to the elimination of fees associated with all electronic payments, which the board approved last year.

Fire mitigation plan

My fellow board members and I are keenly aware of the threat of fire in parts of IREA’s service territory. We have seen the devastation in Northern California and are committed to preventing it here. IREA now has a comprehensive fire mitigation plan that addresses four key areas: operating practices, design standards, maintenance and tree trimming. Our tree-trimming program recently began a new six-year cycle in which vegetation management crews will clear all overhead distribution lines within IREA’s service territory.

We will send a mailed notice if trimming is planned in your area; an additional notice will be left on your door if any work takes place on your property. Crews typically work 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Call our Utility Forester at (720) 733-5632 if you see tree-trimming crews in your area and would

like wood chips, which are free to IREA customers.

Please call us immediately at (800) 332-9540 if you spot a potentially hazardous tree or other vegetation near our power lines.

Safety poster contest

Students in grades one through five can enter our Electric Safety Poster Contest to help us promote National Safety Month in June. We are looking for hand-drawn artwork that includes a tip, slogan or message about electrical safety.

Five winning entries – one from each grade – will be awarded \$100 and appear in IREA’s print, electronic and social media channels as part of National Safety Month. They also will be displayed in the lobby of our Sedalia headquarters.

Additional details and the official entry form are available at www.IREA.coop/safety-poster-contest.

Thank you for reading this newsletter. Please visit www.IREA.coop and check our social media channels – @IREAColorado on Twitter, IntermountainREA on Facebook – for additional news from your electric cooperative.

The annual meeting of the members of The Intermountain Rural Electric Association will be held at the Association’s headquarters, located at 5496 N. U.S. Highway 85, Sedalia, CO 80135,

at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 18, 2020, to transact the following business:

1. The presentation of reports covering the previous fiscal year.

2. All other business that may properly come before the meeting.

Note: Registration is from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. on the day of the meeting.

PROXY FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE INTERMOUNTAIN RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Note: Registration is from 9 to 10 a.m. on the day of the meeting.

The undersigned hereby appoints _____ (name of IREA member) his or her true and lawful proxy for the annual meeting of the members of The Intermountain Rural Electric Association, to be held April 18, 2020, at 10 a.m.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have signed this proxy this _____ day of _____, 2020.

Customer Account Number

Member’s Signature

Cut out this completed form and return it to IREA, 5496 N. U.S. Highway 85, Sedalia, CO 80135. The presence of a member at the annual meeting revokes any proxy by that member per Article IV, Section 10 of the Association’s Bylaws. To be deemed valid, proxies must be executed within sixty (60) days of the annual meeting. (No earlier than Feb. 18, 2020.)