

## **MEMBER NEWSLETTER**

January 2019

# Notice of Annual General Meeting

The West Wetaskiwin REA will be holding its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on **Thursday, March 21, 2019.** 

Location: The Falun Community Hall 272019 AB-13, Falun, Alberta

Tel: (780) 352-3449

6:30 pm: Registration & Meet Your Directors

7:00 pm: Dinner & AGM\*

\*Note: The AGM is open to West Wetaskiwin REA members in good standing. If you are unsure whether you have a current contract, please contact the REA.

To ensure adequate seating and food, **members are** requested to confirm attendance and purchase tickets by Thursday, March 14, 2019.

The AGM is an ideal event for members to connect with their Directors and to learn about the challenges and success of WWREA. Agenda items will include, but are not limited to:

- Annual financial report
- Annual Chair Report
- Overview of the 2019/20 Operating Budget
- Nomination and election of Directors

### **Ticket Information**

Tickets for the AGM and dinner are \$15.00 per person and may be purchased through the REA office (Tel: 780-335-9378) or by contacting any Director (see Director contact information below).



Dean Knull, Chair	780.352.1348
Ron Holmlund	780.352.4842
Bill Moure	780.586.2846
Ron Stevens	780.352.2681
Neil Stone	780.586.2106
Mike Wollin	780.361.9642
Ken Adair	780.352.6318

### **Call Out for Directors**

For members who may be interested in standing as a Director (2 positions available this year), details on the nomination process and the role of a WWREA Director can be found on our website or you may contact one of the current Directors for information.

To be eligible for election as a Director of WWREA, a member:

- 1. must be 18 years of age;
- 2. have an interest in land; and
- 3. be a member in good standing.

For power troubles or service requests, contact: FortisAlberta (the distribution system operator for West Wetaskiwin REA): Toll-free: 1-855-333-9473 or 780-310-9473 For REA inquiries contact: West Wetaskiwin REA R.R. #1 Station Main, Wetaskiwin, Alberta T9A 1W8 Phone: 780-335-9378 (WEST) E-mail: <u>westwet@telus.net</u> www. westwetaskiwinrea.com For billing or account inquiries contact: Battle River Power Coop Box 1420 Camrose, Alberta T4V 1X3 Toll-free: 1-877-428-3972 E-mail: <u>brpc@brpower.coop</u> <u>www.brpower.coop</u>

#### Delinquent Accounts Can Negatively Impact West Wetaskiwin REA

As a co-operative, WWREA provides its membership with the opportunity to choose retail electricity providers with the assumption that members will pay their bills in a timely fashion.

Retail electricity providers, including our default Regulated Rate Option provider Battle River Power Coop, have an expectation that members will not be delinquent.

Retail providers offer easy methods of payment including Pre-authorized Withdrawal and some offer preauthorized Debit for Credit Cards. These simple payment options eliminate the problems that might arise if two account holders are responsible for payment and neither does it, absences during billing time periods as a result of vacations and potential Canada Post delivery issues.

We want to remind members that in most instances, regardless of whether you are renting a building or farmland, the landowner is the official member-owner of the REA service and is the individual responsible for the timely payment of monthly bills. While in most cases a renter may be responsible for payment of utility bills, a copy of the monthly bill is being forwarded to the landowner. This ensures that WWREA fulfills our obligation to our members/land title holders to keep them advised of the current status of both the service and utility billing on their site. While we recognize economic times may negatively impact individuals, arrears management has become a priority for WWREA. To facilitate the effective collection of delinquent accounts, particularly those identified in arrears, the REA is considering hiring a collection agency. Additionally, members who fail to acknowledge notifications of their delinquent accounts will be subject to caveats placed on their land title by WWREA.

The cost of this additional labor, collection and legal, would be integrated into the distribution tariff. The Board is working to eliminate possible rate increases that would be needed to offset collection costs.



#### **Emergency Assistance for Albertans Facing Utility Disconnection**

For members who are experiencing significant hardships we encourage you to contact Human Services Alberta. Emergency assistance may be provided to low-income Albertans who have received a disconnection notice from their gas or power company and have no way of paying their overdue bill. Applications are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. For information on how to apply, call the 24-hour Emergency Income Support Contact Centre, at: 1-866-644-5135 toll-free or visit: <u>humanservices.alberta.ca/ena</u>

Regulated Rate Option The Regulated Rate Option (RRO) may increase or decrease from month to month as it is priced on the open market and subject to many factors relating to supply and demand. It is not a 'regulated' rate, rather is a default rate. If you do not have a contract with an electricity retailer, then you are on the RRO. For January 2019, RRO is priced at \$0.06800 per kWh, reflected on your enclosed orange bill. For February 2019, the Battle River Power Coop monthly rate as calculated under the RRO regulation is \$0.07271; the billing rate charged to WW REA members is \$0.06800.

It is very important to note that your electrical distribution system provider will always be the West Wetaskiwin REA, regardless of who supplies your electricity. Members will not be disadvantaged in any way based on their retailer choice.

For a list of energy retailers, contact the Utilities Consumer Advocate: 310-4-UCA (310-4822) or <u>www.ucahelps.</u> <u>alberta.ca</u>. If you do not have a contract with an electricity retailer, then you are on the default Regulated Rate Option (RRO). The RRO rate is listed on <u>www.westwetaskiwinrea.com</u>

Information on West Wetaskiwin's Code of Conduct Regulation Compliance Plan can be found on our website: <a href="https://www.westwetaskiwinrea.com">www.westwetaskiwinrea.com</a>