



## Presidents AGM Report March 16, 2020

This year serving our REA has been a quiet one. Our disagreements with ATCO were minimal. For operations, there was no pole, ground rod or transformer changes nor any testing programs done this year. Some of you will have noticed brush control work being done on our behalf. ArborCare was spraying, mostly poplars, to ensure continued trouble free operation of our electrical distribution system.

As a Board, we tried to meet a little more regularly to avoid the lengthy meetings, especially those 11:00pm adjournments.

We did welcome one new member. Hoorah, Fenn REA is growing.

We'd like to send a shout out to Battle River Power Coop and Kneehill REA- both celebrating their 70th anniversaries. We will celebrate our 70th next year.

Some of you will have noticed a fluctuation in the regulated rate option of your power bill. This is due to the electricity "capacity market" having been scrapped this past November. The U.C.P. has mandated that we go forward with an "energy only market". Meaning that, as the market demands more generation, someone will deliver it. The capacity market design and the price cap that went with it, cost the Alberta tax payers in excess of \$90 million. We didn't pay it on our power bills, but we still paid it!

With the help of the Alberta Federation of Rural Electrification Associations (REAs) we investigated an insurance program to help in the event of a catastrophic failure of our distribution system. We determined that the cost was going to be too high per member. We and other Federation members voted it down. We will continue to self-insure and keep our system in the best possible condition,

therefore reducing the chance of catastrophic failure.

Our Alberta Federation of REAs (AFREA) continues to lobby government and the Alberta Utilities Commission on our behalf. These efforts can be expensive. Therefore as your representatives to the AFREA we voted in favor of an increase in the dues we pay to them. There will be a \$2.00 per year increase until 2022, inclusive. This is paid from our Levy Account. We don't anticipate an increase to our bills at this time.

The AFREA co-hosts a charity golf classic every year; raising over \$325,000.00 in support of Multiple Sclerosis since inception with \$25,000.00 raised this year alone.

This is a quote from the AFREA Board of Directors report: "...man has already survived for thousands

of years never complaining about the dark nights or having to use candlelight or the physical efforts to do those things that we now use electricity for. We would almost think it was the end of everything if we had to do without it now." The quote is another from the history book; but just

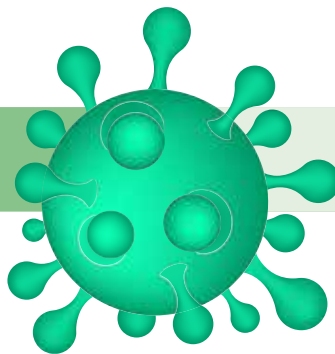
think, none of it could have happened without the insight and persistence of those REA members who talked and planned far into many candlelit nights. Men and women who turned the dream of rural power into a reality.

Today the revolution is a little different. We fight to remain a part of the rural industry you worked so hard to build. As a necessary component for a unified REA voice or as the catalyst to drive forward long overdue legislation, the AFREA strives to represent and work on behalf of the REA. You made us what we are today, and we continue to play that role in the electrification of rural Alberta.

Thanks,  
Philip Jarmin, President, FENN REA

*"We fight to remain a part of the rural industry you worked so hard to build."*

## Coping with COVID-19



COVID-19 is giving us some new life lessons. We are being asked to self-assess and self-monitor and we are dealing with new work place adjustments, whether it's an office or a farm. Together, we need to heed government directives, as they are updated, designed to stop the spread of the virus and keep people healthy. It is a challenging time that calls for some basic coping strategies and following are some suggestions you may find helpful.

### **Look after yourself.**

The best way to remain healthy and able to assist friends and family is to make time for self-care. This means basics like getting enough rest, eating well, and exercising.

### **Follow government directions.**

Observe the current government directives about keeping a 2-metre (6 foot) distance between yourself and others when you are in public. If you are wondering how long 6 feet is, well some comparisons are the length of a hockey stick or a ski. Wash your hands often; in fact after any and every encounter you have with people and things. The recommended length of time is 20 seconds which is equal to reciting the nursery rhyme "Mary had a Little Lamb" or two verses of "Happy Birthday".

### **Talk to your children.**

Remember children get stressed and worried and by giving them reassurance, you may find you are also reassuring yourself. Share accurate information at a level appropriate to the child's age and engage in normal activities like playing games, doing household chores, and schoolwork.

### **Get your information from reliable sources.**

The Alberta Government and the Canadian Government have websites devoted to COVID-19, both updated regularly. Alberta's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Deena Hinshaw, and Canada's Chief Public Health Officer, Dr. Theresa Tam, are both providing regular updates to media.

### **Look out for scammers.**

Once again, this situation has introduced a new line of scams. Be cautious about false claims of cures or requests for money to obtain tests. Currently there is no cure for COVID-19 and tests are administered free of charge by Alberta Health Services.

### **Think of others.**

Everyone is coping with the pandemic so be courteous and patient whether you are shopping for groceries or banking over the phone. Remember that social distancing need not be social isolation. Stay in touch with friends and family by phone, text, or email and in particular, ensure that vulnerable seniors in your circle have the support they need during this difficult time.

If you suspect you have been exposed to COVID-19, or have symptoms, use the Self-Assessment Tool from Alberta Health Services and/or phone 811.

## Regulated Rate Option (RRO)

The RRO rate 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. If you do not have a contract with an electricity retailer, then you receive the default RRO rate.

For March 2020, the RRO is priced at \$0.06683 per kWh, which is reflected on your enclosed bill. For April 2020, the Battle River Power Coop monthly RRO billing rate for FENN REA members is \$0.07185. The RRO rate is also listed on [www.fennrea.com](http://www.fennrea.com).

Members are free to purchase electricity services from a retailer of their choice. For a list of retailers, visit [ucahelps.alberta.ca](http://ucahelps.alberta.ca) or call 310-4822 (toll free in Alberta).

Information on FENN REA's Code of Conduct Compliance Plan can be found on our website: [www.fennrea.com](http://www.fennrea.com)