



LIGHT LINES

"The Power to Bring You the Best"



MEMBER NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023

National & Local Day Events

DECEMBER 2023

Giving Month
Volunteer Month

DATE

- 16 Underdog Day
- 18 Bake Cookies Day
- 18 Twins Day
- 19 **BVEA Board Meeting at 2 p.m.**
- 20 Go Caroling Day
- 21 **1st Day of Winter**
- 21 Remember the Homeless Day
- 22 Cookie Exchange Day
- 23 Festivus
- 23 Christmas Movie Marathon Day
- 24 **Christmas Eve**
- 25 **Christmas Day (BVEA Office Closed)**
- 26 Thank-You Note Day
- 28 Pledge of Allegiance Day
- 30 Bacon Day
- 31 **New Year's Eve**

JANUARY 2024

Financial Wellness Month
Get Organized Month
Soup Month

DATE

- 1 **New Year's Day (BVEA Office Closed)**
- 1 World Day of Peace
- 2 Ancestry Day
- 3 Mind-Body Wellness Day
- 3 Coats & Toys for Kids Day
- 4 Trivia Day
- 8 Clean Your Desk Day
- 9 **BVEA Board Meeting at 9 a.m.**
- 9 Law Enforcement Appreciation Day
- 10 Cut Your Energy Costs Day
- 11 Human Trafficking Awareness Day
- 12 Youth Day
- 14 Sunday Supper Day
- 15 **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**
- 15 Elementary School Teacher Day

General Manager's Viewpoint by Andy Hewitt

Closing 2023 on a High Note

Dear Members,

As the holiday season approaches, we at Bridger Valley Electric Association extend our warmest wishes to you and your families. **Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!** May this festive season bring you joy, peace, and prosperity.

We are incredibly grateful for your continued support and membership. It's a great time to reflect on the unique benefits of being part of a rural electric cooperative. One of these benefits is the return of member capital through capital credit retirements.

We are excited to announce that the Board of Directors has approved a significant capital credit retirement. This year, we will be retiring the remaining **85% of capital credits for 2003** and **60% for 2004**, amounting to approximately **\$930,000**. This retirement reflects our commitment to sharing the cooperative's success with our valued members.

As of the end of 2022, our equity as a percentage of assets stood at **67.2%**, with a healthy rate of return on equity at **4.7%**. We proudly serve **6,961 meters**, and it's our privilege to provide reliable and affordable energy services.

Looking forward to 2024, Bridger Valley Electric Association is poised to finish the year in a solid financial position. Our focus remains steadfast on serving our members with the highest quality of service. We are dedicated to ensuring that your energy needs are met efficiently, reliably, and affordably.

Your trust and support are the cornerstones of our success. Thank you for being a part of the Bridger Valley Electric Association. Here's to a bright and prosperous future for our community!

From the Board Room

The board met on November 7, 2023, and took the following actions:

- Approved the minutes of the October 10, 2023 meeting;
- Heard report from WREA Executive Director Shawn Taylor regarding legislative issues facing electric companies in Wyoming, the future of the WREN magazine, and potential participation in the international project with Nebraska co-ops;
- Heard from Deseret G&T CEO Dave Crabtree regarding the expected longwall move in 2024, the progress of the gas pipeline to the Bonanza Power Plant, availability of generation sources;
- Listened to 10-year financial forecast presented by Cory Hadley and gave final approval to the proposed 2024 budget;
- Approved financial report, new memberships, estate refunds, write-offs, and safety report;
- Heard reports from WREA, URECA, Deseret Power, and Federated Rural Utility Exchange representatives;
- Heard reports from the CEO and department managers.
- Next regularly scheduled meeting will be December 19, 2023.

**IMPORTANT
NOTICE**

With the implementation of a new phone system for the BVEA office, please note that our main phone number has changed to **(307) 289-0776**.

Merry Christmas!

*Spark joy and light
this holiday season.
From our co-op family
to yours, we wish you a
safe and warm season
with friends and loved
ones.*



**Don't forget to call 811
at least 48 hours ahead
of planned digging.**



Bridger Valley Electric Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 399
Mountain View, WY 82939
Phone: (307) 289-0776

www.bvea.coop

Office Hours:
8:00am - 4:00pm
Monday - Friday

CEO/GENERAL MANAGER
Andy Hewitt

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Gary Nix, Vice President
Lacey Bernard
*District 1
Mountain View, Robertson, Uintalands,
Manor Lands*

Jason Haycock
Rick Maxfield
*District 2
Lyman Area*

Ruth Rees, Secretary/Treasurer
*District 3
Ft. Bridger, Milburne, Carter, Piedmont,
Bear River Area (excluding Uintalands &
Manor Lands)*

Clark Anderson
*District 4
McKinnon, Manila, Dutch John Areas*

Trip Applequist, President
*District 5
Farson, Eden, Granger Areas*

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(307) 289-0776
24 hours a day

Underground Cable Locates:
Call 48 hours in advance
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or dial 811

*Publication of Bridger Valley Electric
Association, Inc.*

BVEA Employees Donate \$2,100 to Sub-4-Santa

Bridger Valley Electric Association embraces the Seven Cooperative Principles, with a particular emphasis on Principle Six: Concern for Community. In preparation for the holiday season, CEO/General Manager Andy Hewitt presented the idea of supporting the Sub-4-Santa program in the communities where the cooperative serves. This program focuses on assisting families in our service territory who are in need of basic necessities during the Christmas season.

The employees swiftly responded by donating \$2,100, thus demonstrating the strong sense of community involvement and the desire to make a positive impact on the lives of those in need. It's a commendable effort that goes beyond providing electric services, showcasing the company's commitment to being a responsible and caring member of the community.

This act of generosity not only benefits the families directly supported by the Sub-4-Santa program, but also sets an inspiring example for other organizations and individuals in the community. It fosters a positive corporate culture and reinforces the idea that businesses can play a vital role in addressing social needs and of the community they serve. Such initiatives also strengthen the sense of unity and shared purpose among the employees.



On behalf of the BVEA employees, CEO/General Manager Andy Hewitt presents a check for \$2,100 to Dawn L Clegg and Sage Clegg, Chairpersons for Sub-4-Santa in Bridger Valley.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Get smart with a better way to heat and cool your home! Smart thermostats are Wi-Fi enabled and automatically adjust heating and cooling temperature settings in your home for optimal performance. Smart thermostats learn your temperature preferences and establish a schedule that adjusts to energy-saving settings when you're asleep or away.

For maximum energy savings, look for smart thermostat models with the ENERGY STAR® label.

Source: Dept. of Energy



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25 MB - \$84.95
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100 MB - \$159.95

Bright Ideas For Safe Lighting This Season



Sparkling lights and dazzling decorations are hallmarks of the season. Make sure your holiday decorating is done with safety in mind.

Use only holiday lights that have been safety tested and have the UL label. Before decorating, check each light strand for broken sockets, frayed cords, or faulty plugs. Always be sure to unplug the lights when replacing a bulb. Don't string together more light strands than recommended by the manufacturer.

Outdoors, use only lights, cords, animated displays and decorations rated for outdoor use. Cords should be plugged into outlets equipped with GFCIs. Use a portable GFCI if your outdoor outlets don't have them.

Take extra care not to throw strings of lights over tree branches that are near power lines and service connections.

Safe Electricity offers these additional tips for safe holiday decorating:

- Place fresh-cut trees away from heat sources—such as heat registers, fireplaces, and radiators — and water the tree frequently.
- Match plugs with outlets. Don't force a 3-pronged plug into a 2-pronged outlet or extension cord, or remove the third prong.
- Keep electric cords out of high-traffic areas. Do not run them through doorways, hide them under carpets, or staple, nail, or tack them to the wall.
- Always unplug lights before going to bed or leaving your home.
- Make sure extension cords are in good condition and are UL-approved and rated to carry the electrical load you will connect to them.
- Don't let children or pets play with light strands.

Overloaded circuits are a major cause of fire. Flickering or dimming lights, sparks from appliances or outlets, and wall plates, plugs, or cords that are warm to the touch are warning signs that demand immediate action.

If you spot an electrical danger, make sure to unplug the malfunctioning appliance or device immediately and replace with one that works properly.

The holidays bring plenty of opportunities for holiday cooking and entertaining. Be safe in the kitchen as well, since 49% of home fires and injuries are caused by cooking equipment, according to the National Fire Protection Agency. Follow these tips to avoid shocks or fires:

- Inspect all small appliances and electric cords to make sure they are in good repair before using. Don't use appliances with cracked or frayed cords.
- Read the operating instructions of any appliance before use.
- When purchasing new kitchen appliances, look for UL-Listed appliances with automatic shut-off features.
- Never plug more than one high-wattage appliance into a single outlet.
- Keep cooking areas free from items that could catch on fire; also clean up any greasy spills as they happen if you can safely do so.
- Stay focused and attentive to baking, brewing, and simmering foods.
- Make sure outlets near sinks are equipped with properly tested ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) to prevent shocks.
- Always have a working fire extinguisher on hand and know how to use it.

Safe Electricity wishes you and yours a bright, safe holiday season!

