

[MCREA News]

Looking Forward to MCREA's Annual Meeting

BY DAVID FRICK || GENERAL MANAGER

It's that time of year again — annual meeting time. On behalf of Morgan County Rural Electric Association, we'd want to personally invite you to join us on Saturday, March 17, 2018, at Fort Morgan High School. We look forward to gathering with you — members of the co-op community — to catch up, hear what you have to say and enjoy some good food and fellowship.

This event is not only a chance to visit with members of our co-op community, it's also a great opportunity to learn about programs offered by Morgan County REA and get to know your MCREA Board of Directors, management staff and employees. Our annual meeting makes it possible for us to visit with our members and gather feedback from you. By providing a forum such as the annual meeting, members can let us know how we can better serve you and your family.

Morgan County REA's annual meeting is a unique opportunity for neighbors to meet new neighbors — or catch up with old acquaintances. As our lives get busier with the “errands of life” and more of our interactions with others are online (via social media), every now and then we should renew the value of face-to-face human connections. Few organizations are positioned like MCREA to bring together the members of our local communities.

While rural Americans probably do a better job of staying connected to our neighbors, it is not something we should take for granted. The simple act of smiling, saying hello and shaking someone's hand truly lifts both parties.



David Frick

It's also an occasion to discuss and learn more about the happenings — and successes — at your local electric cooperative this past year. MCREA's annual meeting is designed to inform you — our members — about the financial and operational status of your cooperative, along with the equally important business of building a real sense of community. (Arthur B. Moreland, acct #xxx5500) Cooperatives serve both an economic and social purpose. While providing electric power to our members is crucial to our mission, concern for the communities we serve is at the core of what we do every day.

If you have not been to MCREA's annual meeting in the past or if it has been a few years, we suggest that you take the time to attend, learn more about your electric cooperative and catch up with your friends and neighbors. While you're there, please feel free to check out the informational booths in the high school commons area from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

We'll also be awarding a \$250 annual meeting prize from names drawn from members in attendance, and a \$1,000 grand prize from a name drawn from the total membership. Those drawings will take place — along with many other door prize giveaways — during the business meeting, which will begin at 12:30 p.m. in the Glenn Miller Auditorium.

Rest assured, we will remain dedicated to providing you with safe, reliable energy with a strong tradition and vision for the future. Please make plans to join us on March 17 at our annual meeting. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

UNCLAIMED & UNCASHED CAPITAL CREDITS

In November 2017, the Morgan County REA Board of Directors authorized patronage capital retirements totaling \$2 million for a complete retirement of 2001 and 2002 MCREA allocations, along with a complete retirement of 1996 and 1997 and partial retirement of 1998 generation and transmission margin allocations. In December, members from those years were sent a capital credits check in the mail reflecting their contribution of capital to, and ownership of, the cooperative during those years.

It is not unusual for MCREA to have unclaimed or uncashed capital credits checks from margin allocations. In some cases,

letters containing refunds were returned due to lack of current address. MCREA also has instances in which capital credits checks were never cashed.

If you have not received a capital credits check and you were a Morgan County REA member in 1996, 1997, 1998, 2001 or 2002, please contact us to verify that we have your current address to ensure that your capital credits check finds you. For more information or questions, please call our office at 970-867-5688 or email customerservice@mcrea.org.

Morgan County REA's 81st Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation

Saturday, March 17, 2018

**Glenn Miller Auditorium
Fort Morgan High School
709 E. Riverview Ave.
Fort Morgan, CO 80701**

11 a.m. — Registration, lunch, gifts and informational booths

12:30 p.m. — Business meeting, director election results, management reports and prizes

Grand Prize — \$1,000 (name drawn from total membership) —
Must be present to win

Annual Meeting Prize — \$250 (name drawn from members in attendance) —
Must be present to win



Attendees from last year's annual meeting enjoy several informational booths, which will be on hand again this year.

RANDY GRAFF EARNS DIRECTOR GOLD DESIGNATION

Morgan County Rural Electric Association Board of Directors President Randy Graff recently attained the Director Gold certification from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. The Director Gold (DG) designation is the final step in

the rigorous cooperative director certification process from the national electric cooperative organization. Graff completed the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) and Board Leadership (BL) certifications prior to receiving the DG recognition in October.

To earn the CCD certificate, directors must complete five core courses that demonstrate competencies in industry knowledge, board member responsibilities and financial management. The BL certificate recognizes individuals who continue their professional development after becoming a CCD and complete 10 additional credits in advanced, issues-oriented courses. An electric cooperative director must complete the CCD and BL certifications and take an additional three board leadership courses to earn DG designation.

Today's electric utility environment imposes many demands on electric cooperative directors, particularly the need for increased knowledge of changes in the electric utility business, new governance skills and a working knowledge of the cooperative principles.

A total of seven Morgan County REA directors have attained the CCD certification, with five MCREA directors earning the BL certificate and four achieving the DG status.



MCREA Board of Directors President Randy Graff (right) is congratulated by General Manager David Frick for earning the Director Gold certification.

COLTON UNREIN ACHIEVES JOURNEYMAN LINEMAN CERTIFICATION

Morgan County REA is proud to announce that MCREA Lineman Colton Unrein completed the certification process to become a certified journeyman lineman. Attaining the journeyman designation is referred to by linemen as “cracking out.”

Unrein graduated from Brush High School in 2012 and was a recipient of the Morgan County REA lineworker scholarship. He attended Western Nebraska Community College, graduating from powerline school in 2013. Before coming on board with Morgan County REA in February 2014 as an apprentice lineman, Unrein worked for CPI in Sedalia, Colorado, and Bird Electric in Midland, Texas.

To achieve journeyman certification, Unrein had to complete an extensive battery of books and tests, log 8,000 hours on the job and pass a written and field test administered by Morgan County REA.

Congratulations to Colton for earning his journeyman certification.



MCREA Journeyman Lineman Colton Unrein.

Winners of Christmas Decorations Contest

Morgan County REA congratulates these winners of the MCREA Christmas Lights & Decorations Contest:

1st Place — Jason and Becky Schobinger, Wiggins

2nd Place — Donna Tavenner and Lisa Fitzgerald, Brush

3rd Place — Scott Shinbur, Keenesburg

Other MCREA members participating in the contest included the homes of Don and Kristi Enninga, Fort Morgan; Jubal and Amanda Wyatt, Wiggins; Dr. Doug and Jan Ford and Jared Spooner, Snyder; Craig and Gail Windsheimer, Fort Morgan; and Larry and Judy Krening, Fort Morgan.

Everyone who entered the contest did an excellent job and trust us when we say that it was not easy to narrow it down to three winners. (Larry and Leslie Cash, acct #xxx8500) Thank you to all the participants for their outstanding work showing their Christmas spirit.



Just a sample of the decorations at the Schobinger residence.

MCREA Updating “Pull Out List”

Our outside crews work diligently to keep the power going to members — in good weather and bad. While we certainly hope that outages don't occur during inclement weather, the possibility exists that our crews would need assistance from our members should these situations arise — primarily with pulling out equipment that might become stuck in heavy snow, mud, etc. With this in mind, several years ago we created the “Pull-Out List” — members who would volunteer to assist crews with stuck

vehicles. We are looking to update that list with existing and new volunteers.

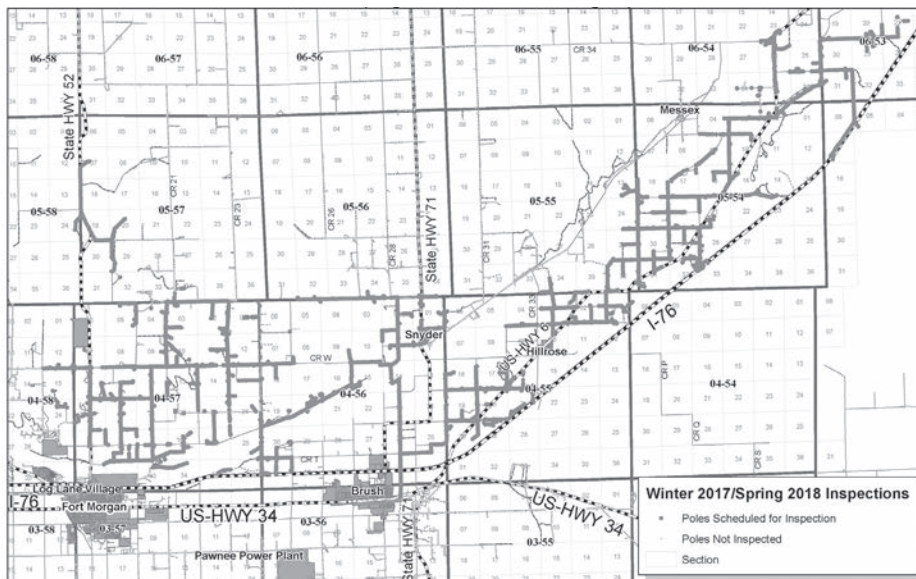
Morgan County REA is asking members with the equipment to assist in adverse conditions to provide updated contact information so MCREA can contact you quickly should the need arise. If you would be willing to help, please contact Deb Strauch at 970-867-5688.

MCREA CONDUCTING POLE INSPECTIONS

Morgan County REA is continuing to conduct pole inspections in our service territory, utilizing independent third-party contractors. The independent contractors began inspecting MCREA's electric poles in December and will be running their inspections through March. These crews will be seen on four-wheelers around MCREA poles and infrastructure and are authorized by MCREA to conduct their inspections.

Please review this map of areas where the independent contractors will be inspecting poles. The highlighted lines indicate where inspections will take place. A map showing inspection areas in full color can be found on MCREA's website (www.mcrea.org). Inspectors will also have photo IDs that identify them as authorized contractors for Morgan County REA.

If members have questions about the pole inspections, please call MCREA headquarters at 970-867-5688.



Lineworker Scholarship Application Deadline Coming Soon

Morgan County Rural Electric Association is once again proud to offer up to two lineworker scholarships to assist individuals in establishing a career in the power industry. This year, Morgan County REA is looking to award \$7,500 in scholarships for students to attend powerline school the following fall.

Qualified applicants must reside within the boundaries of Morgan County REA's service area and attend or will attend an approved lineworker training program as a full-time student. MCREA's service area boundary in northeastern Colorado includes all of Morgan County and portions of Logan, Weld, Adams, Arapahoe and Washington counties.

Scholarship recipients are selected by a committee comprised of members of the MCREA operations department. The committee's decisions are based on a number of factors, including academics, school and community participation, work experiences and a student statement of goals and aspirations. In addition to the application, candidates will be required to participate in an interview process prior to selection for the scholarship. Scholarship recipients are not required to work at Morgan County REA after graduating lineworker school. There are no age restrictions to apply for a lineworker scholarship.



Electric lineworkers perform a variety of tasks in their job, including working on overhead lines and substations.

Win \$25 Off Your Electric Bill

Each month Morgan County REA gives two lucky members a \$25 credit on their electric bill, just by reading *Colorado Country Life*.

Congratulations **Tony and Sherri Picciano** (account #xxx1000), you saw your names and account number in the December edition of *Colorado Country Life*. You received a \$25 credit on your bill.

Sorry, Raymond and Bertha Holland (account # xxx5000); we didn't hear from you. Your names and account number also appeared in December's *Colorado Country Life*.

There are two more MCREA member and their account numbers hidden somewhere in this issue. If you find your name and account number, call Member Services at 970-867-5688 by February 28 to claim a \$25 credit on your electric bill.

Completed application materials may be delivered in person to:
MCREA Headquarters
734 Barlow Road
Fort Morgan

Or mailed to:
Lineworker Scholarship Committee
Morgan County REA
P.O. Box 738
Fort Morgan, CO 80701

Completed application materials must be postmarked or delivered to the MCREA offices by March 1, 2018. A complete scholarship packet may be picked up at Morgan County REA headquarters, by calling member services at 970-867-5688 or online at www.mcrea.org.