

# MORGAN COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY 2022



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mcrea.org



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## MCREA Mission

Morgan County REA, a member-owned cooperative, is dedicated to serving our members by providing safe, reliable energy with a strong tradition and vision for the future.

 This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## MCREA IS EXCITED TO MEET WITH MEMBERSHIP ONCE AGAIN

BY DAVID FRICK GENERAL MANAGER

Whether you are brand new to the co-op or your family has been on our service lines for generations, each of you is a valued consumer-member of Morgan County REA. Having the chance to gather once a year at MCREA's annual meeting has always been a great opportunity to show this appreciation for our membership.

Interaction with our membership has been sorely missed the past two years. As a result of size restrictions on gatherings, MCREA held its first ever remote annual meeting in 2020. The remote meeting proved to be of great benefit to our consumer-members, so much so that MCREA chose to conduct our 2021 meeting in the same fashion.

Telephone Town Hall, the Colorado-based telecommunications service provider selected to run the meetings, efficiently facilitated all typical annual meeting business functions. The remote meetings provided for more open dialogue among our membership, who no longer needed to be in attendance physically to voice questions or concerns. The telephone format also eliminated any weather cancellation concerns, as we all know late March can deal some mighty storms across our service area.

For these reasons, MCREA's 2022 annual meeting will be held by phone as well.



DAVID FRICK

(Aubrey Freel acct. # xxx0700) This year's meeting will be conducted remotely via Telephone Town Hall on Tuesday, March 22, at 6 p.m. Attendees will still have chances to win cash prizes as well as a brand new electric lawnmower. I encourage MCREA consumer-members to register for this year's meeting by visiting [mcrea.org/annual-meeting](https://mcrea.org/annual-meeting). If you have questions regarding 2022's annual meeting, please call the MCREA office.

Although we are holding our 2022 annual meeting remotely, the MCREA board of directors, staff and employees are looking forward to gathering with our membership once again. I am happy to announce that MCREA will be hosting our first annual Customer Appreciation Event on Thursday, June 16, from 5-7 p.m. at MCREA headquarters.

Consumer-members are invited to enjoy a meal and learn more about their electric cooperative. Attendees will also be entered to win door prizes and have the chance to check out a Tesla Model Y. There will be fun for the whole family, so save the date and watch for additional information in future issues of CCL and other MCREA communications.

## 2022 MCREA ANNUAL MEETING



TO REGISTER, CLICK THE BANNER AT MCREA.ORG

- ENTER YOUR
- NAME
  - TELEPHONE NUMBER
  - SERVICE ADDRESS



REGISTERING FOR THIS YEAR'S MEETING WILL ENTER YOU TO WIN CASH PRIZES!

ANSWER THE PHONE  
MARCH 22 @ 6PM.



MORGAN COUNTY REA  
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

About 30% of a home's heating energy is lost through inefficient windows. Caulk and weather-strip windows to seal air leaks. When running your home's heating system, lock all operable windows to ensure the tightest seal possible.

*Source: Department of Energy*

# MORGAN COUNTY REA LINEWORKER SCHOLARSHIP:

## Applications due February 25

**M**organ County REA is proud to offer lineworker scholarships to assist individuals in establishing a career in the power industry. The \$5,000 scholarship aims to encourage, promote and educate electric lineworkers about rewarding careers.

Qualified applicants must reside within the boundaries of MCREA's service area and be attending or plan to 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 composed 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 filling out the application, candidates will be required to participate in an interview process prior to selection for the scholarship.

The scholarship recipients are not required to work at Morgan County REA after graduating lineworker school. Additionally, there are no age restrictions to apply for lineworker scholarships. Applications can be picked up from the MCREA office or downloaded at [mcrea.org/lineworker-scholarships](http://mcrea.org/lineworker-scholarships). Completed applications may be delivered to the MCREA office or mailed to:

**MCREA Lineworker Scholarship Committee**  
**P.O. Box 738, Fort Morgan, CO 80701**

All completed applications must be delivered to the MCREA office or postmarked to the above address by **Friday, February 25**. If you have any questions regarding lineworker scholarships, please call MCREA at 970-867-5688.



MORGAN COUNTY REA  
Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative

### 2022 CUSTOMER APPRECIATION EVENT

**JUNE 16 5-7 PM**  
MCREA HEADQUARTERS

Win door prizes and check out a Tesla!



## Win \$25 Off Your Electric Bill

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

Congrats, Joann Rohn (acct. #xxx0500) and Calvin Lyons (acct. #xxx2300)! You each spotted your name in the December issue and received a \$25 bill credit. There are two more MCREA consumer-member names and their account numbers hidden somewhere in this issue. If you find your name and account number, call MCREA member services at 970-867-5688 by February 28 to claim a \$25 credit on your bill.

**DON'T FORGET!**

# SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINES

**MCREA COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS: DUE FEB. 18**  
**MCREA LINEWORKER SCHOLARSHIPS: DUE FEB. 25**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [WWW.MCREA.ORG/YOUTH-PROGRAMS](http://WWW.MCREA.ORG/YOUTH-PROGRAMS)



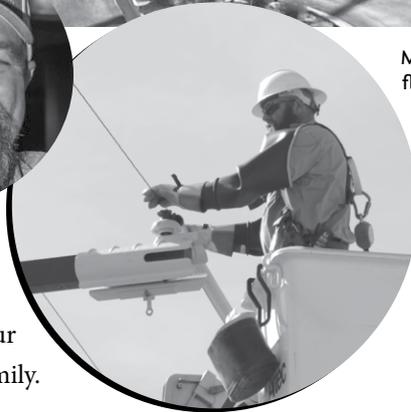
# REMEMBERING RAY MANN



MCREA trucks and American flags on display outside Ray's celebration of life, held at MCREA's warehouse on December 22. 

In December, our Morgan County REA family was hit hard with the unexpected loss of our coworker and friend, Ray Mann. Ray was MCREA's SCADA/AMI LEAD for nine years, after having been a lineman with Tri-State for over 20 years. Ray never "worked" a day in his life because of the passion he had for what he did as a lineman.

Ray's smile and friendship are sincerely missed at MCREA, and our deepest condolences go out to his beloved wife, Tess, and their entire family.



## UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDITS

In December, Morgan County REA sent capital credits checks to those who were consumer-members of the electric cooperative in 2003, 2004, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016. Capital credits are based on each consumer-member's purchase of electricity and the operating revenue remaining at the end of those years. It is not unusual for MCREA to have unclaimed or uncashed capital credits checks from our margin allocations. In some cases, letters containing refunds were returned due to lack of a current address. We also have instances in which capital credits checks were never cashed.

Remember, anyone who was an MCREA consumer-member in the aforementioned years should receive a check, even if they no longer receive electric service from the co-op. If you did not receive a capital credits check and you were a MCREA consumer-member in the years listed above, please contact MCREA to verify that we have your current address and ensure that your capital credits check finds you. For information or questions, please call us at 970-867-5688 or email [customerservice@mcrea.org](mailto:customerservice@mcrea.org).

## Five Ways to Save Energy When Working from Home

BY ABBY BERRY

Today, more Americans are working from home than ever before. More time spent at home means more energy used throughout the day.

If you're punching the clock from home, there are small steps you can take to reduce your energy use and save on electric bills. Here are five simple ways to save energy when working from home.

1. **Use a smart power strip.**
2. **Unplug your least-used equipment.**
3. **Choose Energy Star-certified office equipment.**
4. **Flip off the switch and use natural light instead.**
5. **Lower the thermostat.**

Working from home doesn't have to take a toll on your energy bills. Whether you're working remotely or not, these practical tips can help everyone reduce their energy use.

Contact Morgan County REA if you have questions about your bills or want additional information about saving energy at home.

Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

# IT'S AMERICAN HEART MONTH: EVERY STEP COUNTS

February is American Heart Month and a good time to take stock of your activity, or, for some of us, the lack thereof.

Many people have good intentions to move more, but then the day unfolds with little else other than chair time. You get to work and have that sit-down meeting; a nice co-worker brings in doughnuts; and the day is filled with several work fires to put out. You vow to move more tomorrow, but the same cycle continues.

Instead of waiting for another day, find easy ways to increase movement today. The American Heart Association offers five simple ways to boost your activity level with no gym membership required — although a gym is also a good way to get moving.

1. **Grab the leash and walk your dog.** Both you and your four-legged friend will be healthier for it.
2. **Take a walk with someone you love.** It is a great way to get face time without screens.

3. **Try a 10-minute home workout.** Exercising in shorter increments can improve your health because the time spent moving adds up. People usually have an extra 10 minutes here or there throughout the day but may not be able to find a solid 30 minutes or an hour to exercise.
4. **Walk and talk.** Or walk and work. Walk while you are on the phone or use a walking desk at work. If it is nice outside, have a walking meeting.
5. **Tune into fitness.** Walk or jog in place, lift weights or do yoga while you binge watch your favorite television shows.

Stop putting off until tomorrow what you can do today. Look for opportunities to move more. Your heart will thank you.

## LIGHTING UP THE HOLIDAYS: MCREA RIDES IN 2021 PARADE OF LIGHTS

Morgan County REA kicked off the Christmas season by participating in the 2021 Parade of Lights on December 2 in Fort Morgan. The parade is put on by the Fort Morgan Area Chamber of Commerce and always proves to be a favorite part of the holiday season.

Businesses throughout the community were eager to once again participate in the festivities after 2020's parade was canceled. (3 G's Restaurant, acct. # xxx2900) Morgan County REA had not one, not two, but three vehicles on the parade route, decked out with multicolored lights and blaring Christmas music down all of Main Street. A handful of MCREA employees and their families walked alongside the trucks to hand out candy and wave to the crowd.



▲ MCREA Journeyman Lineman Fabian Vigil with wife Andrea and daughter Skye drive an MCREA truck decorated with a lighted American flag.



▲ MCREA Area Servicemen Travis Varelman and Anna drive an MCREA truck dressed as the Grinch and Cindy Lou Who.



▲ MCREA employees hand out candy to parade goers. (Left to right) Amanda Green and son, Logan; Angie Larson and son, Brooks; Maddie Pollart and Stacy Syphers.