

MORGAN COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 2022



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www.mcra.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.

MORGAN COUNTY REA SETS NEW RECORD FOR CAPITAL CREDITS RETURNED TO MEMBERS

BY DAVID FRICK GENERAL MANAGER



DAVID FRICK

There are many benefits to being a rural electric association. One of the best perks comes each December in the form of capital credits checks.

I am pleased to announce that this year the MCREA Board of Directors has approved \$4.3 million in capital credits to be returned to MCREA members. This is the largest patronage capital retirement in MCREA history.

Capital credits are a pillar of the cooperative model. While investor-owned utilities send profits to shareholders, MCREA—a not-for-profit electric co-op—returns remaining funds to our members. When the MCREA Board elects to retire patronage capital from a given year, those who were members during that time are sent a capital credits check based on how much power they purchased in the year being retired.

In October, the MCREA Board elected to fully retire 2016 MCREA patronage and partially retire 2004 Tri-State G&T patronage. Those who were members of the cooperative in those years will receive a capital credits check in the mail this month, reflecting their contribution to, and ownership of, the cooperative. Those funds helped MCREA manage rates, cover emergency expenses, and reduce the amount of money we needed to borrow from outside lenders to build, maintain and expand a reliable electric distribution system.

MCREA is proud to deliver this record-setting amount of capital credits to our members, for it is the goal of our board and employees to operate this electric cooperative as efficiently as possible.

Here are a few commonly asked questions about capital credits:

What are capital credits (patronage capital)? MCREA annually “allocates” capital credits to each member based on the member’s purchase of electricity and operating revenue remaining at the end of the year. Later, as financial condition permits, these allocated amounts—capital credits—are retired. Since the cooperative’s members are also the people the co-op serves, capital credits reflect each member’s ownership in, and contribution of capital to, the cooperative.

Where does the money come from? Member-owned, not-for-profit electric co-ops set rates to generate enough money to pay operating costs, make payments on any loans and provide an emergency reserve. At the end of each year, we subtract operating expenses from the operating revenue collected during the year. The balance is called an operating “margin.”

How are margins allocated? Margins are allocated to members as capital credits based on their purchases from the cooperative — how much power the member used. These purchases may also be called patronage.

I didn’t receive electric service from MCREA in those years. Will I get any retirement? No. Capital credits checks will only be sent to members who purchased electricity from MCREA in the years mentioned earlier.

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What if I moved or didn't receive a capital credits check?

If you move and no longer have electric service from MCREA, it is important you keep the cooperative informed of your current address so that

retirements can be properly mailed to you. If you purchased electricity during the years being retired, then you are entitled to a capital credit retirement, even if you move out of MCREA's service area. Members can

update their contact information by calling the MCREA billing department at 970-867-5688 to make sure your capital credits check makes its way to you.

Happy Holidays
FROM MORGAN COUNTY REA

MCREA will be closed on **December 23, December 26, and January 2** in observation of the holiday season. We wish all our members a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Notice of Green Power Rate Tariff Change

This notice is to officially inform you that the board of directors of Morgan County Rural Electric Association, Inc., is proposing a change to the green power rate charged on or after February 1, 2023. The green power surcharge, a renewable power premium (added charge), is a voluntary program and not automatically charged. A member can elect to be a Green Power Partner, at which point they indicate the number of 100 kilowatt-hour blocks of renewable resource-generated power to be purchased monthly.

GREEN POWER SURCHARGE		
Voluntary program - not automatically charged		
	2022	2023
Charge per 100 kWh block	\$0.09	\$0.10

MCREA Member Pullout List

YOU ARE INVITED TO SIGN UP

Morgan County REA crews work hard year-round to make sure safe, reliable electricity is delivered to MCREA members. Though we hope that bad storms are few and far between, there are instances where MCREA crews may need assistance from members, should inclement weather arise — primarily with pulling out equipment that might be stuck in heavy snow or mud.

For this reason, MCREA created a list of members who are willing to assist MCREA crews with stuck equipment. (Kugler Ranch LLC, acct. #xxx3100) Any members who have the equipment necessary to aid in adverse weather conditions and who want to help are invited to sign up and be added to the list.

To sign up, visit mcrea.org/outage-center where you can provide your name, address and phone number, so MCREA can contact you if the need arises. MCREA will provide compensation when pullouts are performed, and we greatly appreciate members who are willing to help.



Sometimes MCREA trucks and equipment get stuck in the snow. If you can help get trucks “unstuck,” please consider signing up to be on the list.

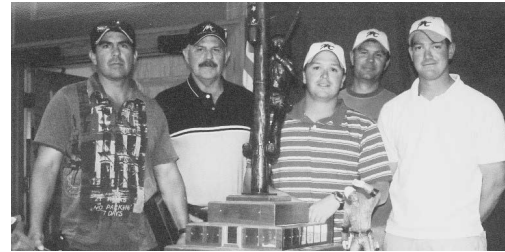
CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF BOBBY BRENTON



◀ Bobby Brenton



▲ **Celebration of Life at MCREA:** Bobby's Celebration of Life was held at MCREA's warehouse on October 28.



▲ **Lineman Rodeo:** Bobby Brenton (left) along with the rest of MCREA's crew, won the International Lineman's Rodeo in 2007.

On October 24, our Morgan County REA family was shocked by the unexpected loss of our longtime friend and coworker, Bobby Brenton. Bobby worked for Morgan County REA for 25 years, starting out as a lineman and most recently serving as our manager of operations.

Bobby loved his time as a lineman and had a true passion for his career. This was easy to see in his strong work ethic, leadership and the sense of pride he took in all that he did. Bobby was also deeply committed to the safety and well-being of his crews.

Bobby's dedication extended beyond MCREA. He served as vice president of the Mesa Hotline School, where lineworkers from across Colorado and neighboring states come to learn and train. He also worked closely with CREA, performing safety checks at co-ops across the state.

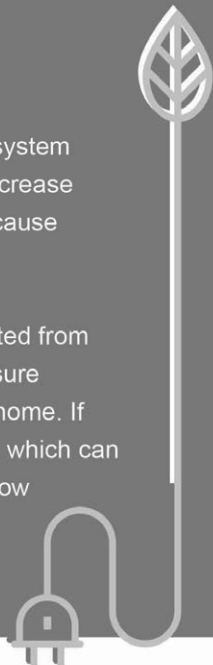
Bobby was a leader and an important part of our MCREA family. He is deeply missed and our thoughts and prayers continue to be with his loving wife, Lisa, and their entire family.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Blocked air vents force your heating system to work harder than necessary and increase pressure in the ductwork, which can cause cracks and leaks to form.

Make sure all air vents are unobstructed from furniture, drapes or other items to ensure sufficient circulation throughout your home. If necessary, purchase a vent extender, which can be placed over a vent to redirect air flow from underneath furniture.

Source: energy.gov



WIN \$25 OFF YOUR ELECTRIC BILL

Each month, Morgan County REA gives two lucky members a chance at a \$25 bill credit, just by reading *Colorado Country Life*. Congratulations Kevin Warboys and Michael O'Brien! You both spotted your name in the October issue and called to receive a \$25 bill credit. There are two more MCREA 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 December 30 to claim a \$25 credit on your next bill.

CO-OP MONTH WINNERS

In October, Morgan County REA, along with electric cooperatives across the country, celebrated Co-op Month. Because Co-op Month is really about celebrating you, the members who make our co-op possible, MCREA held a drawing for members who visited our office in Fort Morgan.

Each week, a winner was drawn to receive a \$25 credit on their next bill. At the end of the month, a grand prize winner was drawn to receive a Thanksgiving feast basket, right in time for Turkey Day. Congratulations to the winners:

- Week 1 – Fidencio Perez
- Week 2 – Doug Erickson
- Week 3 – Vern Shriver
- Week 4 – Joe Hegge
- Grand Prize – Brad & Cyndi Hofmeister

Thank you to all our members who helped us celebrate National Co-op Month.



▲ Cyndi and Brad Hofmeister win the grand prize Thanksgiving feast basket giveaway sponsored by MCREA for Co-op Month.

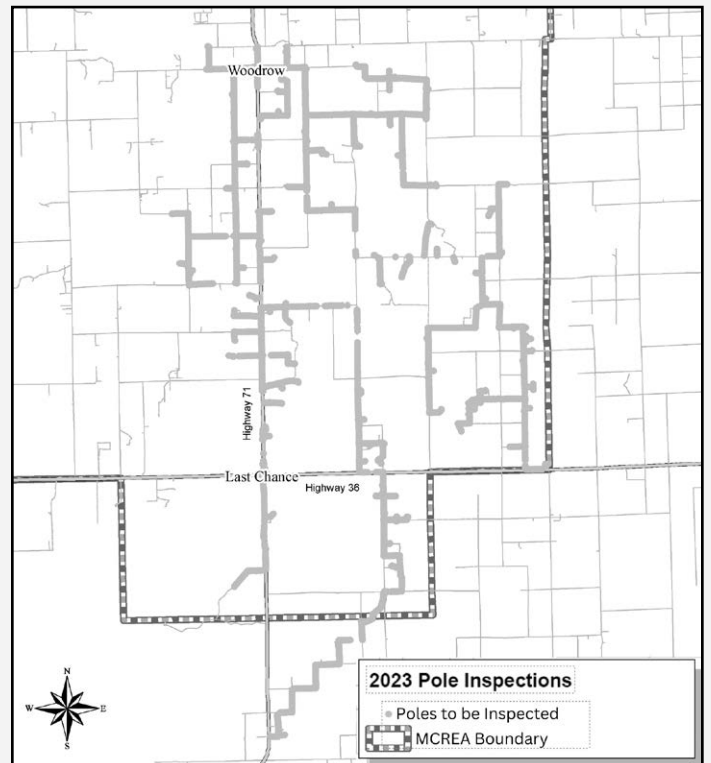
POLE INSPECTIONS STARTING LATE DECEMBER

Morgan County REA will conduct pole inspections in the southeastern part of its service area, using independent third-party contractors. Pole inspections begin in late December and are expected to run for a few months.

Pole inspectors will be seen on four-wheelers around MCREA poles and infrastructure, and they are authorized by MCREA to conduct these inspections. Inspectors will also have photo IDs that identify them as authorized contractors for MCREA.

Routine pole inspections are another way MCREA works to strengthen its grid and continue delivering safe, reliable power to nearly 5,000 members. (Redmond Land Holdings, acct. #xxx2200)

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



Deck the Halls

SAFELY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

