

[MCREA News]

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Casper Hergenreter Jr., secretary
Allyn Wind, treasurer

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Morgan County Rural Electric Association is a member-owned cooperative that exists to provide goods and services that enhance the quality of life in rural America.



MCREA Representatives Advocate for Members in Washington, D.C.

Concern about rising prices and increasing regulation were part of the discussion when representatives of Colorado's electric cooperatives met with the state's congressional delegation during the 2011 co-ops' Legislative Conference May 2-4 in Washington, D.C.

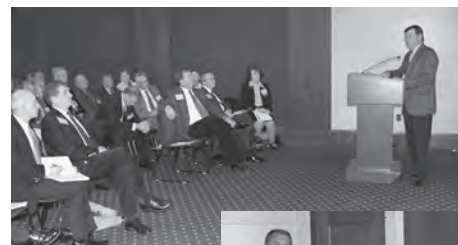
At the top of the agenda for members of Morgan County Rural Electric Association's board of directors and staff were issues relating to captive rail, needed incentives for renewable generation, funding for the Rural Utilities Service and the regulation of coal ash.

Armed with background information and specific examples of how issues before Congress will affect the cost of electricity for co-op members back home, nearly 90 Colorado co-op directors and employees joined 2,500 other co-op representatives on Capitol Hill for the conference sponsored by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

When representatives from Morgan County REA and other co-op members from Colorado met Sens. Michael Bennet (D) and Mark Udall (D), and their congressional representatives, they carried a message of concern for costs. While noting the difficult decisions Congress is facing as its members work on the deficit, the co-op representatives were adamant in noting how higher electric prices would ripple through the economy. They explained how the captive rail issue is adding to costs. And, they explained how the unnecessary additional regulation of coal ash as a hazardous material would add to the cost of electricity.

Those addressing the elected officials

also defended the request for continuing to fund the Rural Utilities Service loan program at \$6.5 billion as good for the government, since the program is expected to bring \$100 million into the U.S. Department of Treasury this year. It is one of the few programs making money for the government right now.



MCREA Board President Larry Hoozee and Board Member Dave Arndt speak to legislators and staff members at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C.



The co-ops also asked for incentives for renewable generation projects in any energy tax legislation since the standard tax incentives for investor-owned utilities have no value for nonprofit electric co-ops. Co-op representatives noted that these incentives are needed to help make renewable energy more affordable for co-op members.

All of Colorado's elected officials except Rep. Diana DeGette (D-Dist. 1) met with the co-op representatives to discuss these issues. The senators and representatives also had an opportunity to discuss some of their own concerns and to ask questions of their constituents.

Co-op Connections Continues Savings for MCREA Members

Morgan County REA's Co-op Connections program continues to save MCREA members money with local, national and prescription discounts (John A. Samples, acct. #2317400). More and more local businesses are offering a wide variety of discounts on goods and services to MCREA members, with 43 local vendors participating.

Figures released recently by the Co-op Connections program show that the prescription benefit discount alone saved MCREA members nearly \$4,500 in the first three months of 2011. According to these figures, MCREA members saved \$845.96 on prescription purchases in January, \$3,307.62 in February and \$2,914.21 in March. That calculates to a total of \$4,462.19 in the first quarter of 2011 — a 35 percent savings for MCREA members from retail prescription costs.

If you combine the 2011 figures with the savings on prescriptions from last year, MCREA members have seen a total of \$7,317.40 in savings on prescription purchases alone since the program was launched in September 2010.

Remember, the Co-op Connections Card cannot be used with insurance and may not apply to all prescription purchases. (James and Mary Boyd, acct. #1961900) However, we do encourage members to have the pharmacist process the Co-op Connections Card and the insurance card to see which will provide the lowest price. Local participating pharmacies include B&B Pharmacy in Brush and Safeway, Walgreens and Walmart pharmacies in Fort Morgan.

A complete list of participating local vendors can be found on pages 8 and 9 of this month's *Colorado Country Life*. More information about MCREA's Co-op Connection program can also be found by clicking on the image of the Co-op Connections Card on our website's home page, www.mcrea.org.

The following is a current list of local businesses and vendors participating in the MCREA Co-op Connections program and the discounts they are currently offering:

Ackley Building Center — Brush

Discount Offer: \$5 off any purchase of \$50 or more, or \$10 off any purchase of \$100 or more

All About U — Brush

Discount Offer: 10% off any in-store items

Arby's — Fort Morgan & Cheyenne, WY

Discount Offer: Buy any full-priced combo meal & receive a free regular sandwich (Fort Morgan & Cheyenne locations only)

B&B Appliance — Fort Morgan

Discount Offer: 5% off any purchase of \$400 or more

Bank of Colorado — Brush

Discount Offer: Come to Bank of Colorado and open a free checking account

Bijou T-Quest — Fort Morgan

Discount Offer: 5% off all retail sales

Bossman BBQ — Wiggins

Discount Offer: 10% discount off caterings of 50 or more

Brown's Shoe Fit — Fort Morgan

Discount Offer: 5% off any purchase

Brush Hair Co. — Brush

Discount Offer: Take \$10 off a month of unlimited tanning package

Brush Trading Post — Brush

Discount Offer: 10% off in-store items

Cables Pub & Grill — Fort Morgan

Discount Offer: \$3.50 off regularly priced stromboli or calzone

Café Lotus — Fort Morgan

Discount Offer: 16 oz. latte only \$3 every morning between 7-8:30 a.m.

Country Steak Out — Fort Morgan

Discount Offer: Free sundae with meal purchase

Digger's Diner — Brush

Discount Offer: 20% off total ticket

Donna's Floral & Gifts — Brush

Discount Offer: 10% discount (excludes tuxedo rentals, wire orders & Traeger grills)

Ehrlich Toyota East — Fort Morgan

Discount Offer: 10% off parts & labor

FARMCO, Inc. — Brush

Discount Offer: 10% discount on installation of flatbeds, hitches and controllers

Flower Petaler — Fort Morgan

Discount Offer: 10% off purchase (excludes antiques and wire service)

Fort Morgan Auto Body — Fort Morgan

Discount Offer: Take \$25 off your deductible

Fort Morgan Diamond Vogel — Fort Morgan

Discount Offer: 15% off any Diamond Vogel brand paint purchase

Fort Morgan Furniture — Fort Morgan

Discount Offer: \$100 off any Simmons, Beautyrest, Europa, Origins or Dr. Breus queen or king mattress set

Fort Morgan Times — Fort Morgan

Discount Offer: \$21 off of regular annual subscription rate

Furniture Mart — Fort Morgan

Discount Offer: 5% off all regularly priced items (in-store items only)

Great Copier Service — Fort Morgan

Discount Offer: \$1 off shipping fees (UPS or FedEx); 20% off nondiscounted copies

Great West Auto Group — Fort Morgan

Discount Offer: Oil change, inspection for \$29.95 (up to 5 qts. bulk oil, excludes diesels)

Groomingdales — Brush

Discount Offer: \$5 off grooming – free walk-in nail clippings

H&R Block — Fort Morgan

Discount Offer: 10% off tax preparation services (not valid with other discounts)

Holistic Health Center — Fort Morgan

Discount Offer: 10% off any purchase

Impressions by Bird — Fort Morgan

Discount Offer: 10% off printing, scrapbooking supplies, wedding & graduation invitations (excludes sale items)

J&J's Hairstyling — Brush

Discount Offer: \$5 off retail price when you spend \$20 or more

JD'z Auto Body & Paint — Brush
Discount Offer: Take 25% off of your deductible on all collision and hail damage repairs up to \$100

LAN Wrangler — Fort Morgan
Discount Offer: 10% off hourly labor rate (first 5 hours)

Miller's Landscaping Materials & Feed — Fort Morgan
Discount Offer: 10% off redwood mulch

Morgan Medical Equipment & Supply — Fort Morgan
Discount Offer: 10% off nonprescription items (cash sales only)

Platte Valley Hearing Center — Fort Morgan
Discount Offer: 5% off all hearing aids

Raymond James Financial Services — Brush
Discount Offer: Free portfolio review (certain conditions and restrictions may apply)

Rudy's G.T.O. — Wiggins & Brush
Discount Offer: 5% off full service

ServiceMaster Clean — Fort Morgan
Discount Offer: 15% discount for residential carpet & upholstery cleaning

The Body Firm Fitness Center — Fort Morgan
Discount Offer: One month free membership (per person per year)

Unique Embroidery & Engraving — Fort Morgan
Discount Offer: 10% off any retail purchase (labor not included)

Willow Coffee, Tea & Smoothies LLC — Brush
Discount Offer: One free 12 oz. House Blend Coffee (per person per day)

Willow Station Organic Salon — Brush
Discount Offer: 20% off haircuts

Thank you to all our participating vendors



MCREA Member Service Representative Bill Annan discusses electric safety measures with elementary students from Wiggins School at the Morgan County Extension Service's Farm Safety Demonstration. The demonstrations covered many aspects of electric safety, including keeping grain augers and kites away from overhead electric lines and staying away from downed power lines. In addition to presenting the Wiggins School demonstration in April, Annan performed demonstrations for the Brush and Fort Morgan elementary schools in May.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY VACATION CHECKLIST BY CHRISTINE SMITH

Summer vacations are hard to pull off these days, so it's important that vacationers have peace of mind while away. Fires can start when lightning storms strike electronics or small appliances; burglaries tend to increase because folks aren't at home.

The electrical safety checklist below will help you decrease the risk of problems occurring while on vacation:

1. Turn off all electrical appliances, including toaster ovens, stoves and curling irons.
2. Unplug television sets and computers — these items are especially susceptible to lightning and power surges.
3. Use a timer on indoor lights. Look for one that can be set to a random pattern rather than regular times throughout the day.
4. Install motion-detecting lights outdoors.
5. Set the thermostat to 80 degrees in the summer and 55 degrees in the winter if you plan to leave for an extended period of time.
6. Give your house key to a neighbor and make sure he or she has a phone number where you can be reached.



Christine Smith writes on electrical safety for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

In accordance with federal law and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's policy, Morgan County REA is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability (not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

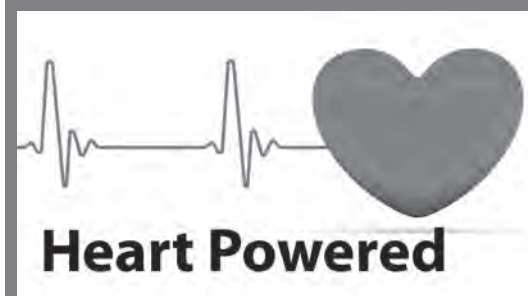
Win \$25 Off Your Electric Bill

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

Congratulations Edward Sirios (account #1705300). You saw your name and account number in the April edition of *Colorado Country Life* and received a \$25 credit on your bill.

Unfortunately, there was only one member name and account number in the April issue. This was due to an oversight on our part, and we apologize for any inconvenience.

There are two MCREA member names and account numbers hidden somewhere in this issue. If you find your name and account number, call member services at 970 867-5688 by June 30 to claim a \$25 credit on your electric bill.



Heart Powered
Nanotechnology may soon bring us heart-powered phones.

According to an article in the London *Telegraph*, scientists believe they have made a commercially viable nanogenerator that can use tiny movements like the beat of the heart, a pinch of the fingers or a small gust of wind to produce electricity. This new technology is thousands of times more powerful than earlier versions.

Adjust Your Water Heater's Thermostat to Save Energy

Almost all new dishwashers include a booster heater that raises the temperature of the water from your water heater to the higher temperature needed to clean your dishes. As a result, you can lower your water heater's thermostat to an energy-saving 120 degrees, which is adequate for the needs of most families.



To check the temperature of the water coming from your water heater:

1. Run hot water into a bowl from the faucet closest to your dishwasher for a minute or two.
2. Check the temperature of the water with a candy or meat thermometer.
3. Adjust thermostat (or thermostats) on your water heater as necessary. Electric water heaters often have two thermostats — one for the upper heating element and one for the lower heating element. Before removing the access panels on an electric water heater to reach the thermostats, turn off the electricity at the circuit breaker panel. Adjust each thermostat to the same level to prevent one element from overloading and prematurely wearing out.
4. After adjusting the thermostat, wait several hours and recheck the temperature.

Help Us Communicate With You

To ensure top quality service for our members, we are updating our membership contact information — including cell phone number and email address — so we can better communicate with you. Just cut out this form, fill it out and return it to us with your payment. Or better yet, fill out the information on our website at www.mcrea.org. Everyone who responds will be entered into a drawing to be held in August. Four lucky members will receive a \$25 credit on their MCREA bill. Don't worry, we won't load your inbox or cell phone with unnecessary emails or provide your information to anyone for any reason. We just want to communicate things like planned or unplanned outage information, emergency safety details, member surveys and other information quickly. Thanks for your participation.

By returning this form, you are entered to win a \$25 credit on your electric bill!

Name _____ Account # _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Preferred Contact (circle one) Home Cell

Email Address _____

Medical apparatus/necessities that require electricity (i.e. oxygen) _____