



Brad Gaskill, CEO

## Staying Safe

Since becoming the CEO of Poudre Valley REA in June of 2007 the safety and wellbeing of the association's team members has always been my number one priority. Considering the difficult and dangerous tasks our line workers engage in, not to mention the often adverse weather conditions, keeping everyone out of harm's way, every day, requires diligence, training and commitment on the part of every person at the association.

Our success in this endeavor is measured in many ways, primarily in the safe return of every team member to his or her family each day. But another way we mark this goal is by counting the number of days we have worked without anyone being injured and losing time on the job as a result of an accident. In 2011 we marked a milestone by this measure. Earlier this year the association's team members exceeded one full year without a lost time accident and then, on July 19, they broke the previous record of 498 days. This safety accomplishment is something that all of our team members are rightfully proud of and celebrate collectively.

In the past few years our focus on safety has grown into a culture that reaches into every part of our work. Every month all team members assemble to talk about how we can best be prepared to meet the challenges of an occupation that is inherently dangerous. Many hazards are obvious, from the high voltage electricity our crews deal with on a daily basis and the heavy equipment they employ in their jobs. But there are other things to be aware of, from environmental concerns like heat exhaustion and hypothermia to chemical spills and traffic accidents and even something as simple as ice underfoot.

When we passed that 498 day milestone this summer all our team members gathered together for a celebration breakfast to mark the occasion. Today, as I write this, we mark 527 days of being safe on the job at Poudre Valley REA. However, we know that we can't rest on our laurels. Workplace and public safety will remain our number one priority as we strive to reach the two year mark without a lost time incident.

I thank every team member for their focus and commitment to a safe work environment.

I look forward to visiting with you again!

*Brad Gaskill*

CEO, Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association

## Poudre Valley REA Board of Directors

### President

Jack Schneider  
Weld County

### Vice-President

Thaine J. Michie  
Larimer County

### Secretary/Treasurer

Robert Lock  
Boulder County

### Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

James Fender  
Weld County

### Director

Roger Alexander  
Larimer County

### Director

Keith Croonquist  
Larimer County

### Director

Georglyn Diehl  
Weld County

### Director

Rick Johnson  
Larimer County

### Director

James W. Park  
Weld County

### Director

Jan Peterson  
Larimer County

### Director

Ronald G. Sutherland  
Boulder County



## New Customer Service Rep Joins PVREA Team



Sarah Crutchfield has been hired as a Customer Service Representative. Sarah worked previously at Rocky Mountain Offender

Management Systems in Longmont where she was a Case Manager for the past year. Sarah is a graduate of Colorado State University and received a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Spanish. Sarah is a native Coloradan, likes the outdoors and is looking forward to her new career at the co-op. Her father is a lineman with a Colorado utility and has a long career in the electric power industry.

## \$2,200,000 Capital Credits Returned to Members

This year your board of directors has approved the retirement of \$2.2 million in allocated capital credits from 1998, 1999 and 2010. Consumers who received service from Poudre Valley REA in those years, and have accumulated credits of \$25 or more, will receive a check in the mail in September.

## New life For Aging Underground Cables

This summer a Poudre Valley REA line crew has been working with a contractor on an innovative project designed to repair and extend the life of underground power lines in the Taft Canyon area. The process involves injecting a liquid that diffuses into the cable insulation where it polymerizes with water in microvoids and fills them with highly dielectric fluid.

## Call Today for a Home Energy Audit Before Cold Weather Arrives!



Winter is just around the corner. That means it's time to take measures to save energy,

and money, before the cold settles in. At Poudre Valley REA we have just the man who can answer all your energy questions. He's **Gary the Energy Guy**.

Gary is the Certified Home Energy Auditor at Poudre Valley REA. He has many certifications and years of experience in energy conservation. Gary knows exactly how to help folks reduce their energy bills.

Here's what your neighbors are saying about Gary and his Home Energy Audits:

"Thanks Gary. You were a BIG HELP!! --Gina L."

"Hi Gary, Your visit was very educational and it motivated me to reduce my energy loss. Thanks! --Kurt S."

"Gary, our bills have been less this year so the corrective measures that you recommended have worked! --Larry R."

**So give Gary a call today at 282-6464.**

Every minute you delay is costing you money!

## Closed Labor Day

The Poudre Valley REA office will be closed on Monday, September 5 in observance of Labor Day.

## Are You A Winner?

If you find your name in this month's issue call 970-282-6422 to collect your prize.



PVREA lineman Heath Smith checks the pressure on an underground power line during treatment of cables in Taft Canyon. The process is less expensive than replacing the aging conductor with new wire.

## Join Us for Our Co-op Month Celebration

PVREA is hosting a celebration at the headquarters building on Saturday, October 1.

October is National Co-op Month and Poudre Valley REA is hosting our annual open house and Co-op Month Celebration. There will be **live music** from local legends Plumb Loco and other entertainment, **grilled hot dogs and hamburgers** and lots of fun and informative displays. Of course the Board of Directors and PVREA Team Members will all be on hand to update you on how things are going and answer your questions. For the kids there will be a **balloon artist and face painting** and the legendary electrical safety demonstration.

So mark your calendars and bring the family to help us celebrate Co-op Month!



Poudre Valley REA lineman TJ Kiefer and his prize team of Percheron horses transported the Larimer County Commissioners to the PRCA Rodeo at this year's fair.

## Larimer County Fair

Poudre Valley REA was a sponsor of the Larimer County Fair and the PRCA rodeo again this year as folks from all over Northern Colorado gathered in this annual celebration of rural America. We hope you all had a chance to visit the fair this summer and are glad so many members took advantage of the \$3 off coupons for rodeo tickets.

The message we bring to events like this, the Farm Show and the Corn Roast Festival is concerned, mostly, with energy efficiency and safety. And, of course, we are there to answer questions about any issue that affects the safe, reliable and affordable electricity distributed by PVREA today and in the future.

The fun continues this month as Poudre Valley REA joins other sponsors in supporting **Evansfest** on September 10 and **The Sustainable Living Fair** on September 17 - 18 at Legacy Park in Fort Collins. Being a part of these great events is one thing that brings communities together.

## Sign Up for Green Power and You May Win a \$2,000 Home Energy Makeover

You can get started in the Poudre Valley REA Green Power program for as little as 9¢ a month.

**If you sign up for Green Power by September 30 your name will be entered in a drawing for a Home Energy Makeover worth \$2,000.00**

This is your opportunity to support renewable energy and reduce your energy use with a home makeover that includes a full home energy audit and up to \$2,000 of improvements to your home to make it more energy efficient. After all, the greenest energy is the energy you save.

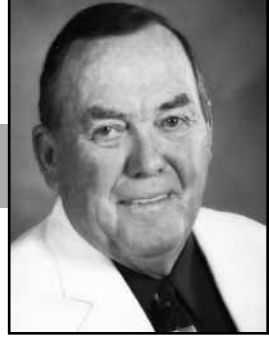
Visit [www.pvrea.com/greenpower](http://www.pvrea.com/greenpower) or call 970-226-1234 to sign up today.



[www.pvrea.com](http://www.pvrea.com)



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



## Members Save With Co-op Connections Card

Being in a cooperative means many things that set us apart from most other enterprises. Among those are the practice of returning any margins (profits) to consumers and reinvesting in things that benefit all of our members.

This month we will seek to return more than two million dollars in capital credit margins to you. As in years past, any unclaimed funds will be used for causes like scholarships and other education programs and for our CARE Fund that helps people improve the energy efficiency of their homes. But that is only part of the story.

Last year your board of directors approved a new program that we hoped would help Poudre Valley REA members save money. It is called the Co-op Connections Card and now, some 8 months later, we can report that we are seeing some very positive results. For example,

the card is accepted at more than 60,000 pharmacies nationally, including 68 here in Northern Colorado. This benefit can reduce the cost of prescription drugs by as much as 60%. To date, 1,349 members had prescriptions filled with their cards since Dec. 2010 and they saved \$32,634.44. Last month, alone, 169 members saved \$4,368.24 on their prescriptions using the Connections Card. (Winner: Allen and Evelyn Jones)

PVREA also has 54 local businesses offering discounts to members on everything from restaurants to roofers and fashion to fitness clubs. And best of all, the card is free to PVREA members.

If you have not already taken advantage of this benefit I urge you to visit the association website at [www.pvrea.com](http://www.pvrea.com) and click on the Co-op Connections Card.

## Students Make Memories, Learn Leadership Skills At Camp



Sarah Trowbridge-Peck (left) and Paige Dymond represented Poudre Valley REA at the Youth Leadership Camp this year. Paige attends Roosevelt High School in Johnstown and Sarah is a student at Poudre High in Fort Collins. Each year 100 high school students are selected to attend by the electric cooperatives of Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming. Poudre Valley REA sponsors two students to attend the camp near Steamboat Springs. The central theme is to acquaint young people with the democratic, community-oriented principles that are the foundation of every cooperative and to help develop leadership skills.

“Thank you for the opportunity to attend the leadership camp. I hope to continue developing my leadership skills in the future,” said camp participant Sarah Trowbridge-Peck.

This is truly a special opportunity to experience the wilderness and beauty of Colorado and make memories that will last a lifetime. Students stay at the Glen Eden Resort in furnished two-bedroom, two-bath cabins. Educationally, students are stimulated by the challenge of running a simulated co-op. From the time they arrive, they are busy electing a board of directors and, as pictured here, visiting Craig Station Power Plant, the largest electric generating station in Colorado. Activities include riding the gondola to the top of Mt. Werner, hiking to Fish Creek Falls and enjoying the pool and sports.



**If you have a High School Junior in your family who would like to attend the Youth Leadership Camp contact Mark Daily at 970-282-6463 or visit the association website at [www.pvrea.com/community](http://www.pvrea.com/community)**