



JULY
2026

PLUGGED IN WITH ...

Panhandle Rural Electric
Membership Association



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Office Hours

JUNE 29-JULY 2
8:30AM-3:30PM



308-762-1311 or 800-585-4837
FAX 308-762-5750



www.prema.coop



PREMA's 81st Annual Meeting

Panhandle Rural Electric Membership Association (PREMA) held its 81st Annual Meeting Wednesday, May 27th in Alliance.

RD Sutphen, President of the Board for PREMA, called the meeting to order and reported on the results of the director election. Michael Collins and Wayne Crawford from District #2 were both elected to three-year terms.

President Sutphen reported that 2025 was a good year both financially and operationally. Sutphen thanked the employees for their work over the past year, noting their contribution to a successful year.

General Manager, Zac Bryant, reviewed the 2025 Report to Members with a series of slides highlighting the previous year's operational activities and financial condition.

Bryant reported that 2025 was a successful year in terms of safety. PREMA kept its very favorable Workers Compensation Experience Rating which was well below the state average for the fourteenth straight year.

Bryant informed the attendees that PREMA invested nearly \$1,667,677 in upgrades and replacements of infrastructure which included 602 new poles, 341 crossarms, 54-meter loops, 45,672 feet of overhead wire and 11,515 feet of underground cable. Net margins for 2025 were \$3,018,181 with operating margins at \$2,637,985 . **PREMA returned \$354,874 of capital credits to its members with over \$11.5 million being returned to members since inception.**

Guy Swartz was honored in 2025 for thirty four years with PREMA, as well as Stacey Amm for thirty years, Nate Holcomb for ten years, Stevi Buskirk and Vonn Dubs for five years. We also congratulated Guy Swartz on his retirement, wishing him the very best!

Bryant gave several examples of how PREMA gives back to the membership and the area communities which included: Box Butte County Fair Board, Grant County Pool, United Way of Western Nebraska, WNCC Powerline Construction and Maintenance Program, economic development loans, energy efficiency rebates and college scholarships.

Bryant also touched on some of the technology PREMA is using which allows members to save money and brings more efficiency to PREMA. The Load Management program has been a popular option providing cost savings for irrigators. The program kept over \$506,261 in the local economy in 2025. PREMA also offers Smart Hub, which permits the members to view their account information, weather history and billing data. PREMA currently has 883 accounts using Autopay. A 1-800# that the consumers can access 24/7 at their convenience to make payments as well. That information is printed on the monthly statements, 1-800-965-3667. PREMA is using Facebook and the website www.prema.coop to inform and communicate with members. This year's annual meeting Zoom link was available on Facebook and the website.

Director Election Results

District 2

Michael Collins**27 votes**

Wayne Crawford.....**29 votes**

Mr. Collins and Mr. Crawford were elected to a three-year term by the membership.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to fill out and submit your ballots.

Winners of the drawing were Kurt Johnson (\$250 Gift Card) and Christine Evans (12V NOCO Charge Pack).



KNOW THE SIGNS



Farm and Ranch Stress is REAL

Farming and ranching are stressful occupations that are associated with increased levels of anxiety and depression. Left untreated, stressors may lead to mental health issues, increased substance use or death by suicide.

IN THE U.S.:

- ✗ One person dies by suicide every 10.9 minutes.
- ✗ In 2021, suicide ranked as the 11th most frequent cause of death.
- ✗ The national suicide average is 14.1 per 100,000 people.

For farmers, ranchers and agricultural managers:

- The suicide rate is 43.7 deaths per 100,000 people.
- The suicide rate is the 6th highest among occupational groups.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

- ◆ Changes in routine or social activities.
- ◆ Decreased interest in activities or events.
- ◆ Decline in care for crops, animals and the farm.
- ◆ More frequent illnesses or chronic conditions.
- ◆ Increase in accidents on the farm or ranch.
- ◆ Less care about personal appearance.
- ◆ Decreased interest in activities or events.
- ◆ Signs of stress in family members.

FIVE ACTION STEPS

- for helping someone in emotional pain:
1. ASK if they have suicidal thoughts.
 2. KEEP them safe.
 3. BE THERE by listening carefully.
 4. HELP them connect.
 5. STAY connected.

NATIONAL SUICIDE AND CRISIS LIFELINE NUMBER: 988
CALL OR TEXT

Safe Electricity.org
Learn more at: www.safeelectricity.org
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Congratulations!

MOVIN ON UP!



PREMA is pleased to announce the promotion of Doug Hickox from Alliance Foreman to our new Staking, GIS, Warehouse Supervisor and Tyler Trout from Alliance Lineman to the Alliance Foreman. Both are valuable members of our team and will do well in their new roles.



Notes From Load Management

Load Management customers please consider the following:

PREMA recommends that pivots on Load Management should have auto restart installed. Make sure the auto restart function is working properly and pivots start when load control is not active.

Off-peak hours (no control) are 9:00 PM to 12:35 PM and there is no load control occurring on Sundays or Holidays.

Customers can see which control groups are being curtailed by going to PREMA's web site at www.prema.coop under the irrigation tab. Status can also be checked by calling the office at 308-762-1311.

Be sure to inspect your pump and pivot panels regularly to prevent unexpected breakdowns.



Serving Arthur, Box Butte, Cherry, Dawes, Garden, Grant, Hooker, McPherson, Morrill, Sheridan and Sioux Counties

PREMA

251 BRAYTON ROAD
P.O. BOX 677
ALLIANCE, NE 69301-0677

MANAGEMENT STAFF

Zac Bryant—General Manager
Boone Manion—Operations Manager

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michael Collins	Alliance
Wayne Crawford	Alliance
Chris Cullan	Hemingford
Marty Larsen	Whitman
Bryan Monahan	Hyannis
RD Sutphen	Lakeside
Phil Zochol	Alliance

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