



PLUGGED IN WITH . . .

Panhandle Rural Electric Membership Association

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PREMA

PREMA BOARD RECOMMENDING CHANGES TO THE ARTICLES AND BYLAWS

Over the past year or so, the PREMA Board of Directors has contemplated making changes to the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws. Several months back, an issue arose which brought more serious consideration to whether or not the Articles and Bylaws should be reviewed and updated. Recent discussion has included such topics as: annual meetings, director districts, director qualifications and quorum requirements. The board instructed the PREMA staff and attorney to compile suggested changes and/or updates.

At the October board meeting, the directors reviewed and discussed, at length, the proposed changes. The board gave preliminary approval to a slate of changes to be recommended to the membership. These will be voted on in a special mail-in election to be held in late January or early February, 2015. A copy of the recommended changes (with explanations) to the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws will be mailed to all PREMA members.

Some of the major changes include:

- Reduction in the number of director districts from seven to two (one east and one west district). There would be three directors from both the east and west districts and one director chosen at-large.
- Clarifying the residence requirements to explicitly allow a member to qualify as a candidate for the board, as long as they reside within the outer boundaries of the district.
- Streamline the director nomination process to be by petition only.
- Allow use of electronic member communication and electronic ballots.
- Reduce the member-meeting quorum requirement from 50 members to 25 members.
- General grammar check, punctuation, flow and consistency.

if you have questions please stop at the office, or call us at 762-1311 and ask to talk to Ryan Reiber or Jerry Mathistad.

Operations Update

Curb Copper Theft

As the price of copper has increased, so has copper theft. While trying to make a quick dollar by stealing copper, thieves risk their own lives and cause dangerous and expensive damage. Common targets for copper thieves are farming equipment, air conditioners, vacant buildings, construction sites and electric utility properties, including substations and power poles. The Safe Electricity program encourages you to help stop copper theft by reporting suspicious activity near any of these locations.

Copper theft from electric utilities is particularly hazardous to thieves and those who rely on electricity. All items in electric systems are important. Copper theft leaves electric systems vulnerable to fires, explosions and power outages.

Unfortunately, you could be a victim of copper theft, even if thieves never step foot on your property. Copper thieves have caused power outages at businesses and homes, shutdown traffic lights and forced hospitals to run on backup generators. In the worst cases, copper thefts have caused fires and explosions that have taken innocent lives.

Safe Electricity suggests the following tips to stay safe and help stop copper theft:

- **Never enter or touch equipment inside a substation; stay away from power lines and anything touching a power line.**
- **If you notice anything unusual with electric facilities, such as an open substation gate, open equipment, hanging wire, etc., contact your electric utility immediately.**
- **If you see suspicious activities near electric facilities call emergency services or your local utility. Do not intervene. Allow officials to handle the situation.**
- **If you work in construction, store copper securely, especially overnight.**
- **Install motion sensor lights on the outside of your house and business to deter possible thieves.**
- **Store tools and wire cutters in a secure location, and never leave them out while away.**

Safe Electricity encourages you to share what you know about copper theft with others, so together we can help prevent copper theft. For more information on staying safe around electricity, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Keep Outdoor Electrical Devices Clear of Snow and Debris

The outdoor units that run your air conditioning system, heat pump and standby generator need plenty of breathing room. If yours are covered with leftover leaves from autumn, piles of snow from last weekend's storm or debris that blew around during a heavy winter rainfall, pull on your boots and go outdoors to clean them off.

Look around your yard for electric and gas devices, like meters, valves and piping. Regularly clear leaves, ice and snow away from them so they're easy to see. Someone in your family, or even a utility crew member, who can't see an obstructed device could accidentally strike it, which could interrupt your service. Use a broom, not a shovel, to clear snow and ice from any machine to avoid damaging it.



REMINDER

If you will be making any changes in your irrigation, such as rentals, leasing, etc., it is important to make PREMA aware of these changes so the appropriate name and address can get correctly billed. Please contact Janet at our office 308-762-1311.

Thank you.

We are looking for the following individuals current addresses:

James A. Chaulk—Alliance
Griff Carfield—Lebanon
Adah Dukat—Rushville
Phillip F. Guntle—Bingham
Grace Leetch—Scottsbluff
Rick Anderson—Chadron

If you, or anyone you know has any current information, please contact PREMA at 762-1311. Thank you.





Please complete the form below. Completeness and neatness ensure your application will be evaluated appropriately.

1. Name	Home Phone () -	College Phone () -	Last 4 digits of SS #:	
2. Permanent (street) address:	(city)	(state)	(zip) Email:	
3. Mother's Name:	Father's Name:			
4. Student's parent is:	<input type="checkbox"/> Member cooperative employee <input type="checkbox"/> Member cooperative consumer			
5. Co-op System Name:				
Co-op City / State / Zip:				
6. High School name and address from which you graduated or will graduate this spring:				
7. ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS, OR HONORS	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>			
Sending a resume' does not replace any part of this application. If space provided in any section is inadequate, you may continue on additional sheets. Attachments must follow the same format. DO NOT repeat information already reported on the application form. Your name, address, and name of this scholarship program should be included on all attachments.				
8. WORK EXPERIENCE	Describe your work experience (e.g. food server, babysitting, lawn mowing, and office work). Indicate dates of employment for each job and approximate number of hours worked each week.			
	Employer/Position	From-Mo/Yr	To-Mo/Yr	Hours per Week
9. GOALS AND ASPIRATIONS	Write a brief statement or summary of your plans as they relate to your educational and career objectives and long-term goals.			
10. GPA _____				
ACT: English _____ Math _____ Reading _____ Science _____ Comp _____ SAT I: Verbal _____ Math _____				
High school seniors must include a transcript and complete this section. Students currently or previously entered in college or vocational-tech school must include college transcript of grades. Completion of ACT and/or SAT scores is not necessary.				
11. Name and address of accredited school you plan to attend in the fall of the year:				
			City _____ State _____	
			City _____ State _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> 4-yr College or University <input type="checkbox"/> 2-yr Community or Junior College <input type="checkbox"/> Vocational-Technical School				
12. What will your class status be in the fall of the year? <input type="checkbox"/> Freshman <input type="checkbox"/> Sophomore <input type="checkbox"/> Junior <input type="checkbox"/> Senior				
13. Major course of study:		Minors:		
14. ESSAY QUESTION (Required)	As part of the application, you are required to compose and submit an essay. The essay should be no more than one page, typed with a font size no smaller than 12 points, and double spaced on 8½ x 11 paper. Include your name on the top right hand corner of the essay. Student Essay Topic: Pick one of the four values of innovation, accountability, integrity and commitment to community and describe how you see this value in action at your local cooperative.			
Student signature:			Date:	

APPLICANT APPRAISAL (REQUIRED)	To the Applicant: This section is required and must be completed in the format provided. If incomplete, your application will not be evaluated. The section is to be completed by a high school or college counselor or advisor, an instructor, or a work supervisor who knows you well.			
	To the Adult Appraiser: You have been asked to provide information in support of this application. Please give immediate and serious attention to the following statements. When complete, please return to applicant. If you prefer, photocopy this section and return to applicant in a sealed envelope. A letter of recommendation does not replace this section.			
The applicant's choice of a post secondary educational program is	<input type="checkbox"/> extremely appropriate	<input type="checkbox"/> very appropriate	<input type="checkbox"/> moderately appropriate	<input type="checkbox"/> inappropriate
The applicant's achievements reflect his/her ability	<input type="checkbox"/> extremely well	<input type="checkbox"/> very well	<input type="checkbox"/> moderately well	<input type="checkbox"/> not well
The applicant's ability to set realistic and attainable goals is	<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> poor
The quality of the applicant's commitment to school and/or community is	<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> poor
The applicant is able to seek, find, and use learning resources	<input type="checkbox"/> extremely well	<input type="checkbox"/> very well	<input type="checkbox"/> moderately well	<input type="checkbox"/> not well
The applicant demonstrates curiosity and initiative	<input type="checkbox"/> extremely well	<input type="checkbox"/> very well	<input type="checkbox"/> moderately well	<input type="checkbox"/> not well
The applicant demonstrates good problem-solving skills, follows through, and completes tasks	<input type="checkbox"/> extremely well	<input type="checkbox"/> very well	<input type="checkbox"/> moderately well	<input type="checkbox"/> not well
The applicant's respect for self and others is	<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> poor
Comments _____ _____ _____				
Appraiser's Name _____ Title _____ Telephone () _____ Signature _____ Organization _____ Date _____				

Scholarship Submittal Requirements

The student is responsible for submitting all materials on time. Incomplete applications will not be evaluated.

- 1. Complete this application (attach additional sheets if necessary). Your name and address should be on all attachments.
- 2. Recent academic transcript whether it be from a high school, college, university, or trade school.
CURRENT COLLEGE FRESHMAN - Judges will screen and require more than one semester or quarter of grades. If this applies to you, submit your high school transcript.
- 3. Copy of your college entrance examination (ACT and/or SAT) scores. (Only college Freshmen)
- 4. Essay – **Pick one of the four values of innovation, accountability, integrity and commitment to community and describe how you see this value in action at your local cooperative.**
- 5. Applicant Appraisal.
- 6. Mail your complete application packet as directed below.

Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 13, 2015.

Please submit all applications to:

PREMA

P.O. Box 677

Alliance, NE 69301

All scholarship entries are confidential and will only be viewed by PREMA, Chadron State College or the Basin Electric Power Cooperative scholarship committees. There are four scholarships available for qualified college sophomore, junior, senior or graduate students. Three scholarships are available to incoming college freshmen, and there is one scholarship available to a student planning to attend the WNCC Powerline Training School.

Repeat (previous 2 years) winners will only be considered if there are not enough non-repeat winners.