PARK SPARKS
The Park Electric Cooperative Newsletter
June 2022

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022 ELECTION

Every year, the Park Electric board of trustees holds a trustee election at the Annual Meeting. This year, Districts 2 & 7 will have trustee elections.

District 2 covers the area at the north end of Paradise Valley, running south to the Mill Creek area. This district is currently served by Dan Skattum.

District 7 covers the Springdale area. This area includes areas West, North and East of Big Timber and South of Big Timber two miles. This district is currently served by Perry Anderson.

Both trustees have expressed a desire to retain their seats. With that being said, the board feels it is important to have two qualified candidates run for each district, if possible.

Prospective candidates must meet the following qualifications:

-Must be a member of the cooperative and reside and receive service in the district to which he/she would serve.
-They must be available to attend monthly board meetings and the annual meeting.
-They must agree to serve a three-year term if elected.

Any candidate, whether nominated by the committee or running as a member's petitioning candidate, must have their eligibility determined by Park Electric no less than 75 days before the annual meeting date. Candidates may be recomenmended to the below listed nominating committee prior to August 1, at 8:00 AM. Petitioning members must bring their required documents to the General Manager no later than 5pm on August 8th. If you have any questions please call our office at 406-222-3100.
The following members serve as the nominating committee distrist representatives:

District 1 - John Croston
District 2 - Emily Strong Fabich
District 3 - Joe Sarrazin
District 4 - Jeff Nashan
District 5 - Dave Molebash
District 6 - William Brownlee
District 7 - Larry Plaggemeyer

## Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month

If you're looking to add smart technology to your home, consider smart plugs. Smart plugs are inexpensive and can be used to control lighting and other electronic devices through a smart phone app.

With smart plugs, you can conveniently manage lighting, home office equipment, video game consoles and more. By powering off unused devices when you're away, you can save energy (and money!).

*Source: energystar.gov*


## GREEN TAG RATE CHANGE

Attention members that are part of our Green Tag program. The Green Tag rate will be increasing in July of 2022. The new rate will be $0.0025/kWh.

This change is due to a rate increase from our green tag supplier. Thank you for your continued support of this program. Feel free to call the office with any questions.

# Managers Comments

*by Matt Haggerty*

I received some tough news from our power provider in regards to our power rates. They let Park Electric know that in January of 2023 our power rates would go up, which would mean we would be paying more for the power we provide to you. This rate increase is being caused by drought and continued low water on the Missouri River. Park Electric has been able to maintain the same power rates for our members for over 10 years. I cannot think of any other product or service that has been able to maintain the same rates for this period of time. The future of our current rates is now uncertain. Park Electric's board of trustees has begun the tough conversations about the effects that this will cause on our margins, the services we provide, and if this would cause a rate increase for our members. Please keep an eye on the Park Sparks for more information as it comes available.

your bill you will see charges for Energy and Base Charge. Currently, the Demand portion is charged at $0.00. Our wholesale power is charged to Park Electric by both Energy and Demand. In 2021 our power supplier, Central Montana Electric Power Cooperative (Central) is being charged as much as $20.00 per kW during the peak half-hour period of each month. That's not a mistake. To help put this into perspective one space heater on during our peak demand period for the month, can cost almost $30.00 in demand fee. During that same time period Park Electric only charges, you for the energy, which would be less than $.09. The peak time period I am referring to is when the total demand for all eight electric cooperatives that belong to Central is at our highest usage. That peak almost always hits between 6:00 AM and 8:30 AM or 5:30 PM and 8:00 PM.

| Service | From Date | To Date | Meter Number | Previous Reading | Present Reading | Mult | Usage | Unit | $ Amount |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Energy | 02/28/22 | 03/31/22 | 10002119 | 23498 | 24806 | 1 | 1308 | kWh | $112.49 |
| | 1308 kWh X $0.0860000 = $112.49 | | | | | | | | |
| Demand | | | | | | | 7.160 | kW | $0.00 |
| Base Charge | | | | | | | | | $23.00 |

This month I would like to review the demand section on your bills. Please take a closer look at your electric bill this month! If you look at the sample bill above, the top line is energy, read in kWh, and reflects your consumption for the month. The next line is demand and it is measured in kW. Demand is based on the highest capacity required during the given billing period. A comparable example to understand the difference between consumption (kWh) and demand (kW) is using your car's odometer and speedometer. Think about your consumption (kWh) as the number that registers on your car's odometer – to tell how far you have driven – and demand (kW) is what is captured on your speedometer at the moment when you hit your max speed. Consumption (kWh) is your overall electricity usage and demand (kW) is your peak intensity or maximum "speed."

Kilowatt (kW) is another way to say 1,000 watts. An example is a 1,500-watt space heater that is equal to 1.5 kW. I'd like you all to pay attention to this number. Over the last several years I have talked about this quite a few times. If you are looking at

Every kW we can reduce during non-peak times will save almost $20.00. When you consider Park Electric's highest peaks for the last three years being 29,950 kW in Feb 2020, 34,546 kW in Feb. of 2021, and 37,510 kW in Feb. in 2022, you can see how that can add up.

Demand is a very important indicator of how much electricity needs to be produced at any given moment. As an electrical utility, we are responsible for ensuring that during periods of peak loading in summer or winter our electrical system (wires and transformers, etc.) is sized properly to deliver continuous service. It may only be for a couple of hours per year, but our system needs to be built to handle that peak electrical load. By providing our members with their demand usage, they can start to get an understanding of what their peak usage is each month. After looking at the peak demand on your bill, think about ways you could run fewer things all at the same time to reduce your peak load.