MEMBER NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2026

BRIDGER VALLEY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 399
MOUNTAIN VIEW, WY 82939
PHONE: 307-786-2800

LIGHT LINES

"THE POWER TO BRING YOU THE BEST"



OFFICE HOURS

November thru February
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Monday - Friday

March thru October
7 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Monday - Thursday

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District 1
Gary Nix, Vice President
Lacee Bernard
Mountain View, Robertson, Uintalands, Manor Lands

District 2
Jason Haycock
Rick Maxfield
Lyman Area

District 3
Ruth Rees, Secretary/Treasurer
Ft. Bridger, Milburne, Carter, Piedmont, Bear River Area (excluding Uintalands & Manor Lands)

District 4
Clark Anderson
McKinnon, Manila, Dutch John Areas

District 5
Trip Applequist, President
Farson, Eden, Granger Areas

CALENDAR

June 2026
9 BVEA Board Meeting
14 Flag Day
19 Juneteenth
21 Fathers' Day
21 1st Day of Summer
23 Bill Payments Due
23 Primary Election Day-Utah

July 2026
4 Independence Day
4 Day of Cooperatives
7 BVEA Board Meeting
10 Wyoming Day
23 Bill Payments Due
24 Pioneer Day

August 2026
11 811 Day (Call Before You Dig!)
18 BVEA Board Meeting
18 Primary Election Day-Wyoming
23 Bill Payments Due

TO REPORT OUTAGES CALL:

307-786-2800
24 Hours a Day

Publication of Bridger Valley Electric Association, Inc.



CEO'S VIEWPOINT *by Andy Hewitt*

BENEFITS OF THE COOPERATIVE BUSINESS MODEL

Rural electric cooperatives power 42 million Americans across 56% of the nation's landmass—yet they do so with fewer outages and lower long-term costs than many deregulated markets. That outcome is not accidental; it is the product of a system built on certificated service territories, in which one provider serves every meter within a defined area. When accountability is geographically fixed, reliability and affordability follow.



The Myth of "More Choice Equals Better Outcomes"

Policymakers often assume that introducing retail competition automatically lowers prices and improves service. In rural America, that assumption collapses under basic economics: low-density areas cannot sustain redundant infrastructure without driving up costs. Texas' deregulated market saw residential rates spike by 70% from 2002 to 2012, while many cooperative territories maintained stable, cost-based pricing during the same period.

Universal Service Through Defined Responsibility

Certificated territories ensure that no home, farm, or business is left behind simply because serving it is unprofitable. Investor-owned utilities and competitive providers prioritize high-density, high-margin customers, leaving gaps unless compelled otherwise. Electric cooperatives, bound by exclusive territories, achieved near-universal electrification decades ago—bringing power to 90% of farms by 1950, compared with just 10% in 1935.

Infrastructure Investment Without Duplication

Unregulated markets incentivize multiple providers to compete for the same profitable customers, leading to redundant lines and stranded assets. Certificated territories eliminate waste by assigning one provider the obligation—and the right—to build and maintain infrastructure efficiently. A study by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association found that duplicative line construction can increase system costs by up to 25% in sparsely populated regions.

Local Accountability Drives Reliability

Rural electric cooperatives are governed by locally elected boards, which align operational decisions with community needs rather than distant shareholders. This structure ensures that resilience investments—such as vegetation management and grid hardening—are prioritized where they matter most. During Winter Storm Uri in 2021, many cooperative systems restored power faster than neighboring deregulated utilities because of localized decision-making and pre-storm planning.

Stable Rates Through Cost-Based Pricing

Certificated territories enable long-term planning and cost recovery without exposing consumers to volatile wholesale price swings. Cooperatives operate on a not-for-profit basis, returning margins to members rather than extracting profits. In 2022, the average retail rate from electric cooperatives remained about 13% lower than that of investor-owned utilities in comparable rural regions, according to EIA data.

Certificated service territories are not a relic; they are a proven framework that aligns incentives with outcomes. They guarantee universal access, prevent wasteful duplication, and anchor decision-making in the communities they serve. For rural consumers, that structure delivers what deregulated markets often promise but fail to deliver: reliable power at a fair, predictable price.

The cooperative business model ensures that you, the endline consumer and member owner, receive the best value of electrical service at the most feasible cost.

All the best,
Andy Hewitt
CEO/General Manager

BVEA'S 88TH ANNUAL MEETING DRAWS A CROWD

Members elect two directors, hear updates on power supply and cooperative highlights

Bridger Valley Electric Association (BVEA) held its Annual Membership Meeting on the evening of May 1, 2025, with President Trip Applequist presiding. The gathering opened with an invocation by Gary Nix and a flag ceremony conducted by VFW Post 7798.

With a quorum confirmed, the meeting proceeded through its agenda following proper notice to members via the Bridger Valley Pioneer, direct mail, and email.

Board Elections

Two director seats were on the ballot, both running unopposed. Gary Nix retained his seat representing District 1 with 259 votes, and Clark Anderson was returned for District 4 with 103 votes. Election and Credentials Committee Chair Gale Lamb announced the results, and President Applequist thanked the committee for their service.

Chairman's Report

Applequist reminded members that Bridger Valley Electric is a member-owned cooperative guided by the Seven Cooperative Principles. He highlighted the association's community investment, noting that capital credit retirements in December 2025 to members with power accounts in 2005, 2006, and 2007 exceeded $900,000. BVEA also sponsors a Youth Camp, a Washington D.C. Youth Tour, and scholarships for students in the communities the cooperative serves.

Power Supply Update

Jeff Peterson, CEO of Deseret Power, addressed members with an update on BVEA's power supplier. Peterson described Deseret Power's mission as delivering safe, reliable, affordable, and sustainable electricity, and expressed enthusiasm for upcoming infrastructure projects, including a natural gas pipeline serving the power plant.

General Manager's Report

General Manager Hewitt highlighted BVEA's competitive standing in the state, noting that the cooperative offers the second-lowest electric rates overall in Wyoming. He also walked members through the history of the association and an overview of how BVEA sources its power supply.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOARD ROOM

The Board met on March 24, April 22, and May 12, 2026, and took the following actions:

- Approved minutes from the *February 24, 2026 meeting*;
- Approved distribution of up to $451,000 in 2025 capital credits to members;
- Heard comparison of rate classes between Rocky Mountain Power and BVEA;
- Signed the Deseret Resolution Line of Credit;
- Approved financial report, write-offs, new memberships, and safety meeting report (no estate refunds);
- Received updates from representatives of Deseret Power, URECA, WREA, and Federated Rural Utility Exchange;
- Heard reports from the CEO and department managers.

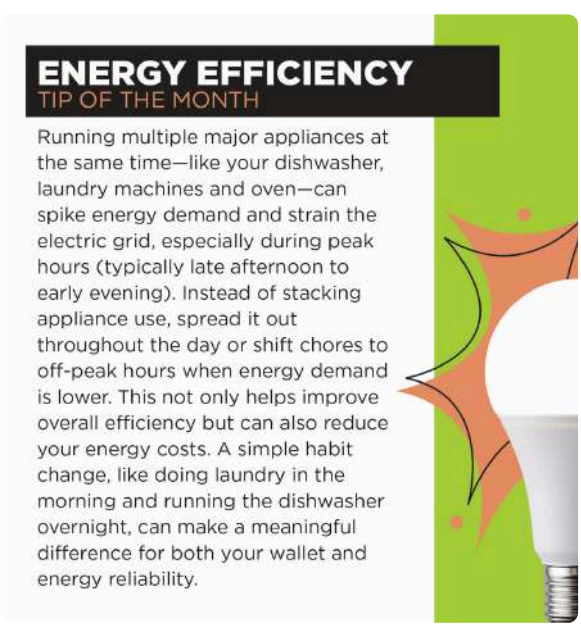
- See synopsis of *April 22, 2026 meeting* to the left.

- Approved minutes from the *March 24, 2026 meeting*;
- Held election for offices on BVEA Board of Directors with Trip Applequist (President), Gary Nix (Vice President), and Ruth Rees (Secretary/Treasurer); Trip Applequist and Gary Nix (trustees for Deseret Power), Clark Anderson (URECA board representative), Ruth Rees (WREA board representative);
- Reviewed and analyzed the annual meeting on April 22, 2026;
- Listened to and approved annual audit report from Phil Tippetts of Decoria & Company;
- Reviewed recipients of BVEA scholarships to graduating seniors from Lyman, Mountain View, Farson-Eden, and Manila high schools;
- Approved financial report, write-offs, estate refunds, new memberships, and safety meeting report;
- Received updates from representatives of Deseret Power, URECA, WREA, and Federated Rural Utility Exchange;
- Heard reports from the CEO and department managers;
- Next board meeting is scheduled for June 9, 2026.











Wyoming 811

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