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Merry Christmas

As so many thoughts and memories flood my mind in anticipation of what is worthy of your readership as well as the focus of the coming holiday season, I reminisce of the past, live in the present, and plan and store memories for the future. Life always seems to be throwing curve balls when we're expecting a change-up, and change is inevitable. Whether our favorite mechanic decided to seek employment elsewhere, or your fast food restaurant now requires you to push a touchscreen monitor to place your food order, humanity is evolving and we are mere cogs in the wheel of life. The most impactful of these changes is the loss of someone close to you. We all have either experienced the death of someone close to us, or will, as death will come to all.

As we grow wiser and grayer our circle of friends and family that were with us through those good and bad times continually diminishes. The principal recognition is not to experience regret or remorse, but rather sadness for loss, although appreciation that you were: a good son, daughter, husband, wife, family member, or friend. Attempting to make the most out of your relationships and life today is of greater emphasis than mere existence of walking through life without. Life is long when you're young, and becomes shorter as you grow older, so create that bucket list, go on that trip to the place you always wanted to go, and embrace and kiss the one you love.

As I write, the daylight is shortening, and the cold and darkness of winter is fast approaching, signaling our annual member appreciation breakfast, which trampled previous records for attendance with over 425 members and community residents enjoying a plate full of pancakes, sausage, and biscuits and gravy. The interest in the electronic recycling and new member service center tours was much more than anticipated and thus we will provide more building tours in December to allow members an opportunity to see and hear how we operate and the benefits of the new facility to maximize efficiencies for you, our member/owners.

Giving to those less fortunate is an annual ritual at PEC, and this year is no exception as the cooperative is once again offering donations to needy youths within the community through the Santa Elves Giving Tree in our front lobby. However, this has become very popular and the heartfelt wealth of giving increases every year and thus the youth cards go quickly. My many thanks to those who have generously donated in years past.

Receiving patronage capital credit retirements every year is one of the benefits of being a member/owner. Those of you who were members in 1990, and some of 1991, would have received a credit on your November electric bill. In fact, \$360,212.51 was retired this year, and \$3,701,539.53 within the history of the organization.

I wish to thank you for working with us, and allowing us to serve you this past year from construction activities to right-of-way clearing, to accessing your property to identify outage-related problems on your distribution system. You have always been more than gracious to us, which inspires us to work harder for you, and is the primary reason for our success. From the directors and staff, who work for you, our members, we would like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas!