Account Numbers for Each Payment Are Critical For Payment Processing

In keeping with our 70th year anniversary theme of innovation, we have introduced new technology in our Utility Billing Department that enhances the current process into an automated application that is more time efficient. Therefore, to properly process payments with this new technology, it is necessary to include the account number for each payment amount. **This is particularly important for individuals with multiple services.**

A lump sum payment referencing several services can’t be separated by the new utility billing technology. The computer program requires a single account number and the respective payment amount to accurately assign funds to the proper account.

Payments that do not follow this process (payment amount referencing specific account number) will have the total payment amount applied against a single account number. This will leave any additional accounts in arrears and will trigger a non-payment of account status.

**NOTE:**

Account numbers are easy to locate on monthly invoices. For members, each service account number appears in the information bar near the top of the invoice, on the left side (see arrow).

Please ensure that your payment(s) clearly indicate the applicable account number to avoid a delinquent account assignment.
Keeping Your House Energy Efficiently Cool

The key to keeping your house cool in summer is to reduce indoor heat sources and make sure that outside heat stays outside. The following tips and tricks are a winning combination of cooling ideas that also generate energy efficiency.

1. During the day, create indoor shade by making use of curtains, blinds, shutters and/or awnings to keep sunlight from turning into indoor heat. Conversely when the outside temperature begins to drop at night, open windows and allow cool air into the home. This will save on your air conditioning bill.

2. Ceiling and room fans are great for keeping you cool as you move around your home. However, to conserve energy don’t leave fans running in a room that is empty. Fans do not actually cool air; unlike an air conditioner; they simply move it around making you feel cooler. Also remember the direction of your ceiling fan blades in summer should be counter clockwise.

3. When washing clothes or dishes, consider these tips. Wash clothes in cold water and if possible hang to dry. If you must use a dryer, use it at night when temperatures are cooler. Dishwashers, on the other hand, must use hot water, so make sure you only run full loads and don’t run the sanitizer or sterilizer settings. After the rinse cycle, consider allowing the dishes to air dry rather than running a heating element. Once again, run your dishwasher in the evening or overnight.

4. Use your air conditioning more efficiently. Sources indicate the ideal temperature for thermal comfort is between 23.5°C (74.3°F) and 25.5°C (78°F). Use a programmable thermostat and set it higher when you are away from the home or at night when you sleep. Your body can tolerate higher temperatures when you are sleeping – so you can raise the temperature and toss off the covers. Remember for every degree Celsius you raise your thermostat, you can save as much as 10% in air conditioning energy cost.

5. In the kitchen, stay cool by using your oven sparingly as oven heat can make the whole house hotter. Try recipes that use a microwave, slow cooker, toaster oven or move outside to a barbeque. Cool meals like salads, etc. are another option. Maximize your refrigerator efficiency and follow recommended manufacturer settings. If your fridge is too cold, it could be costing you money. Additionally, keep your refrigerator reasonably full as solids and liquids are easier to cool than air, but keep in mind not to overfill shelves so you leave enough room for circulation.

6. Replace incandescent and halogen light bulbs with cooler, more energy efficient LEDs or minimally reduce the use of your incandescent bulbs during hot days. Not only will you save on lighting costs, but incandescent and halogens convert most of their energy to heat which dissipates through the house making the home hotter and causing your air conditioner to work harder.
Consider Becoming a Director of Battle River Power Coop

In 2019, there are six Director positions available for election. We encourage members to consider standing for election and want to assure you the process is not difficult. First, the criterion for members wishing to stand for election is as follows.

A member must:

- be 18 years of age or older,
- have an interest in land, and
- be a member in good standing.

You do not need experience in the electrical industry, rather we are looking to recruit a diverse Board with Directors that have experience across many industries and professions and who will bring both their ‘insider’ knowledge as well as an outside perspective to their decision making.

In fact, being a member of the Coop automatically makes a Director an invaluable resource because they connect to fellow members and bring the ability to see things from both a personal and Coop member view. We do however look for individuals who will commit the time to attend meetings and review board packages in a timely manner.

If you have an interest in becoming a Director, we encourage you to get a copy of the Director’s Information Package that may be obtained at the Battle River Power Coop office or by mail upon request.

If you meet the criterion and are interested in standing for election as a Director you may declare yourself in advance of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) or simply from the floor at the AGM.

Battle River Power Coop’s Annual General Meeting

The 2019 Annual General Meeting (AGM) will give members an opportunity to celebrate the 70 years since the first pole went into the ground and reminisce about our journey to the successful, innovative cooperative utility that Battle River Power Coop is today.

Annual General Meeting Details
Date: Thursday, June 20, 2019
Location: The Norsemen Inn
6595 48 Avenue, Camrose, AB
Tel: 780-672-9171

The Annual General Meeting agenda is as follows.

Registration: 3:30 p.m. – Come early to meet fellow Coop members, employees and Directors.

Banquet: 5:00 p.m. – Banquet tickets* are $5.00 per person.
*Banquet tickets may be purchased at the office, reserved for payment at registration by calling the office (1.877.428.3972).

Meeting: 6:00 p.m. – The AGM is scheduled to last approximately two hours. The agenda will include annual reports from the Chair, General Manager and Auditor and the nominations and election of Directors.

To ensure adequate food and seating, please RSVP by June 13, 2019 to 1-877-428-3972.
The RRO may increase or decrease from month to month as it is priced on the open market and subject to many factors relating to supply and demand. It is not a 'regulated' rate, rather it is a default rate. If you do not have an energy contract, then you are on the RRO.

For May, the RRO is priced at $0.07056 per kWh, reflected on your enclosed blue bill. For June, 2019 the Battle River Power Coop billing rate charged to members under the RRO regulation is $0.06906. Detailed information on the monthly RRO is available on: www.brpower.coop.

All members are free to purchase electricity services from the regulated rate provider or from a retailer of their choice. The delivery of electricity to you is not affected by your choice. If you change who you purchase electricity services from, you will continue receiving electricity from the distribution company in your service area. For a current list of retailers you may choose from, visit www.ucahelps.gov.ab.ca or call 310-4822 (toll free in Alberta).

REGULATED RATE OPTION

The Board of Directors looks forward to honoring these five individuals at the AGM.

Tia Schram from Bruderheim is studying Management at Concordia University. Tia is a self-professed agricultural enthusiast and passionate livestock producer. With a major in marketing complementing her management degree, her goal is to help develop more efficient and effective business practices for the family farm. She is an avid volunteer in many community organizations from 4-H to STARS to the ‘Santa for Seniors’ project.

Milan Joellen Cuthbert hails from Hughenden and is enrolled in a B Sc Honors Biochemistry program at the University of Alberta. Working 6 weeks in an experimental oncology lab at the U of A helped her decide to pursue a medical research career. She has a varied history of helping young people with education tutoring and sports coaching. She was recognized by fellow students and named the Class Valedictorian in June of this year.

Jade Lysyk spent her high school years in Lamont and is enrolled in the Instrumentation Engineering Technology program at NAIT. Dedicated to her professional goals, in 2017 she was able to complete the apprenticeship component of her course by working at Dow Chemical. Jade has always been active in Dance and participated in the Sopika School of Ukrainian Dance tour to several Balkan countries and Hungary. In addition to her volunteering for numerous groups and providing guidance and assistance to younger students, she uses her classical voice training as a member of a local choir.

Boyd Gerow, from Fort Saskatchewan, is enrolled in the University of Alberta B Sc Agriculture program. Boyd has been an active volunteer and fund raiser for many local agricultural organizations in Lamont, Bruderheim and Josephburg. For the last three years he has worked with the Lamont Little Sizzlers Rodeo where he takes on the persona of “Stumpy” the clown to entertain the youngsters and help them participate in rodeo events. His goal is to open a private practice as an Agricultural Accountant.

Zachary Prediger is from Ponoka and is studying at SAIT to be an Electrical Engineering Technician. He confesses to being technologically minded but also enjoys sports and dabbles in drama by building sets and managing production lighting. Zachary’s letter of reference states he has demonstrated astonishing leadership skills with the motto of leading by example. Content to remain out of the limelight, he is quick to give recognition to those around him and to use his strengths to bring out the strengths of others.

The Board of Directors is most proud of is the Scholarship Program. To date, the Coop has invested $58,000 in supporting children of members in advancing their secondary education goals. As a result of the overwhelming interest in the program, effective 2019 we have increased the scholarships to five.

The following is a brief snapshot of this year’s successful applicants.

**Tia Schram** from Bruderheim is studying Management at Concordia University. Tia is a self-professed agricultural enthusiast and passionate livestock producer. With a major in marketing complementing her management degree, her goal is to help develop more efficient and effective business practices for the family farm. She is an avid volunteer in many community organizations from 4-H to STARS to the ‘Santa for Seniors’ project.

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