### Jean Schafer

Senior Legislative Representative Basin Electric Power Cooperative



- Basin Electric Political Action Committee (BEPAC)
  - Very "small fish in the sea" compared to most PACs with Public Affairs Council
    - 2013 330 contributors\*
    - 2014 230 contributors
    - 2015 242 contributors (Online sign up/fresh look)
    - 2018 178 contributors\*\*
    - 2021 97 contributors\*\*\*
    - 2023 118 contributors
  - PAC membership significantly affected by
    - Major retirement tranche at EOY 2013\*
    - Reduction in force (RIF) implemented in 2018\*\*
    - COVID and work from home\*\*\*
    - Retirements of the long-standing members



- Basin Electric Political Action Committee (BEPAC)
  - Government Relations staff handles the PAC
    - Staffing has been a challenge
    - Affiliated PAC ruling in 2007 reduced our contribution totals
    - Ended up on the back burner often
    - Hired a TPA for BEPAC compliance/administration helped free up focus



#### REBUILD

- Started with membership drives in 2022
- Replacing legacy member totals is still a challenge
  - New workforce/generation
  - Less familiar with PACs
  - If they are familiar, can be skeptical of PACs
- If contributors can't be replaced in numbers, total amount needed to increase



# **2022 Membership Drive**

- Applied to both new and existing members
- Join BEPAC at the \$100 level
- Or increase your current level up to the \$100 level
- Received choice of BEPAC apparel ¼ zip or golf shirt
- Additional benefit, if golfing in PAC scrambles and representing BEPAC





### **2023 Membership Drive**

- Applied to both new and existing members
- Increase your current contribution level by \$50
- Join BEPAC at the \$100 level
- Hoodie or golf shirt



Join at the \$100 level (\$3.85/pay period) or increase current membership by \$50 and receive exclusive BEPAC apparel!

SIMPLY VISIT THE BEPAC PAGE ON INSIDE BASIN AND CLICK ON THE BEPAC ENROLLMENT LINK ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE PAGE. PAYMENT METHOD MUST BE CONTINUOUS DEDUCTION TO QUALIFY.



The BEPAC application will not activate the promotion selections unless an exact \$50 increase is added to your current level. For example, if you are at \$100.10 due to the rounding for payroll periods, you need to enter \$150.10 and it will ask you to select the rounded amount that will give you a \$50+ increase.



#### • REBUILD

- Traditional levels
  - \$25
  - \$50
  - \$100
  - \$250
  - \$500
- Senior staff challenge to contribute up to \$1,000
- Brought forward by our Senior VP to Executive staff
  - Accepted the challenge



#### • REVITALIZE

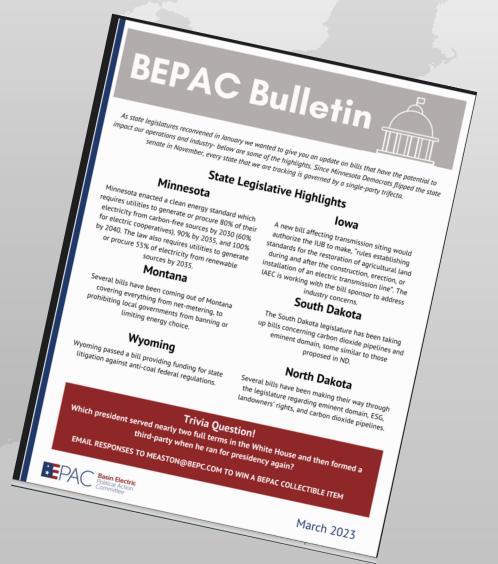
- Picked up member engagement and contact in late 2022
- Going into an election allowed for more "meet the candidate" breakfast/lunch meet and greets
- Moved our Annual Golf Scramble to a different course
  - Added more games on course to increase scramble revenues
- Rebranded and restarted a BEPAC Newsletter



- Increasing member engagement through newsletters/updates
- Trivia Question for a prize
- 1 caveat ...

**Basin Electric** 

Political Action Committee



#### • BBQ Event

Basin Electric

ommittee

- Not a barn burner for funding but a GREAT promotion for the PAC
  - Tickets sold in advance for \$5/ticket
  - CEO purchased tickets for the Board and Bylaws committee
  - Senior Staff started to purchase tickets for their departments
  - Grew from about 60 attendees to 150 attendees
  - Held in parking lot with tents for seating very visible and public
  - Lots of donated giveaways laid out to see so people stayed





### On the horizon...

- Rib or Chili cook off Fall 2023
- Next contribution increase promo Early 2024
  - Changing it up, gift baskets of local products, meat basket, floral
- Corn Hole Tournament TBD
  - Able to hire a vendor that manages and provides everything
  - Indoors in our open atrium area
  - Planned for 2023 but beaten to the punch by corporate plan



### Lessons learned

- Always have someone driving the bus
  - Activities and engagement won't happen unless someone manages it
  - Hire a TPA if you are bare bones staff and can afford it
    - Frees someone up to focus on promoting the PAC vs the administration
- Find the fine line of engagement with members
  - Too much vs not enough
- Profit may not be the end-result of an event
  - Don't negate the value of promotion
  - Maximize expenses covered under the corporate rules



### **Questions?**



