

HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

The Beacon

SEPTEMBER 2023



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facebook.com/HighlineElectric

Our mission is to provide our members with reliable, high-quality electricity and other needed services, which will improve their economic and social well-being and provide significant long-range benefits for our communities, our state and our nation.



HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION
IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER



Touchstone Energy®

SUMMER HOURS

HEA's Sterling and Holyoke offices will be open Monday – Thursday 7 a.m.–5:30 p.m. through September 29.

THE CLIMB

BY DENNIS HERMAN GENERAL MANAGER

I had the opportunity to hike the Manitou Incline earlier this summer in conjunction with a meeting I was attending in Colorado Springs. If you haven't heard of the Incline (I had not prior to this meeting) and you're an outdoor fitness type (which I am not), I encourage you to check out this unique trail in southern Colorado. The Incline ascends on the east slope of Rocky Mountain, which is itself on the eastern flank of Pikes Peak. It is the remains of a narrow-gauge railway whose tracks washed out during a rockslide in 1990. The trail begins at an altitude of 6,500 feet and rises to 8,590 feet over a horizontal distance of 0.9 miles.

It occurred to me after I had completed the hike and had a fair amount of time to recover that the physical challenge presented by the Manitou Incline in many ways parallels the physical, mental, and/or emotional challenges we face in our personal and professional lives daily. The first of these parallels occurred to me as we were approaching the Incline on the bus ride that morning. I was struck by a sense of foreboding, and I've experienced the same sinking feeling in my gut on several occasions when I embarked on other projects in my life. The takeaway for me on this point is pretty simple — you just have to take the first step. All the obstacles that we face in life can seem insurmountable until we dive in and get to work. It's been my experience that I have often made the obstacle bigger in my mind's eye. I think we are much better able to judge the size of the obstacle, or project, after we take that first step and get a better understanding of what lies ahead.

The second parallel that I drew from this experience is the idea of off-ramps or bailouts. There are three different bailouts along the Incline trail that allow you to exit to a gentle trail leading back to the base of the



DENNIS HERMAN

mountain. I would be lying if I didn't tell you that I didn't give some pretty serious consideration to turning back at the third bailout. In fact, I can't say for sure that I wouldn't have turned back if not for the encouragement of the friends I was with. We need to allow ourselves the option for off-ramps in our personal and professional lives, too. Taking a few moments to take stock of our current situation and determining that we're still on the right path helps to reassure us that we're using our time wisely.

During the hike, there are several opportunities to step off the trail, turn around, and take in the amazing views. Those views are there because of the work that has been put in to get to that point on the trail. There are times in our lives when we get so engrossed in the here and now that we can start to lose perspective. There is value in taking a few minutes on occasion to step back and take in the view that our journey has led us to.

As I look back at my journey so far, I'm thankful for the perspective and the incredible views it has provided.

COMING NEXT
MONTH IN
Colorado
COUNTRY LIFE

Read your October *CCL* magazine for information about Highline Electric's **Co-op Month** celebration.

You don't want to miss it!



▲ After 48 years working with Highline Electric Association, Mark Harshbarger looks forward to retirement and spending time piloting.

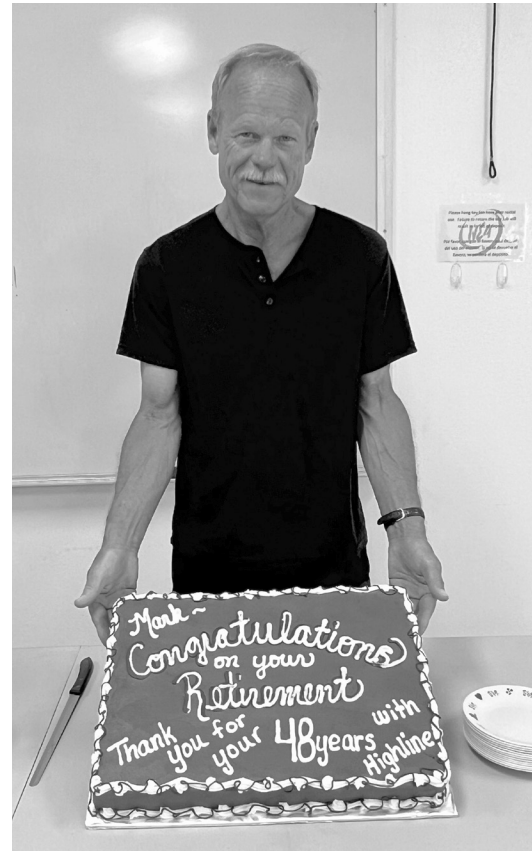
Mark Harshbarger Retires After 48 Years with Highline Electric

On July 31, Mark Harshbarger retired after 48 years with Highline Electric Association. Prior to coming to Highline in March 1975, Mark graduated from high school in January and went to work for Raffelli putting up sprinklers and also with Keith Wade Construction working on the Clarence Taylor building in Holyoke. His mom heard of an opening at Highline, so he went down to the office and was told he was hired “today” and started as an apprentice lineman, later becoming the lead lineman. In 1992, Mark took the position of lead staking engineer, the position he’s now retiring from.

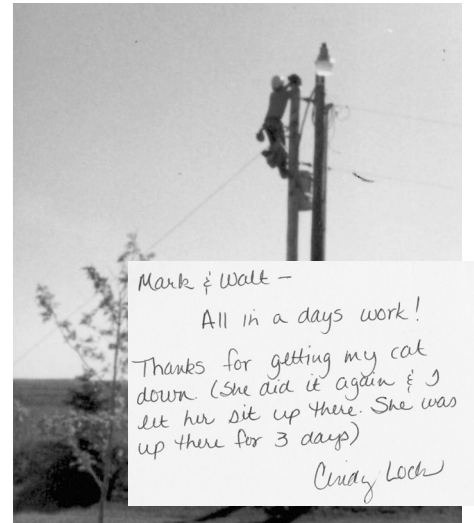
Mark most enjoyed leaving the line world for staking, but then returning to line work during storms and times of need (a “getting back in the saddle,” as he says). “It was fun to be able to go back to essentially the position I started in.” Mark has worked under multiple managers and supervisors over the years.

One of the many memorable experiences Mark recalls is in 1986 when Cindy Lock’s kitty climbed the transformer pole. Mark and Walt Heinitz went to Cindy’s to rescue the kitty and it couldn’t have gone any better. Mark climbed the pole and stuck the cat in his tool bag, where it happily rode back down the pole to safety.

In his retirement, Mark is most looking forward to not having a set schedule. “All in all, Highline’s a good company to work for,” he said. “They’re pretty flexible...I’ve been fortunate.”



▲ Mark Harshbarger celebrates retirement with a cake from his fellow HEA staff.



▲ Mark rescues Cindy Lock’s cat from atop a transformer pole in 1986.

September Employee Anniversaries

Congratulations to these Highline Electric Association employees celebrating a work anniversary in September:

- Darrin Manuello—32 years
- Steve Deaver — 19 years

Highline Electric offices will be closed September 4.



DO YOU SEE YOUR NAME BELOW?

Below is a list of names of Highline Electric Association members who have unclaimed capital credits from the electric cooperative.

HEA publishes the unclaimed capital credit list every year to notify HEA members that the co-op issued them a capital credit

check and that check has not been cashed.

Look for your name in the printed list below. If you're a current or former HEA member and find your name, email capitalcredits@hea.coop or call 970-854-2236.

RUSSELL, SHIRLEY E	SHAFFER, CARROLL J	SPEICHER, PAUL	TEPLY, PATSY	VICK, RAY	WHITE, JASON B
RUSSELL, TOM	SHAW, SHIRLEY	SPENCER, ROBERT	TESKE, DANIEL & SHEILA	VICKERS, MISTY	WHITE, JOSH
RUSSO, MELISSA	SHELLHORN, GLENDA	SPENCER, TIMOTHY L	TETSSELL, DONALD A	VICKERS, PRESTON A	WHITE, ROBERT E
RUTZ, JAMIE	SHELLHORN, GLENDA	SPICER, DARLENE	THIESSEN, KELLY	VIGEN, KELLY	WHITE, WANDA
SAFFORD, PAUL	SHEPHERD, STERLING	SPITZ, JAY	THOMAS, ED	VILLA, GENETTE M	WHITE, WILLIAM C
SALMONS, BRENDA	SHEPPARD, TROY	SPRAGUE, KENNETH A	THOMAS, ROGER L	VILLARREAL, RAMON	WHITESSEL, TOM
SALVADOR, BRETT	SHERBONDY, GEORGE	SPRINGER, SHAWN E	THOMAS, SHERRI	VIOLA I COLGLAZIER TRUST	WHITMAN, WANDA
SALVADOR, MIKE	SHERIDAN, CHARLIE D	SPRINKLE, PEGGY JOANNE	THOMAS, TONY LEE	VIRGIN, CRUZ	WICAL, DENNIS J
SANCHEZ, GREG	SHERMAN, JERRY	SR, GENE KIND	THOMPSON, IAN	VLEET, RICHARD VAN	WICKMAN, HARRY
SANTONI, EUGENE	SHERMAN, SALLY	STAHLCKER, MELVA L	THOMPSON, JAMES	VLIET, DONALD VAN	WICKMAN, MARK
SANTOS, JORGE	SHIELDS, DAN	STAN, JOE	THOMPSON, JASON	VOGELER, DANIEL L	WIENKE, ED
SANTOS, MANUEL	SHINER, KIRK A & KRISTINE A	STANKO, JOHN A	THOMPSON, JENNIFER	VONDY, VIC & KIM	WIENST, JASON
SAUTER, BRUCE	SHIVELY, KENNETH W	STAPLES, JESSICA	THOMPSON, KIM	VOSBURG, SCOTT	WIESNER, JOHN
SCARROW, MARVIN	SHIVELY, RICHARD H	STARK, MIKE & KANDI	THOMPSON, RUBY	VRBK, SHAWN	WIL TEL CO (5794)
SCHAEFFER, BONNIE	SHUMAN, ROBERT B	STARK, TRAVIS	THOMPSON, TOMMY	W B I PRODUCTIONS INC	WILBER, ROBERT C
SCHAFFER, LEWIS & KAREN	SHURTLEFF, GARY	STARLIN, INA	THOMPSON, TOMMY G	W L CONSTRUCTION	WILEY, LEONARD
SCHALL, GARY	SHURTLEFF, RANDY	STEPHANIE J SMART	THOMPSON, TOMMY G	W R MCKINSTRY III	WILKENING, DAVE
SCHARDT, SUSAN	SICKA, ROBERT	BROWNER	TIDEMAN, ALANNA	WADE, CHRIS	WILLIAM C VAN WART
SCHHECK, NICHOLAS OR ELIZABETH	SICKENDICK, GIA	STEPHEN, MARTIN	TIEHEN, TOM	WAGGONER, CHARLES A	WILLIAMS, ANITA
SCHEMENAUR, GLENDA	SICKLER, STACEY	STERLING AIR SERVICE INC	TIMOTEO, TINA	WAGNER, LAVERNE D	WILLIAMS, BRIAN
SCHILKE, CORY	SIECK, BILL	STEVEN HURLEY CLAASSEN	TIPPERARY OIL & GAS CORP	WAIDE, LLOYD	WILLIAMS, BRUCE J
SCHILKE, KEN	SIEVERS, BRENDA K	TRS	TONGEN, ALEX OR ALMA J	WAILES, VIRGINIA	WILLIAMS, CRYSTAL M
SCHMIDT, DAN	SIGMON, IRMA	STEWART, BRYON K	TORR, DONALD LYNN	WALCHLE, BERNARD	WILLIAMS, DANNY H
SCHMIDT, HOWARD M	SILVEY, JASON	STEWART, RUTH	TOSH, RALPH R	WALKER, COLBY	WILLIAMS, LEROY
SCHNEIBEL, FRANK	SIMINO, LEE & ANGELA	STIEB, JOHN E	TOW, EVELYN	WALKER, GERALD L	WILLIAMSON, DANIEL
SCHNEIDER, CLIFFORD E	SIMMONS, JOSEPH R	STIEB, SYLVESTER	TRADING, ENRON OIL	WALKER, JAMES J	WILLIAMSON, KATHERINE
SCHNEIDER, WILLIAM	SIMONSON, SHANE & KATHLEEN	STOCKING, HERB	TRAMP, DAN & TRICIA	WALKER, JAMES OR AMY	WILLS, BOB
SCHNELL, DONNA M	SIMPSON, BRIAN	STOLTENBERG, REX	TRAVIS, ELEANOR	WALKER, PAULA	WILMS, RASHELLE
SCHNELL, RICHARD	SIMS, MIKE	STONER, TERRI	TRAXLER, BILL S	WALLIN, LEON	WILSON, ADAM
SCHOENBERG & RANELLE SMITH, ADAM	SIPE, FRANK	STRATMAN, JOHN	TRAXLER, GARY & ANGELA	WALSER, MICHAEL	WILSON, CHRISTINE
SCHOLZ, STEVE	SISK, GERALD	STREIB, BRIAN	TREVINO, JESSICA	WALTER F GALL JR	WILSON, JOHNNY C
SCHRAMM, ALLEN & SCHULER, CANDY	SKOGLUND, GENE A	STUBBE, KENT R	TREVINO, ROSA	WALTMIRE ESTATE, JOE W	WILSON, PAUL K
SCHULER, GERALD G	SLATER, JONI	STULTZ, JAMES & MELONY	TRIBELHORN FARMS LLC	WALZ, MARLENE & TROY	WILSON, RANDY L
SCHULTE, DENNIS	SLAYDEN, ANDY	SUHR, OCTAVIA	TROELSTRUP LIVESTOCK CO	WALZ, MICHAEL	WILSON, TOBI
SCHULTE, FRED C	SLIZESKE, LOUIS	SULLIVAN, JODY D	TRUMP, ANN	WARD, KENNETH	WILSON, VAUGHN
SCHUMANN, LESLIE	SMART, STEPHANIE J	SUPPLY, BORDER FUEL	TRUST, EDNA ROBERT	WARNER, JOHN C	WILSON, WADE D
SCHWAB, SHANNON	SMITH, ADEANA M	SURBER, TROY	TRUST, JACOBY FAMILY	WARNICK, ABRAHAM & MICHELLE	WINSLOW, GREG D
SCHWANKE, PETER	SMITH, BETTY M	SVACINA, JEANIE	TURPIN, TERRIE	WARREN, RODNEY	WIRGES, THOMAS N
SCOTT, ANDREW	SMITH, BEVERLY	SVITAK, SCOTT	TUTTLE, BONNIE R	WARREN, SHERRI	WITTE, CLARENCE E
SCOTT, ED	SMITH, BOBBY D	SWART, KEVIN	TWEDELL, RICK	WATKINS, MADELINE W	WOLFF & JOHN MCKNIGHT, LISA
SCOTT, ROBYN	SMITH, BRIAN	SWENSON, NATASHA	TYAN, LEON	WATKINS, SUSAN	WONDERLY, JULANA
SEAFOOD, DAN'S CAJUN	SMITH, CHARLOU	SWOFFORD, SAMUEL	U S DEPT OF HUD	WATSON, MICHAEL	WOOD, AARON C
SEALE, TIFFANY D	SMITH, ED	SWOPE, JACK H	UHRIK, DONNA	WATSON, RAMONA	WOOD, TERRI L
SEARLE, TROY	SMITH, GERALD	SYLVIA, ROBERT D	UNREIN, JUSTIN	WATTS, KAREN	WOOLF, GEORGE
SECRIST, DANIEL M	SMITH, KENDALL	SYPERT-KRETCHMER, VICTORIA	URSICH, MARTHA L	WEBER, LOLA	WRIGHT, JACK
SECRIST, LESLIE	SMITH, KENNETH J	SZABO, SCOTT	URSICH, SARAH	WEBER, SHANNON	YOST, DENNIS & CHERYL
SEDGWICK COMPUTERS	SMITH, KIMBERLY	TACKETT, DAVID	UTTER, ALLEN C	WEDDELL, JUDY	YOTT, BERNIE
SEIDEL, KENNY E	SMITH, LEON	TALBOT, JAYNE	V F W POST #4191	WEDER, STEVE	YOUNG, KATHLEEN M
SEIP, MERRILL R	SMITH, MAX	TATANKA LODGE	V, GENEVA JANDA	WEGNER, PEGGY	YOUNG, OWEN
SELLERS, JERRY L	SMITH, ROB	TATE, BRANDI K	VALDEZ, JOHN G	WEINGART, DAN	YOUNG, RAYMOND DAVID
SELVEY, MICHAEL	SMITH, STANLEY S	TAYLOR, JERRY D	VALENCIA, JOSE	WEISS, DALLAS	YOUNG, SCOTT
SEME, MARTIN	SMITH, STEVE	TAYLOR, RICHARD & SUSAN	VALENTINE, VIRGIL	WELLS, MICHAEL	YVONNE A ADAMS TRUST
SERRANO, ESEQUEO	SMITH, TERRY J	TAYLOR, ROLAND A	VALLAD-MILLER, MARIA	WESTERN TEL COMM INC	ZECH, VELMA
SERVICE, LINDSEY'S GRINDING	SMITH, THEODORE	TEDDER, KATHIE	VASS, ROCKY	WESTOVER, ALVIN R	ZIMMERMAN, DUDLEY C
SERVICES, LUXURY	SMOTHERMAN, GREG J	TELECASTING, AMERICAN	VAUGHAN, DANA H	WHALEY, PATIENCE	ZINK, JOHN
LANDSCAPE	SOBOTT, TED	TELEPHONE, MOUNTAIN STATES	VAUGHN, DONNA L	WHEAT, ANGELINA	
SEWARD, JIM	SOSA, JAMEE	TEMPLE, WILLIAM	VAZQUEZ, SARA	WHEEL, WAGON	
	SOUDER, ORVAL		VELETA, EBER AARON	WHITBECK, ELMER	
	SPARKS, PAUL		VENABLE, CHRIS		

PESTICIDE SAFETY

Highline Electric employees face serious health risks when they unknowingly enter a field that was sprayed with any chemical. Just as you would not subject your family or employees to risk, we do not want to subject our employees to risk.

If you used any chemicals on a field, please notify HEA. You may call the office or you can place a flag at the entrance to the field. Please note the day when it is safe to enter the field and what chemical was used.

Chemical notification signs and flags are available free of charge at any HEA office.

If you call to report an outage, please notify HEA if the field was sprayed.

The initial and long-term effects of absorbing chemicals in the body are extremely hazardous to one's health.

Please don't subject our employees to these dangers.



HAY IS FOR HORSES



USE IT WITH CARE NEAR POWER LINES

Using hay on the ranch or farm is like using water and feed — it is essential. However, be careful near overhead power lines. Here are some safety tips to keep in mind:

- Be aware of overhead power lines when moving bales of hay.
- Do not store hay bales underneath power lines.
- Bales could get close to or contact a power line, pole or guy wire.



IN ADDITION:

- Tarps that cover hay can come loose in heavy winds.
- The tarp can then whip in the wind.
- The unruly tarp could contact a power line and cause an outage.

Learn more:

 **Safe
Electricity.org**[®]

— SAVE THE DATE —

Highline Electric Association Annual Meeting
March 26, 2024 | Phillips County Fairgrounds

Set Up Auto Pay Today

Call Highline's office at 970- 854-2236 to set up auto pay for your electric bill.