

HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

The Beacon

MAY 2021



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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®

FOCUS ON SAFETY

BY DENNIS HERMAN GENERAL MANAGER

Safe. Affordable. Reliable. You have heard me say it before and you'll hear it again. It's no mistake that "safe" takes top billing in this list of ideals we constantly strive to attain. As spring gets into full swing and farm activity increases, I want to take just a few minutes to remind everyone to keep safety front of mind.



DENNIS HERMAN

An internet search for the most dangerous jobs yields an interesting result. Farming is eighth overall with a fatality rate that is seven and a half times that of the average worker. Power linemen ranked 10th with a fatality rate that is nearly six times that of the average worker. The study also found that self-employed workers, a category that most of our consumer-members fall into, were at greater risk than hourly or salaried workers. It goes without saying that several of our consumer-members, friends, family and neighbors are engaged in work that puts them at higher risk than the average worker.

It has been my experience that fighting complacency and keeping a focus on safety can be one of the best deterrents to accidents at work. For me personally, this need for focus to fight complacency is most evident while I am driving. A quick glance at our cellphones can be all the distraction it takes to lead to an accident. Distracted driving contributed to 3,142 deaths in 2019, a 10% increase from 2018. While distracted driving is an example we can all relate to, distraction and complacency can lead to accidents in any setting.

With the goal of increasing focus on safety, we are rolling out a new safety campaign with our employees at Highline Electric Association. The concept is summarized in a new graphic that we are using internally:



Our hope is that by providing our employees with a consistent reminder of their families and loved ones relying on them at home, it will motivate them to stay alert and ward off the complacency that can lead to workplace accidents.

I want to encourage all of you to remain vigilant about safety. This vigilance starts with taking a moment before undertaking any task, whether at home or at work, to identify the potential hazards. Then, bring that task to completion with focus. Avoid distractions until you are in a time and place where those distractions can be dealt with in a safe manner.



Board of Directors Election Results

- District 1 (Logan, Weld, Morgan or Washington County, Colorado) – Jim Lueck
- District 2 (Phillips or Yuma County, Colorado) – Mike Bennett
- District 3 (Sedgwick County, Colorado, or Deuel County, Nebraska) – David Kinnison
- District 4 (Chase, Perkins or Dundy County, Nebraska) – Merlin R. Prior



Have You Driven a Tesla? Now's your chance!

Highline Electric Association is electrified to offer its consumer-members the EV Experience with a Tesla Model 3. Beginning in June, you can schedule a test drive at Highline's Holyoke office. Call 970-852-2246 or email info@hea.coop to reserve your 30-minute EV Experience.

For members near the Sterling and Ovid offices, we will schedule a date once interest is expressed in those areas. Must be 21 years or older and have a valid driver's license and insurance. Schedule your test drive today.

Do we have your most up-to-date contact information?

Maybe you switched cellphone providers and had to get a new phone number or decided to disconnect your landline. Maybe your mail isn't delivered to your house anymore and you have to pick it up at the post office. Whatever it may be, make sure we have your most up-to-date phone numbers, mailing addresses and anything else that can help us get ahold of you if you need to be contacted.

Attention Load Control Participants

Irrigators are reminded that if you are signed up for load control for the 2021 year, it will begin this month. Please be aware of which option you signed up for. Control dates for all options include May 12-May 31, June 21-June 30 and September 1-September 10. If you chose 1A or 2A, this will include one day per week in July and August as well as the aforementioned. If you chose option 3, this will only be one day per week in July and August.

Amount of Property Taxes Paid in Each County

NEBRASKA	Amount
Chase	\$ 55,398.48
Deuel	\$ 1,773.36
Dundy	\$ 111.80
Perkins	\$ 1,897.32
Total	\$ 59,180.96
COLORADO	
Logan	\$ 180,569.72
Morgan	\$ 1,383.00
Phillips	\$ 185,776.84
Sedgwick	\$ 72,729.76
Washington	\$ 8,369.04
Weld	\$ 223.46
Yuma	\$ 67,207.44
Total	\$ 516,259.26

Employee Anniversaries

Congratulations to the following employees who observed an employment anniversary in April and May:

APRIL

Jeff Poe	17 years
Jason Depperschmidt	15 years
Eric Anderson	10 years
Matt McCabe	6 years
Carson Ebke	5 years
Josh Martin	4 years

MAY

James Ziebarth	19 years
Jason Doleshall	11 years
Tammy Kroeger	9 years
Landon Shaffer	8 years
Jace Rhodes	5 years

Investing in the Leaders of Tomorrow

2021 Winners

Earlier this year, dependents of Highline Electric Association consumer-members competed for scholarships provided by HEA in conjunction with power suppliers Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association and Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

Over 40 applications from 12 different school districts were considered for two renewable four-year scholarships at \$1,000 per year and eight one-year \$1,000 scholarships. In addition, one \$1,000 scholarship sponsored by Basin Electric and two one-year \$500 scholarships sponsored jointly by Tri-State and HEA were awarded.

A scholarship committee evaluated applications to determine awards — a very difficult task considering the quality of applications submitted.

\$1,000 Highline Electric Scholarship

\$1,000 Highline Electric Renewable Scholarship



Triston Cochran
Chase County High School



Riley Grauberger
Caliche High School



Alyssa Hill
Sterling High School



Kendyl Kirkwood
Fleming High School



Mallory Kaiser
Sterling High School



Andrea Marick
Caliche High School



Haley Van Overbeke
Holyoke High School



Ema Richardson
Yuma High School



Cole Sigmon
Fleming High School



Andrea Kuntz
Lone Star High School

\$500 Tri State G & T / Highline Electric Scholarship

\$1,000 Basin Electric Member Cooperative Scholarship Consumer



Shelby Blach
Yuma High School



Kiersten Bohler
Sterling High School

Tristen Roll
Holyoke High School



Save Energy, **SAVE MONEY**

Just like we always make room for dessert, there is always room for saving money. We want to remind our consumer-members of some incentives provided in the form of rebates and federal tax credits regarding energy efficiency home improvements. Some of the tax credits that were set to expire at the end of 2020 were extended through the end of this year. The types of improvements are summarized below for your ease of reference.



HVAC — Highline rebates: Split system whole house A/C units: \$200 per unit, 16 SEER and above. 1-ton minimum. Air-source heat pumps: \$500/ton for 15-17 SEER rated units, \$750/ton for greater than 17 SEER rated units, rebate amount up to 50% of unit cost. Tax credit*: Up to \$300 for qualifying central air conditioners and air-source heat pumps, up to \$150 for qualifying gas or propane furnaces and boilers.



Water heaters — Highline rebates: Electric water heaters: \$80 rebate for replacement of existing electric, \$180 rebate for new install or conversion from gas or propane. Rheem Marathon water heaters: \$125 rebate for replacement of existing electric, \$225 rebate for new or conversion from gas/propane. Hybrid air-source water heaters: \$375 rebate 30 gallon minimum. Tax credit*: up to \$300 for qualifying water heaters.



Energy Star-certified appliances — Highline rebates: Dishwashers: \$40/unit. Clothes washers: \$60 top load, \$80 front load. Clothes dryers: \$60/unit, \$180 heat pump unit. Refrigerator/freezer: \$60/unit and/or \$120/unit to recycle old unit (limit 2 per year)



LED bulbs/fixtures — Highline rebates: 50% of cost, max of \$8 per bulb/fixture. Bulbs/fixtures must be 500 lumens or greater. 50 bulbs/fixtures per account/year. For commercial lighting projects please call our Holyoke office at 970-854-2236 for details.



Electric outdoor power equipment — Highline rebates: 25% of cost up to \$150 for electric mowers, snow blowers and electric bicycles. 25% of cost up to \$50 for electric blowers, chainsaws, trimmers, pruners and power washers. Maximum rebate of \$300 per member/year



Electric motors (commercial, industrial and irrigation) – Highline rebates: \$10/HP (10-500HP), \$8/HP (500-1500HP).



Energy Star-certified windows – Highline does not offer rebates on windows but we do offer loans through our Rural Energy Savings Program. More details below. Tax credit*: 10% of the cost of any Energy Star-certified windows, up to \$200.

Highline offers loans through the Rural Energy Savings Program. This is an on-bill financing program providing our consumer-members with low interest loans to pay for qualifying energy efficiency improvement projects throughout their homes. Call our Holyoke office at 970-854-2236 for details regarding what projects may qualify for funding.

*For federal tax credit eligibility criteria details, please visit energystar.gov.

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