

HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

The Beacon

APRIL 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®

APRIL IS LINEMAN APPRECIATION MONTH

BY DENNIS HERMAN GENERAL MANAGER



DENNIS HERMAN

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines appreciation as a feeling or expression of admiration, approval, or gratitude. I would like to take this opportunity to appreciate and thank our line crews at Highline Electric Association.

My appreciation for our line crews begins with something I take for granted. In my lifetime, I can count on one hand the number of times I have had to endure a power outage that lasted more than 24 hours. That kind of reliability creates expectations. I have come to expect my power to be on and available, all the time, with very few exceptions.

Power outages, when they do occur, result from a variety of causes. The outages experienced across the Southwest Power Pool and Texas in February were of a regional nature. These large regional outages are due to circumstances that are largely outside of our control. The February example was due to extremely cold temperatures across a large swath of middle America. The cold temperatures created unusually high energy demands as those affected tried to keep their homes warm. At the same time, power generation resources were failing: the wind was not blowing, the sun was not shining, and increased demand for natural gas by heating customers resulted in an interruption in gas supplies to power generators, tripping gas generation units offline.

The majority of the outages we experience at Highline, however, are of a local nature. Thunderstorms roll across our service territory resulting in lightning damage to equipment. The same thunderstorms can pack powerful straight line or

tornadic winds that can snap poles off and leave conductors a tangled mess. Powerful winter storms can produce similar wind damage. But, without a doubt, the combination of ice and wind creates the most dreaded outage causing combination across our service territory. Freezing rain accumulates on conductors adding weight and surface area to the conductor. Icing conditions, followed by high winds will wreak havoc on an electric distribution system. It is during our line crew's response to these outage conditions that I cannot help but appreciate the dedication of these unique individuals.

Line work remains a high-risk occupation, even though we continually emphasize safety and training. Linemen risk falls, electric shocks, burns and other injuries while on the job every day and these risks are amplified during adverse weather conditions.

It is for these reasons we honor our line crews by observing Lineman Appreciation month each April. When I am at home with my family during a nasty winter storm; when the wind is blowing 40 miles an hour, the visibility is near zero from blowing snow, and it is 10 degrees outside; and my power goes out in the middle of the night I take a moment to pause. I take a deep breath and try hard not to be annoyed by how inconvenienced I am going to be by this power outage and appreciate the crew that has traversed roads that were more than likely next to impassable, to locate the problem and work 25 feet in the air to restore my power.

HEA HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

IN-PERSON ANNUAL MEETING CANCELED

Highline Electric Association’s 2021 annual meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 30, 2021, was canceled due to COVID-19 limitations on gatherings. Officer reports with updates on your cooperative are published on our website. We encourage you to watch our website, www.hea.coop, or social media channels to access the link for our live Annual Report **April 8th at 2:00pm**.

These reports will bring you up to date on all of the latest at Highline. Chief Financial Officer Jim Jackson will review 2020’s financial results. Reports will be available from your directors who represent Highline at the Colorado Rural Electric Association, Nebraska Rural Electric Association, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc., (Tri-State) and Western United Electric Supply Corporation. General Manager Dennis Herman will review and discuss the major events that influenced Highline in 2020 including the effects of COVID-19 on the organization and other activity in the power industry that will have an impact on Highline and our members. The general manager’s report will include a discussion of Tri-State’s Responsible Energy Plan and a status update on Tri-State’s move to seek regulation by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission rather than the public utility commissions in the states where Tri-State operates.

We are looking forward to holding one or more in-person membership events as soon as possible once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. Please monitor our website, Colorado County Life and our social media channels for announcements related to membership events as we move through 2021. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions. We are looking forward to seeing you all in person in the near future.

BALANCE SHEET*

December 31, 2020

	Assets		Liabilities	
	2019	2020	2019	2020
Electric Plant	\$ 111,502,572	\$ 114,283,968	Borrowed: RUS, CFC, CoBank & FFB	\$ 126,587,460 \$ 135,690,338
Less:			Less:	
Depreciation Provisions	\$ 45,262,110	\$ 47,537,911	Repayments	\$ 74,700,560 \$ 75,833,117
Net Utility Plant	\$ 66,240,462	\$ 66,746,057	Net Owed: RUS,CFC, CoBank & FFB	\$ 51,886,901 \$ 59,857,221
Reserves & Investments	\$ 43,024,156	\$ 50,293,344	Membership Equity:	
Cash	\$ 516	\$ 511,421	Membership Fees	-0- -0-
Accounts Receivable—Net	\$ 4,676,667	\$ 2,394,779	Patronage Capital	\$ 56,455,891 \$ 54,730,887
Materials & Supplies	\$ 895,199	\$ 1,364,651	Donated Capital & Other	\$ 2,652,977 \$ 2,809,207
			Current and Accrued Liabilities	\$ 4,786,042 \$ 4,698,370
Prepaid Expenses & Other			Regulatory Liabilities	\$ 700,000 \$ 2,400,000
Deferred Debits	\$ 2,403,839	\$ 3,872,593	Deferred Credits	\$ 759,029 \$ 687,160
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 117,240,840	\$ 125,182,845	TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 117,240,840 \$ 125,182,845

*Preliminary at time of printing.

HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Mike Bennett
President



Jim Lueck
Vice President



Merlin R. Prior
Secretary



Merl Miller
Treasurer



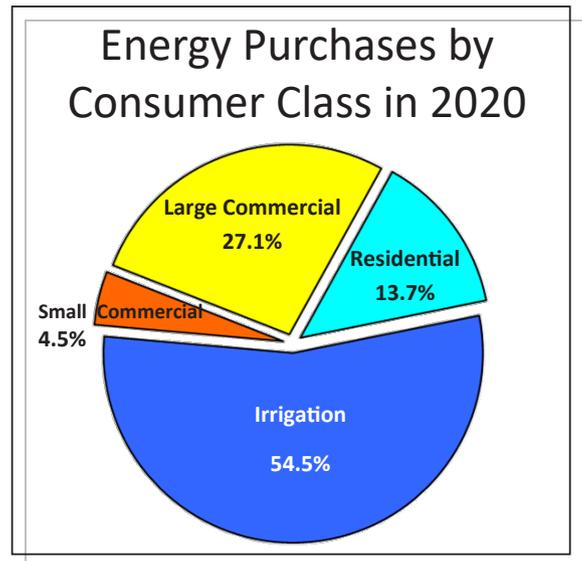
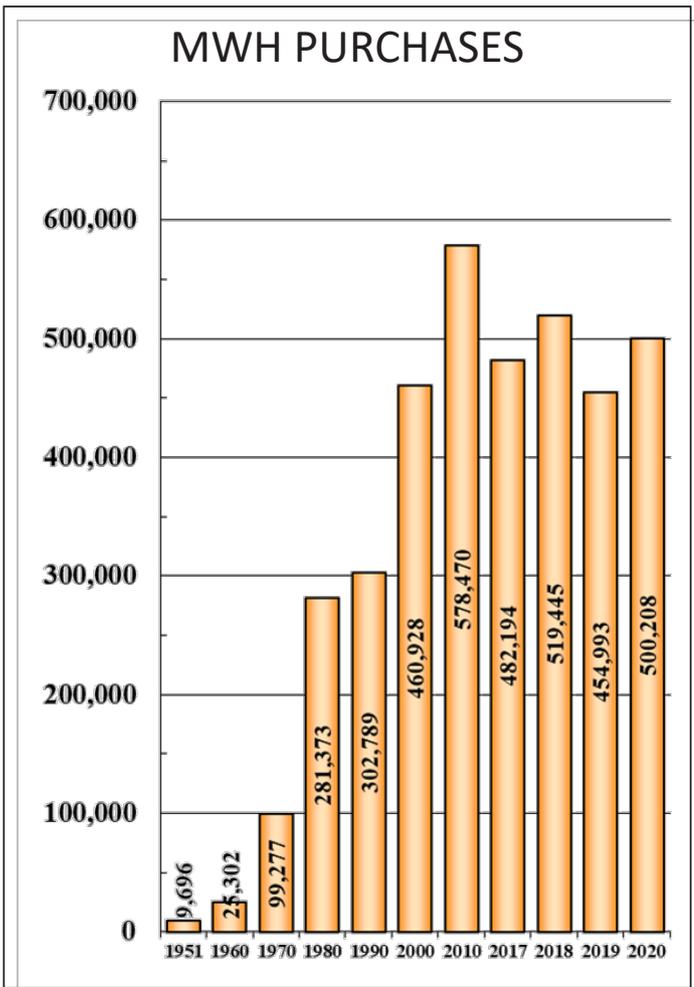
Leo Brekel



Ted Carter

RECORD OF GROWTH

	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2019	2020	
Plant Investment	\$ 2,190,765	\$ 4,526,600	\$ 12,206,046	\$ 30,054,168	\$ 36,440,553	\$ 55,387,209	\$ 81,771,894	\$ 108,037,590	\$ 112,109,004	
Average # of Meters		4,269	5,535	8,078	8,586	9,473	10,346	10,466	10,511	
kWh Sold			89,064,002	250,391,622	268,620,209	423,698,100	547,877,563	423,152,088	469,461,490	
Average Use Per Meter per month		182	439	1,341	2,583	2,607	3,727	4,413	3,369	3,722
Miles of Line (December)		2,822	3,597	4,534	4,672	4,905	5,118	5,170	5,170	
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 345,080	\$ 688,862	\$ 1,869,506	\$ 13,111,904	\$ 17,270,767	\$ 24,960,196	\$ 50,962,963	\$ 50,470,258	\$ 52,713,406	



Accrued 1948 - 2020	\$ 110,485,393
Refunded to Estates	\$ 5,178,538
General Refund in 2020	\$ 2,745,833
Deferred Revenue	\$ 2,400,000
General Refunds in 1948 - 2020	<u>\$ 45,430,135</u>
BALANCE	\$ 54,730,887



David Kinnison



Steve D. Oestman



Aaron Sprague



Pam Stieb



Brad Stromberger



Dennis Herman
Manager

Investing in Leaders of Tomorrow: 2020 Scholarship Recipients

\$1,000 Highline Electric Scholarship

\$1,000 Highline Electric Renewable Scholarship



Lauren Bergner
Holyoke High School



Madison Brown
Chase County High School



Slaten Burris
Holyoke High School



Ananisia Gallegos
Sterling High School



Jaelyn Adler
Wray High School



Tanner Hutt
Merino High School



Brooke Mertens
Merino High School



Tristen Roll
Holyoke High School



Rachel Rosas
Sterling High School



Kyerie Lechman
Revere High School

\$1,000 Basin Electric Member Cooperative Scholarship Consumer

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



Savannah Burris
Holyoke High School



Jozie Schilke
Chase County High School



Camryn Trump
Sterling High School

Washington D. C. Youth Tour

Youth Leadership Camp



Nathan Brekel
Fleming High School



Cole Sigmon
Fleming High School

Due to COVID-19 canceling the Washington D. C. Youth Tour and Youth Leadership Camp in 2020 and 2021, our Youth Tour delegates will be attending the 2022 Youth Tour. Youth Camp delegate Lamya will be attending Youth Camp in 2022 and, due to scheduling conflicts, Andrea was offered a scholarship for the monetary value of the camp.



Andrea Kuntz
Lone Star High School



Lamya Kuntz
Lone Star High School