

HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

The Beacon

DECEMBER 2022



MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 57
Holyoke, CO 80734-0057



STREET ADDRESS

1300 S. Interocean
Holyoke, CO 80734



ph 970-854-2236
tf 800-816-2236
fax 844-996-1318
email info@hea.coop
web hea.coop



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.

HEA OFFICE HOURS

Holyoke: M-F | 7:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

Sterling: M-F | 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Ovid: M-Th | 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION
IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER



Touchstone Energy®

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

BY DENNIS HERMAN GENERAL MANAGER



DENNIS HERMAN

Highline Electric Association, like all cooperatives, operates according to a shared set of core principles and values. These values are articulated in the Seven Cooperative Principles:

1. Open and voluntary membership
2. Democratic member control
3. Members' economic participation
4. Autonomy and independence
5. Education, training, and information
6. Cooperation among cooperatives
7. Concern for community

You've seen this list before if you've read my column over the past couple years. I've previously used this introduction to discuss Highline's concern for the communities that we serve. I'm going to focus on the sixth principle today: cooperation among cooperatives. When I think about the best way to explain this principle I think about the old adage, "There's strength in numbers."

While there's no doubt that Highline operates autonomously and with independence, there have been times throughout Highline's history when there was a clear advantage to band together with our cooperative brothers to solve a problem. The first example of this came in the early 1950s. As electricity was spreading across the rural areas of Colorado, Nebraska and Wyoming, it was evident that new sources of power were needed. Realizing that it didn't make sense for individual distribution cooperatives to assume the risk of investing in generation assets, the cooperatives across the area joined together to form Tri-State G&T. The result of that collaboration is now an organization that provides the electricity to serve more than one million consumer-members across a four-state footprint, and other distribution cooperatives partnered to create utilities similar to Tri-State.

While the electric industry is changing, there is no doubt that these generation and transmission cooperatives have increased reliability and decreased costs to rural member owners for the last seven decades.

The second example of the sixth cooperative principle that comes to my mind is the creation of statewide organizations. Highline is an active member of both the Colorado and Nebraska rural electric associations. These organizations, made up of cooperatives and public power districts across the respective states, give us an amplified voice with the legislators and regulators in both states. Our statewide organizations speak on our behalf with respected and powerful voices. This political advocacy occurs at the national level as well through our national organization, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

There are times when Highline's opinion differs from that of other Tri-State, CREA or NREA members. On those rare occasions, we have sought out our like-minded neighbors to advocate our positions to regulatory and political bodies. By working together as partners, we can still speak with an amplified voice and share expenses.

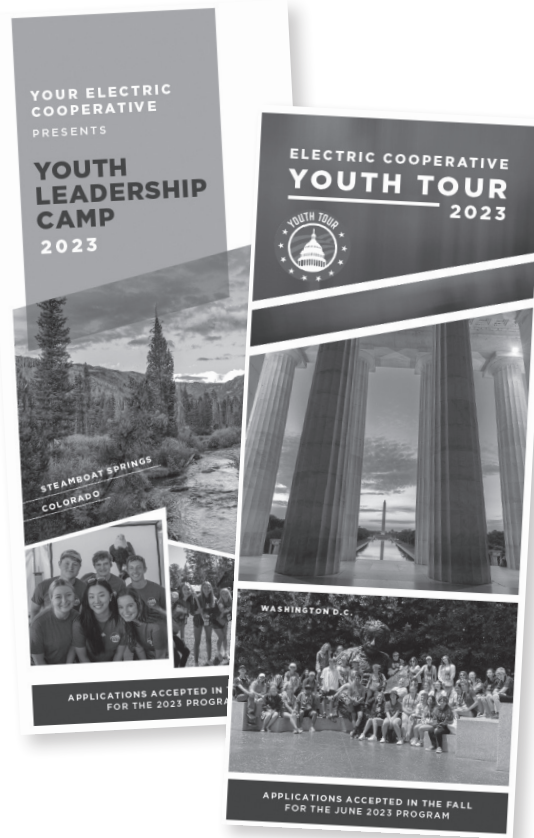
The final example I think of is considerably more local and personal for me. Highline has shared an engineering department with our neighboring cooperative, Y-W Electric, for the past 30 years. The sharing of engineering personnel between the two companies has led to a number of synergies and efficiencies for both companies over the years — and it was that partnership that started my career with Highline Electric Association.

STUDENTS: YOU COULD WIN A TRIP OF A LIFETIME

Each year, Highline Electric Association sponsors all-expenses-paid trips for two students to attend the Washington D.C. Youth Tour and two students to attend Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs.

To be a lucky winner of one of these two awesome experiences, please complete the application submission on our website. The top two applicants will go to Washington, D.C.

Your entry must be received by December 16, 2022. Please visit our website at www.heacoop.org/youth to apply.



Rebate Changes Coming in 2023: SUBMIT YOUR 2022 REBATES TODAY!

Changes and additions to the rebate program are coming in 2023. The incentives for new refrigerators and clothes washers are decreasing. In order for rebates to be processed for the 2022 year and receive the current incentive, submit your rebate requests by December 16, 2022. Requests received after this date cannot be guaranteed the 2022 rebate amount.

NEED HELP WITH YOUR HOME HEATING COSTS THIS WINTER?



Nebraska's Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program helps low-income households stay safe and healthy by providing financial assistance to offset the costs of home heating and cooling. LIHEAP particularly helps households that pay a high portion of household income for home energy to meet immediate home energy needs. Heating season runs from October 1 to March 31. A person can apply to receive assistance from LIHEAP by calling ACCESSNebraska at 800-383-4278 or filling out an application via the ACCESSNebraska website <https://dhhs-access-neb-menu.ne.gov/start/?tl=en>

Colorado's Low-income Energy Assistance Program is a federally-funded program that helps eligible hard-working Colorado families, seniors and individuals pay a portion of their winter home heating costs. The goal is to help bring warmth, comfort and safety to your home and family by assisting with heating costs. LEAP began accepting applications for the 2022/2023 season on November 1. Please call 866-HEAT-HELP (866-432-8435) for more information.



Inflation Reduction Act Promotes Energy Efficiency

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) was recently signed into law and contains millions of dollars in energy-related incentives for Highline Electric members. If you are considering an energy efficiency project for your home or business, investing in solar, or buying an electric vehicle, there are incentives available to you.

Energy efficiency programs

Through the Energy Efficient Home Improvement Credit beginning January 1, 2023, members may be eligible for a tax credit of up to 30% of the cost of eligible home improvements. These credits have a \$1,200 limit annually, so if you spread out your qualifying home projects, you may be able to claim the maximum credit each year. Some eligible improvements include doors, windows, central air conditioners, electrical panel upgrades, heat pump water heaters and heat pump HVAC systems.

The High-Efficiency Electric Home Rebate Program provides rebates to low- and middle-income families who purchase energy-efficient electric equipment and appliances. To qualify, your family's total annual income must be less than 150% of your area median income. Eligible items include stoves, water heaters, heat pumps, insulation, and electric wiring. To learn more visit the White House's interactive Clean Energy For All Page at whitehouse.gov/cleanenergy.

Renewable energy

The Residential Clean Energy Credit provides members a tax credit for 30% of the cost of qualifying solar, wind, geothermal, or biomass installations that produce electricity, heat water, or regulate the temperature in their home. The 30% credit is now extended through 2032, falling to 26% in 2033 and 22% in 2034, after which time it will expire. Beginning January 1, 2023, it will also apply to battery storage technology with a capacity of at least 3 kilowatt-hours (kWh).

Electric vehicles

Buyers of new EVs may be eligible for up to \$7,500 in federal tax credits. This credit may vary by make and model depending upon factors like the vehicle's sourcing and assembly. The new tax credit also removes production caps, allowing models from GM, Toyota, Tesla etc. to become eligible again. Additionally, those purchasing used EVs (minimum of two years old and costing \$25,000 or less) may now be eligible for a tax credit of up to \$4,000 or 30% of the price of the vehicle, whichever is less.

For additional guidance regarding eligible vehicle models, income limitations and other eligibility factors, please visit the IRS's resource page at irs.gov/credits-deductions/individuals/plug-in-electric-drive-vehicle-credit-section-30d.

How HEA supports our members

While you should always consult a tax professional to determine your eligibility for tax credits, Highline Electric's Member Services team is here to answer questions about electric products and help you make informed decisions. Contact us today to schedule your complimentary walk-through energy audit or to inquire about on-bill financing options for your upcoming energy efficiency project.

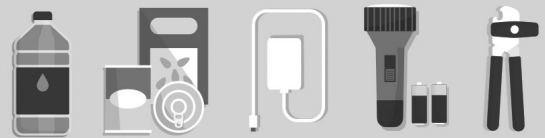
A Storm is Always Ready

ARE YOU?



When Mother Nature threatens a severe storm, be ready by having an emergency kit on hand.

YOUR KIT SHOULD INCLUDE:



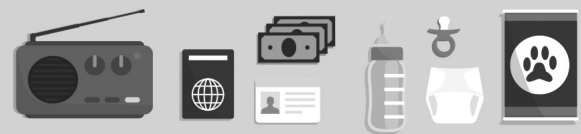
Bottles of water
Nonperishable food
Portable phone charger

Flashlights
Batteries
Can opener



First-aid supplies
Hand sanitizer
Prescriptions

Pain reliever
Warm clothing
Blankets



Battery-operated radio
Toys, books and games
Important documents

Money
Baby supplies
Pet supplies

Once your kit is assembled, check it a few times a year to make sure batteries are fresh and that no one has borrowed a necessary item.

Learn more at:



ANNUAL MEETING AND DIRECTOR ELECTION

An election will be held for three director positions on March 28, 2023, at the Highline Electric Association Annual Meeting. These positions require the nominee to be a member of HEA and comply with Article III, Section 3 of the association's bylaws.

There will be two director positions up for election from District 1. The nominees must reside in Logan, Weld, Washington or Morgan county, Colorado. The incumbent directors for this district are Pam Stieb and Brad Stromberger.

There will be one director position from District 2, and the nominee must reside in Phillips or Yuma county, Colorado. The incumbent director for this district is Aaron Sprague.

Petitions to nominate a director are available at all HEA offices. Anyone nominated for director position must comply with the following rules:

1. The person nominated must comply with Article III, Section 3 of the bylaws, a copy of which may be obtained from any HEA office.

2. A minimum of 15 signatures is required for nomination. Each member signing the petition must reside in the same district as the person being nominated.
3. Only members of HEA may sign said petition. If the membership is in joint tenancy, only one tenant may sign.
4. Circulators of said petition should attempt to verify the correctness of the name and address of each signer and must require that the signature take place in the presence of the circulator. The circulator should sign the affidavit at the end of said petition and have the affidavit notarized before submitting it to HEA.
5. All petitions must be delivered to Highline Electric Association, 1300 S. Interocean, Holyoke, CO 80734 or P.O. Box 57, Holyoke, CO 80734 no later than January 27, 2023.

December Employment Anniversary

Congratulations to **Matt Miller** who has worked at HEA for 9 years.

2022 Milestone Anniversaries

Highline Electric Association recognizes the following employees and directors for milestone anniversaries in 2022:

Pam Stieb, 5 years

Brad Stromberger, 5 years

Karson Harryman, 5 years

Josh Martin, 5 years

Lukas Bracelin, 5 years

Tammy Kroeger, 10 years

Joni Kinney, 10 years

Ted Carter, 15 years

James Ziebarth, 20 years

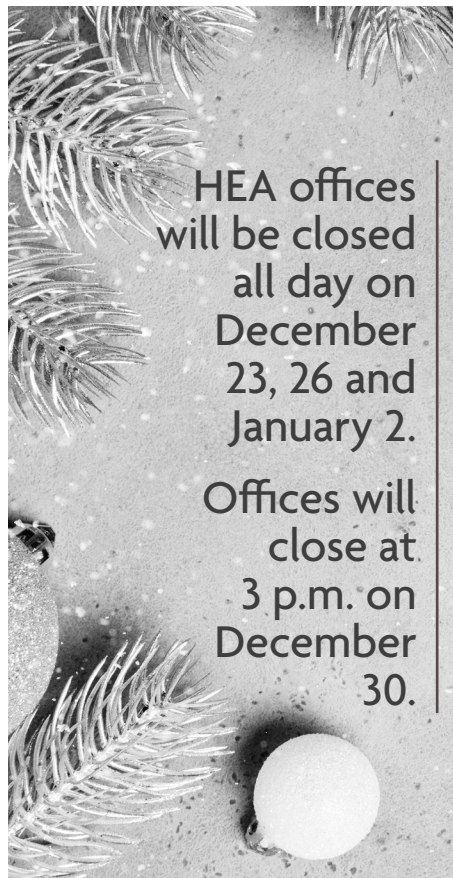
Jeff Blochowicz, 20 years

James Baker, 25 years

Bob Bradley, 25 years

Jeff Pocock, 30 years

Dennis Herman, 30 years



HEA offices will be closed all day on December 23, 26 and January 2.

Offices will close at 3 p.m. on December 30.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Blocked air vents force your heating system to work harder than necessary and increase pressure in the ductwork, which can cause cracks and leaks to form.

Make sure all air vents are unobstructed from furniture, drapes or other items to ensure sufficient circulation throughout your home. If necessary, purchase a vent extender, which can be placed over a vent to redirect air flow from underneath furniture.

Source: energy.gov

