

# HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

*The Beacon*

DECEMBER 2021



## MAILING ADDRESS

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



## STREET ADDRESS

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Holyoke, CO 80734



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**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.

**NEW Ovid Office Hours:**  
**Monday – Thursday**  
**9 a.m. – 1 p.m.**



HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION  
IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY  
PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER



Touchstone Energy®

# UNITED POWER CANNOT STICK US WITH ITS BILL

BY DENNIS HERMAN GENERAL MANAGER

The following is adapted from a column written by Morgan County REA General Manager David Frick.

Understanding consumer-members of electric cooperatives would be mortified if part of their monthly power bills were sent to their neighbors to be paid. In eastern Colorado's farming and ranching communities, it's not cliché to say that neighbors help neighbors, but it's safe to say we are proud to responsibly pay our own way.

That's why consumer-members of electric cooperatives in eastern Colorado and across the West may be surprised to learn that their electricity bills could rise because of the actions of United Power, located in Brighton.

United Power and 41 other not-for-profit utility members of cooperative power supplier Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association voluntarily signed power supply contracts, agreeing to share the costs of delivering electricity into their distribution systems. We agreed to share Tri-State's costs for building and maintaining the transmission system, power plants and everything else required to deliver us reliable power. In 2007, we, along with United Power and all but two of our fellow members, elected, voluntarily, to extend our wholesale power contracts with Tri-State for an additional 10 years, all the way to 2050. Now United Power wants out of the contract it signed decades early, and it wants out at the expense of other members.

In the past several years, United Power has been starting fights, in every venue it can find, to terminate its power supply contract with Tri-State at such a low cost that electric rates would rise for all the other utility members of Tri-State, including Highline Electric Association. While United Power claims it wants a strong Tri-State, it's



DENNIS HERMAN

working to weaken Tri-State, and this affects our consumer-members

If United Power were successful in terminating its power supply contract at such a low cost, this would harm other Tri-State members, whose consumer-members will see their power costs rise as they pay for the costs that United Power consumer-members will no longer pay.

We think that's wrong, and I suspect many of our neighbors who are United Power's consumer-members would agree. They may likely be embarrassed if their neighbors' electricity costs rose because of their own electric cooperative's actions.

Tri-State serves its members with reliable, affordable and responsible power, including reducing wholesale power rates and increasing clean energy, even as other utilities in the region raise rates.

What is essential to know is that Tri-State's members are working together to address United Power's concerns by creating options to allow members to self-supply more power or even terminate their contracts early, if they make the remaining members whole. This is an issue among Tri-State's members, and not, as United Power would have you believe, an issue between it and Tri-State. As we all work together, we want to make sure that if a fellow member terminates the long-term contract it signed, that action doesn't cause other members' rates to increase. This is also an important issue for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Tri-State's rate regulator, to consider as it examines the importance of power supply contracts — the financial backbone allowing wholesale

**United Power Cannot Stick Us With Its Bill** *[continued from page 7]*

cooperative suppliers like Tri-State to finance, build and operate their generation and transmission systems for their members.

United Power characterizes its concerns with a banal analogy to the Eagles’ “Hotel California” (“You can check out any time you like but you can never leave”), when really its goal is to check out of its hotel room early and stick the other guests with their bill. Instead, the consumer-members of United Power should take a close look at their cooperative’s actions and ask them to work with their fellow members to reach a solution to their needs that doesn’t raise the power costs of their neighbors.

**Colorado LEAP**

The Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) is a federally-funded program that helps eligible 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 will begin accepting applications for the 2021-2022 season on November 1, 2021.

Please call 1-866-HEAT-HELP (1-866-432-8435) for more information or visit [colorado.gov/cdhs/leap](http://colorado.gov/cdhs/leap).

**Nebraska LIHEAP**

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps low-income households stay safe and healthy by providing financial assistance to offset the costs of 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 1-800-383-4278 or by visiting [dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/ACCESSNebraska.aspx](http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/ACCESSNebraska.aspx).

**Highline Electric wants members to stay warm and safe this winter. Applications for both LIHEAP and LEAP may also be picked up at your local Highline office.**

# Annual Meeting Election Information

An election will be held for four director positions on March 29, 2022, at the Highline Electric Association Annual Meeting. These positions require the nominee to be a consumer-member of HEA and comply with Article III, Section 3 of the association’s bylaws.

There will be one director position from District 1, and the nominee must reside in Logan, Weld, Washington or Morgan County, Colorado. The incumbent director for this district is Leo Brekel.

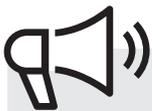
There will be one director position from District 2, and the nominee must reside in Phillips or Yuma county, Colorado. The

incumbent director for this district is Steve Oestman.

There will be one director position from District 3, and the nominee must reside in Sedgwick County, Colorado, or Deuel County, Nebraska. The incumbent director for this district is Ted Carter.

There will be one director position from District 4, and the nominee must reside in Chase, Perkins or Dundy County, Nebraska. The incumbent director for this district is Merl Miller.

Petitions to nominate a director are available at all HEA offices. Anyone nominated for a board 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 Highline Electric Association 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 Highline 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 Highline Electric.
5. All petitions must be received at Highline Electric Association, 1300 S. Interoccean, Holyoke, CO 80734 or P.O. Box 57, Holyoke, CO 80734 on or prior to January 28, 2022.



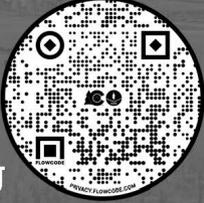
**COLORADO**  
Energy Office

## See How Much You Can Save

Take advantage of grants and rebates, and save money on your energy bill.

Over the past five years, the Colorado Agricultural Energy Efficiency Program has helped numerous farms and dairies reduce their energy bills and save millions of gallons of water.

Scan Now to Learn More and Start Saving



## REBATE CHANGES FOR 2022

Changes and additions to the rebate program are coming in 2022. The incentives for dishwashers, water heaters and air conditioners are decreasing. Please have submissions for ALL rebate requests to Highline Electric Association by December 22, 2021, in order for rebates to be processed in the 2021 year and to ensure you receive that incentive.

## Apply for the 2022 Youth Tour

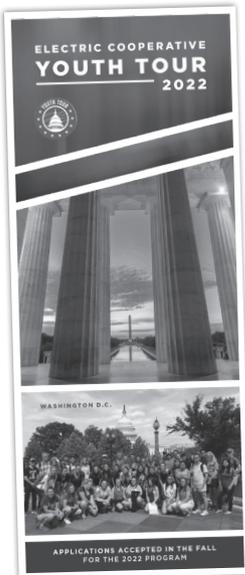
Each year, Highline Electric Association sponsors an all-expenses-paid trip for two students to attend the Washington D.C. Youth Tour and two students to attend Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs.

Youth Tour was canceled in 2020 and 2021, and HEA is excited to send those years' winning students to the 2022 Youth Tour. Two additional students will be selected for the 2022 Youth Tour, joining the previously awarded students heading to Washington, D.C.,

next summer. Leadership Camp was also canceled in 2020 and 2021. The winning students from the past two years will attend the 2022 Leadership Camp. Due to space limitations, we are unable to accept any additional applications for the 2022 camp. We look forward to resuming the normal application process for the 2023 Leadership Camp.

**To enter your submission for the Washington D.C. Youth Tour, please complete the application form which includes an essay component. The top two applicants will go to Washington, D.C.**

**Your entry must be received by December 17, 2021. Visit our website, [hea.coop/youth](http://hea.coop/youth), for an application. Note: Proof of COVID-19 vaccination and a negative COVID test before departure are required for the Washington, D.C., trip.**



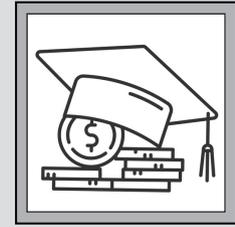

## MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

FROM OUR CO-OP FAMILY TO YOURS, WISHING YOU A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON AND A JOYOUS NEW YEAR.

HIGHLINE ELECTRIC OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ALL DAY ON DECEMBER 23 AND 24 FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY. OFFICES WILL CLOSE AT 3 P.M. ON DECEMBER 30 AND WILL REOPEN JANUARY 3, 2022.

# DECEMBER EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to Matt Miller who observes an employment anniversary in December. Matt has been with HEA for eight years.



## HEA SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Highline Electric, Tri-State Generation and Transmission and Basin Electric Power Cooperative work together to provide 13 scholarships to graduating seniors in our service area. The scholarships range from \$500 to \$1,000. In 2018, Highline's board of directors voted to convert two of Highline's \$1,000 scholarships into renewable scholarships that can be redeemed by the recipient for up to four years if they maintain eligibility criteria.

**Please visit our website at [hea.coop/youth](http://hea.coop/youth) for applications and deadlines.**

## 2021 Milestone Anniversaries

Highline Electric Association recognizes the following employees and directors for their milestone anniversaries in 2021:

Mendi Lutze	5
Seth Baker	5
Ryan Bingham	5
Tracy Simpson	5
Carson Ebke	5
Jace Rhodes	5
Aaron Sprague	10
Eric Anderson	10
Jason Depperschmidt	15
Chris McKay	15
Mike Bennett	20
Darrin Manuello	30
Elon Nelson	45

# Making your Home Safe and Efficient

*Home Energy Use*

*Prepare your Home for Safe and Efficient Energy Use*



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**15%**



Heat only the area you're in with energy efficient space heaters



Utilize home automation to control HVAC and lighting systems while not at home