

NOVEMBER 2016

SPARKS

Focused on people. Built on power.

HIGH WEST ENERGY



High West Energy Donates \$25,000 to Western Nebraska Community College Foundation

High West Energy recently committed to a \$25,000 contribution to Western Nebraska Community College, as part of the WNCC Works: Expanding the Possibilities campaign. The gift will support the Powerline Construction & Maintenance Technology program at the WNCC Alliance Campus, which is currently celebrating its 10 year anniversary. Since the program began in 2006, more than 150 linemen have been successfully trained and placed in jobs at power and utility companies.

“High West Energy values the education WNCC provides to aspiring linemen,” said Brian Heithoff, CEO/general manager of High West Energy. “Eleven of our linemen are graduates of the Powerline Construction & Maintenance Technology program. The training provided to them by WNCC established a great foundation for success in teaching them the necessary skills to provide our members with safe, reliable electricity.”

CONTINUED ON PG. 3

From the Front Lines to Power Lines

ELECTRIC CO-OPS CARE ABOUT VETERANS.

Electric co-ops have long had a special affinity for veterans. Perhaps because they are both so closely aligned in outlook, focusing on service, mission and country. Maybe it's because a disproportionate number of veterans come from rural communities and return to their hometowns following active duty. Or, maybe it's due to the shared work ethic of teamwork, cooperation and a "get it done" attitude. Most likely, it is all of the above.

High West Energy is among the more than 900 electric co-ops across the country to support and honor our nation's veterans of all generations.

We are grateful to have veterans within our ranks, and we are proud to serve veterans and their families within our local community. As a cooperative, we demonstrate our military support as members of the Wyoming Wranglers and by serving on the Military Affairs Committee of the Greater Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce and as community partners of the Cowboy Chapter of the Air Force Association.

This Veterans Day, we salute the members of our staff and board of directors who have served our country and thank them for their service.



Zachary Bean
Apprentice Electrician
High West Wiring

Wyoming Army Guard
Wyoming Air National Guard



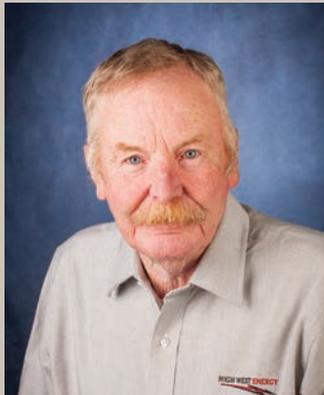
Jerry Burnett
Board of Directors
High West Energy

United States Air Force



Mike Candiracci
Network Administrator
High West Digital Solutions

United States Navy



Doug Elgin
Engineering Aide
High West Energy

United States Air Force
United States Navy Reserve



Jamie Fowler
Board of Directors
High West Energy

United States Air Force



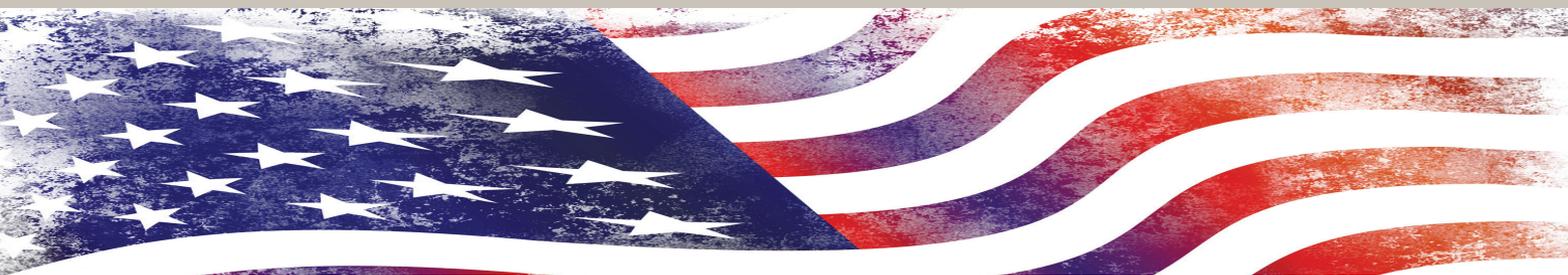
Tom Romig
Special Projects Coordinator
High West Energy

United States Navy



Gary Smith
Board of Directors
High West Energy

United States Navy



High West Energy Donates \$25,000 to Western Nebraska Community College Foundation

CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

"This generous donation will be directed to support our Powerline students and an important program expansion," said WNCC President Todd Holcomb. "High West Energy's gift will support an expanded utilities training facility on our Alliance Campus, allowing our Powerline students to learn on the latest equipment and fill local jobs that support this in-demand field."

For 90 years, Western Nebraska Community College has been educating residents of Nebraska's

panhandle. With campus locations in Alliance, Scottsbluff, and Sidney, WNCC offers possibilities for our students, the regional business community, and other partners throughout its 12 ½ county service area. WNCC offers more than 70 degrees, diplomas and certificates and seeks to provide leadership in education while responding to the identified needs of area residents by providing high-quality education and support services accessible to all.



FEATURED PERSON

Brian Heithoff CEO/General Manager

Earlier this year, Brian Heithoff celebrated his five-year anniversary as the CEO/general manager of the High West Energy family of companies. A native of Carroll, Iowa, he is no stranger to the co-op world. Over the past 25+ years of his professional career, Brian has accepted increasing levels of responsibility at cooperatives in South Dakota, Colorado, Iowa and Wyoming.

"I enjoy working in a culture that is friendly and innovative and that rewards hard work," says Brian. "I also enjoy using my leadership skills to serve my co-workers, the board and the membership."

Brian is an active member of the community, serving on the board of directors for Cheyenne LEADS and as a member of the Cheyenne Noon Rotary Club and the Military Affairs and Wrangler Committees of the Greater Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce. He also participated in the Pine Bluffs Trail Days melodrama.

Brian attended Briar Cliff University, where he received a Bachelor of Arts in accounting and minor in business administration. He has four children (two sets of twins): Mollie, Madison, Tillie and Jackson. In his spare time he enjoys fitness activities such as biking, running, hiking and walking, as well as reading and traveling.



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MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

This November, Let Your Voice Be Heard



Brian Heithoff, CEO/General Manager

Low voter turnout has been a topic of conversation for the last several election cycles. Since the 1960s, voter turnout during presidential elections has seen a steady decline – with the occasional uptick here and

there. In the 2016 primary election cycle, voter turnout in most states was only 21 to 30 percent, and this was a record year for primary voter turnout!

Some speculate the reason for the decline is because the average American is not as engaged in politics as they have been in the past. And who can blame us really? Often times, we may feel like candidates are not speaking to the issues we care about. Or perhaps we don't feel like we understand enough about the candidates' stances on the issues, or even the issues themselves. But we can change this.

Here at High West Energy, we want to see civic engagement in our rural communities increase. We want to give you what you need to make informed decisions about candidates at all levels of government, not just the presidential race. And we want you to know

more about the issues that could impact our local communities.

America's electric cooperatives are doing their part by informing co-op staff and members through Coops Vote, a non-partisan campaign with one simple goal: increase voter turnout at the polls this November. By visiting vote.coop, you can learn about your candidates, access voter registration information and more.

We encourage you to visit vote.coop and take the pledge to learn more about the issues that impact us locally. Let's work together to improve our communities by increasing voter turnout and changing our country, one vote at a time.

Sources:

Voter Turnout data: http://www.fairvote.org/voter_turnout#voter_turnout_101

Pew Research Study on Broadband: <http://www.pewinternet.org/2015/12/21/home-broadband-2015/>

www.highwestenergy.com

HIGH WEST ENERGY, INC. • PO BOX 519 • PINE BLUFFS, WY 82082-0519 • LARAMIE COUNTY (307) 245-3261 • TOLL FREE (888) 834-1657 **OUTAGE CALLS 24 HOURS A DAY**

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board meetings are typically held on the fourth Monday of each month.

District 11 – Michael Lerwick | (307) 630-1277

District 12 – Gary Smith | (307) 649-2375

District 13 – Ed Prosser | (307) 632-6068

District 14 – Jerry Burnett | (970) 895-3386

District 15 – Dan Acheson | (308) 235-2300

District 16 – Jamie Fowler | (307) 214-9191

District 17 – Kevin Thomas | (308) 879-4396

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Brian Heithoff, CEO/General Manager

Jeff Bruckner, Operations Manager

Dave Crouse, Chief Information Officer

Lindsay Forepaugh, Chief Financial Officer

Konnie Keehnen, Energy Services Manager

Carol Macy, Interim High West Wiring Manager

Marv Powell, WAFB Operations Manager

Lloyd Sisson, Engineering Manager

Lorrell Walter, Public Relations and Marketing Manager