

Y-W ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

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Y-W Electric Association, Inc.

is dedicated to providing high-quality, reliable electric service and related products to our members at competitive prices. Our members deserve and shall receive quality service unexcelled in our industry. We are committed to maintaining an environment where the Board of Directors and employees can perform at maximum potential to benefit our Y-W community.

THE POWER BEHIND YOUR POWER

BY TERRY HALL GENERAL MANAGER



TERRY HALL

Every day, Y-W Electric Association, Inc., is hard at work to make sure all of our members have the electric power they need at the best possible price. And behind the scenes, we are working with a network of cooperatives to make that happen.

Y-W Electric Association, Inc., works together with Tri-State Generation and Transmission, which creates the power, along with 42 other distribution co-ops. We helped to create this second-tier co-op so that we have more control over power supply and pricing.

It also takes a lot of money to run an electric co-op, so when we need to borrow capital, we turn to the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service. We also turn to cooperatives for lending: the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) or CoBank. CFC is owned by electric co-ops throughout the country, and CoBank is owned by electric and agricultural co-ops nationwide.

On a statewide level, we work with the other 21 electric cooperatives in Colorado through the Colorado Rural Electric Association. By combining our resources, we have a voice with the legislature at the Capitol in Denver. We also work together through CREA to provide this magazine to you as consumer-members of our co-op, to bring safety training to our employees, and to bring in trainers and speakers to educate our co-op employees.

Closer to home, we generate an electric bill each month that we send to you either electronically or through regular mail. We use National Information Solutions

Cooperative to ensure we can apply the latest technology, help lower your energy costs and send timely, accurate bills to you.

No business can operate without several different types of insurance, such as general liability, auto and workers' compensation. So once again, along with other electric cooperatives across the country, we are members of Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange. This allows us to maintain reliable coverage at an affordable price.

It also takes a whole lot of "stuff" to operate an electric co-op, such as poles, wires, transformers and many other items that you may not see. This is why we partnered with other co-ops to create Western United Electric Supply. The power of this co-op allows us to have quick access to all the materials we need at the best price.

Y-W Electric Association, Inc., is a member of Touchstone Energy, a nationwide alliance of 750 local, consumer-owned electric cooperatives. Our participation allows us access to a wealth of informational materials. It also allows us to benchmark our performance in comparison with other co-ops so that we can learn from others as we constantly strive to serve you better.

So, while you are a member of one electric co-op, you are actually connected to many other co-ops. And being connected to this cooperative network ensures your needs are met in the most efficient and cooperative way possible. [M. Ashley Lemke, 3013001009]

BILLING CORNER SIGNING UP FOR SERVICE

When a new consumer comes into our office or calls on the telephone to connect an account to his or her name, the information given at that time is extremely important. The first step is filling out and signing an Application for Service and Membership. This is the information used to set up your membership and billing records and is extremely important. For instance, following are some situations that need to be considered when filling out the application:

1. If you are a husband and wife, and only one spouse's name is on the application, all bills and capital credits allocations and future refunds will go to the one person whose name is on the account. If both parties sign the application, any capital credits accrued for that membership are considered jointly

owned, and checks will be made payable to both names. Credit history is recorded for the person(s) whose name is on our records.

2. If you are a roommate and paying part of the bill, but your name is not on the application, Y-W Electric has no record of you. When capital credits refund checks go out, they are made out to the person whose name appears on the application. If you apply for service in the future, you would be considered a new consumer.
3. Payment of the bill is the responsibility of the person(s) who signed the application. If a deposit is paid, any amount refunded will go to the name on the account. If the bill is not paid, this name will then go to the collection agency.

4. Irrigation accounts are always connected into the landowner's name. The responsibility of payment for electric usage on the service is ultimately the landowner's; however, bills can be mailed to more than one party.

These are just a few of the things to consider when signing up for electric service with Y-W Electric. Your membership record with Y-W is carefully created and monitored throughout your service term and years beyond. So please consider carefully how you want Y-W records to reflect your membership.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office in Akron at 970-345-2291, or if outside our calling area, 800-660-2291. [John and Jane Roberts, 531510216]

DON'T MISS OUT ON THE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE THROUGH Y-W ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION FOR 2019

Get your applications in prior to the deadline to compete for the following scholarships:

- Y-W Electric* \$1,000/year scholarships, renewable up to \$4,000
- Y-W Electric* \$1,000 scholarships
- Basin Electric Power \$1,000 scholarships
- Y-W Electric* \$500 scholarships
- Y-W Electric* \$500 continuing education scholarship
- Tri-State Generation and Transmission \$500 scholarships
- Y-W Electric* \$1,000 line technician training scholarship
- * Y-W Electric scholarships are funded by unclaimed capital credits account

To qualify for these scholarships:

- Your parents or guardians must receive electric service from Y-W Electric
- You must be a graduating student from a local high school or approved home schooling program or be a continuing college

student

- You must maintain full-time resident student status
- Semesters must be continuous, excluding summer
- You must provide copy of grade transcript to Y-W at the end of each semester to receive renewable funding for specific scholarships
- You must maintain minimum GPA requirements
- **Applications were made available on our website, www.ywelectric.coop, beginning in October 2018**
- **Applications must be delivered to Y-W prior to 5 p.m. February 1, 2019**
- **Applications received after February 1, 2019, WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED, regardless of postmark!**

For more information, please see your guidance counselor or call Andy Molt at Y-W Electric 970-345-2291. He will be happy to answer any questions.

Cheap Electronic Chargers Spell Trouble

The chargers that came with our phone, digital camera or other electronics seem to disappear. As a solution, many people reach for the low-cost, generic plug-in USB chargers and charging cables found in the sea of impulse items that flank the checkout line at your favorite drug, convenience or big-box store. They're also popular items on numerous online shopping sites and cheaper than dishing out money to replace them with their original maker's versions.

"It can save money and it's so convenient," you rationalize. Without much more thought, you place them in the virtual cart or on the checkout counter.

Inexpensive charging components may be one area you where don't want to cut corners, however, and for a variety of reasons. Amazon recalled 26,000 AmazonBasics portable lithium-ion battery chargers and power banks after the massive online retailer learned the units can overheat and ignite, causing fire and burn hazards. According to the U.S. Consumer Product

Safety Commission, the products were sold between December 2014 and July 2017.

Along with being a potential fire hazard, using cheaply made charging components and devices can also cause electrocution. Dangers aside, they may cost you more in the long run since they can cause damage to whatever's on the other end of the cable.

To keep safe around electrical devices and charging gear, Safe Electricity recommends the following:

- Do not leave items that are charging unattended.
- Always keep charging items away from flammable objects, especially bedding, and do not take them to bed with you. Tell kids and teens to never place a charging device under their pillow. The heat generated cannot dissipate and the charger will become hotter and hotter, according to the Newton, New Hampshire, Fire Department. This could lead to the pillow or bed catching fire.
- Do not touch charging electronic devices with wet hands or while standing in water.
- Make sure charging components are certified by a reputable third-party testing laboratory.
- Only buy product-approved chargers and cables (those made or certified by the manufacturer). Using cheaper devices can cause damage to the USB charge chip. Although it's tempting to save money, this can have a lasting impact on how quickly and effectively your device charges in the future.

The bottom line: Don't buy charging equipment with prices that seem too good to be true or from companies you never heard of. Even if you have heard of the company, be leery of fakes. In 2016, Apple sued a company that sold counterfeit wall chargers with Apple's name on them for less than \$10 each.

Say yes to the Milky Way candy bar in the checkout line or to the online Kindle book and no to cheap chargers.

Employee Service Awards



40 Years
Rodney Dunker,
Operations Manager



25 Years
Theron Shaffer,
Area Foreman Area 90



15 Years
Jeaninne Koch,
Engineering/Operations
Clerk



10 Years
Courtney Agan,
Consumer Service
Representative/Cashier



5 Years
Gannon Leifheit,
Journeyman Lineman

When Winter Winds Howl, Power Lines Can Gallop

Severe weather with strong winds can cause damage to trees, buildings and electrical equipment. Power lines can sway in high winds, but add freezing rain or icy conditions and the result can be galloping power lines.

Galloping is the bouncing or bucking movement of overhead lines and can cause several problems, such as temporary power interruptions, equipment damage, the collapse of power poles and downed lines.

Galloping lines often result from ice buildup on one side of the power line due to strong winds. The buildup of ice creates an airfoil, which changes the flow of air around the line, causing bouncing wires, or galloping power lines.

There isn't much utility workers can do until the wind dies down. That's why many power lines have objects like twisted wire or round or angular pieces of metal attached to the line. These help reduce galloping of lines and prevent potential danger.

If you see galloping power lines:

- Keep your distance — ice can break

off or power lines break loose.

- Contact us at Y-W Electric to make us aware of the potential damage as soon as possible.

If you see a downed line:

- Stay far away and warn others to stay away too.
- Remember, a downed line can remain energized even if it is not sparking or arcing.
- Always report the location of a downed power line and damaged

electrical equipment.

Be sure to have a storm preparedness kit ready before a storm strikes to help get you and your family through a power outage. This kit should include bottled water, nonperishable food, blankets, warm clothing, first aid kit and medicine, flashlight, radio, extra batteries and toiletries.

To learn more about storm and outage safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

[Dwight and Percilla Brown, 1052610100]



Stay Invulnerable Indoors

Install smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors with battery backups. Test them to make sure they work.



[Jason and Jackie Page, 362601801]

Claim Your Credit

Each month, Y-W Electric offers members a chance to earn a \$20 credit on their next electric bill. If you recognize your name and account number in this magazine, call 800-660-2291 and ask for your credit. It couldn't be easier.

Get acquainted with your account number, read your *Colorado Country Life* magazine and pick up the phone. That's all the energy you'll need to claim your energy bucks.

You must claim your credit during the month in which your name appears in the magazine. (Check the date on the front cover.)

Consumers claiming a \$20 credit from the November 2018 issue:

- Beulah F. Maggard**
- Ronald Serl**
- Edward J. Baker**
- Rodney and Rickie Prather**