

HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

The Beacon

FEBRUARY 2019



MAILING ADDRESS

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



STREET ADDRESS

1300 S. Interoccean
Holyoke, CO 80734



ph 970-854-2236

tf 800-816-2236

fax 970-854-3652

email markf@hea.coop

web www.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.



HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION
IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER



Touchstone Energy®

ACROSS THE BOARD

BY MARK FARNSWORTH GENERAL MANAGER



MARK FARNSWORTH

often talk about providing reliable, affordable and safe electricity to our consumer-members. That is only possible because of the Highline Electric Association employees who work hard each day to make sure the lights stay on. These men and women take their jobs seriously, while at times working in difficult environments. I would like to brag on them.

Reliability — We have an industry index called the ASAI. It stands for Average Service Availability Index. It measures the availability of electricity to our consumer-members over the course of a year. This includes outages from weather, equipment failure, accidents and power supplier issues. We do not have the figures yet for 2018, but in 2017 we had a rating of 99.99. That simply means we had electricity available to you 99.99 percent of the possible hours in a year. 2018 will not be as strong as 2017, but the last five-year average was 99.98 percent.

Affordability — Highline's largest single expense is our wholesale cost of power. That expense is 75 percent of our costs on a year in, year out basis. Our wholesale cost of power has been stable the last two years, which has been a large factor in holding our rates with no increases for 2018 and 2019. If you do the five-year average (including 2019) our rate increases equate to 1 percent per year. Of that 5 percent over five years, our wholesale power cost increases were 7.3 percent. Highline employees moderated the effects of our wholesale power costs as well as inflation to keep our rates stable.

Safety — In 2018, our 54 employees worked 200,000 total hours and drove over 637,000 miles. As I mentioned earlier, some of those hours worked and miles driven

were in difficult environments. In all those miles and hours worked, we had no lost-time accidents. Things happened, but no one was hurt or injured to the point that they could not come and effectively do their job the next day. Lineworkers have the 15th most dangerous job in the country per *USA Today*. It is not an easy job, but one that is vital to the economy of our service area. While I'm writing about safety, do you know what the 10th most dangerous job is? Yes, you guessed right — ag workers.

While I appreciate what our employees do in the area of safety, we also ask that our consumer-members and families work safely every day. Highline will continue to do our best in reminding you to work safely around your homes, farms, ranches and businesses, as well as around our power lines.

I would appreciate it when you see one of Highline's employees that you take a moment to tell them thanks for providing reliable, affordable and safe power. I ask all of our consumer-members to stay safe in 2019. It takes effort and practice but is worth it to your friends and family.

Final Call for Scholarship Applications

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS:

Have you finished your scholarship applications? The deadline for the Basin Electric Power and Tri-State Generation and Transmission and HEA combined scholarships is noon on February 15 at the Holyoke office. Applications can be found at www.hea.coop.

Co-op Connections Card - Local Business List

As a member of Highline Electric you're eligible for discounts through our Co-op Connections program. The following is a list of local businesses that participate in the Co-op Connections Card program. For up-to-date listings of local and national offerings, go to Highline's website at www.hea.coop and click on Co-op Connections Card. Questions? Call 1-800-816-2236 or email jheath@hea.coop.

Company	Location	Discount or Offer
Baja Tacos	Sterling	One free large drink with purchase of \$2.00 or more
Big B's Bar and Grill	Ovid	10% off ticket
Cattleya Floral	Sterling	\$5.00 off cash & carry purchase of \$30 or more
Colorado Popcorn Company	Sterling	Buy one large popcorn, get one free! Any flavor.
The Dutchoven Smokehouse and Steak Co.	Haxtun	Free drink and 4oz side with purchase of regular BBQ Sandwich
Fiberspace	Sterling	10% off yarns, beads and books
Furniture Mart	Sterling	5% off in-store purchases plus 12 month interest free financing available every day and other promotions
Grease Monkey	Sterling	10% off invoice
Happy Tax	Northeastern Colorado	FREE Consultation; 10% off Year 1 tax preparation
Holyoke Veterinary Service	Holyoke	15% off small animal services
JayDee's Photography	Sterling	40% off family portraits
Johnson Chiropractic P.C.	Sterling	Free Biofreeze pain relief applicator on initial visit
Journal Office Supply	Sterling	10% off all purchases - does not include sale or special price items
Julesburg Family Market, Inc.	Julesburg	5% off on Tuesdays <u>only</u> - excludes sale items, tobacco/cigarettes, lotto and hardware
Main St. Gifts & Baskets	Sterling	20% off all gifts excluding gourmet food & CME items
Partylite Gifts, Kala Yost - Consultant	Holyoke	10% off all orders over \$40.00
Scholl Oil & Transportation Company	Holyoke	\$3.00 off a full service oil and filter change at Scholl Service Center at 625 E Denver St.
The Country Rose	Haxtun	15% off floral arrangements and plants, must present card in person
Walker Pharmacy	Sterling	10% off gift and over-the-counter items
Wolf Auto Center Sterling LLC	Sterling	10% discount on parts & service
Zoe's Nook	Sterling	15% off entire ticket

YOU ARE INVITED TO Highline Electric's Annual Meeting

Tuesday, March 26, 2019, in the Phillips County Event Center at the fairgrounds in Holyoke.

Highline Electric Association's 2019 annual meeting is fast approaching. This will be Highline Electric's 81st anniversary.

A meal will be provided. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with the business session beginning promptly at 6:30 p.m. You must be present to win one of the many door prizes, plus those in attendance will receive a gift.

President Mike Bennett and General Manager Mark Farnsworth will give their reports on the condition of the association.

An election will be held for four director positions. These positions require the nominees to be a member of Highline Electric and comply with Article III, Section 3 of the association's bylaws.

There will be one director position from District 1, and the nominees 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 nominees 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 nominees 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 nominees 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 Highline Electric offices. Anyone nominated for a board of directors' position must comply with all 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 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. Interocean, Holyoke, CO 80734 or P.O. Box 57, Holyoke, CO 80734 on or prior to February 5, 2019.

Co-op Service Recognition

At the annual Christmas Party, Highline recognized the following employees for their **years of service** to the association:

5 Years

Landon Shaffer
Eric Luedke
Matt Miller

10 Years

Joanie Groshans

15 Years

Melissa Nelson
Deanna Deselms

20 Years

Kris Camblin

25 Years

Deon Skomp
Jon King
Rance Ferguson

35 Years

Jerry Banaka

The following **board members** were also recognized:

15 Years

Merlin Prior

20 Years

Merl Miller

Congratulations to the following Highline employees who observe an employment anniversary in February:

Tom Kropp — 30 years
Bob Bradley — 22 years
Dan Kafka — 20 years
Deanna Deselms — 16 years
Joanie Groshans — 11 years
Derek Roberts — 10 years
Casey Krening — 4 years
Seth Baker — 3 years
Karson Harryman — 2 years
Morgan Eurich — 2 years

Daylight-saving time will begin Sunday, March 10.

Don't Let Your Generator Generate Trouble

Having a generator on hand, whether portable or permanent, is a great idea for times when the power goes out, but misusing one is dangerous. Although they can help light your home or cool your perishable food when the neighborhood is dark, if used incorrectly you could have a much bigger problem on your hands.

When using a portable version, there are two ways to connect it to a home. The first way is with a powered circuit panel that has a power transfer switch, which monitors incoming voltage from the utility line. The circuit panel and transfer switch should always be installed by a qualified electrician. The second option is to plug in a limited number of home appliances directly into a fuel-powered portable generator with heavy-duty extension cords.

Never try to power your home by plugging a generator into a wall outlet. This is known as back feeding and could electrocute a neighbor or an electric lineman working to restore power. A permanent generator must also have a transfer switch installed by a qualified electrician to avoid back feeding. Because of the harm an incorrectly powered generator can cause, the transfer switch is required by the National Electrical Code.

The primary hazards of using a portable generator are not meager. They include

carbon monoxide poisoning from the toxic engine exhaust, electric shock or electrocution, and fire, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency. According to FEMA, most of the deaths and injuries associated with portable generators are from carbon monoxide poisoning when generators are used indoors or in partially enclosed spaces. A permanent or standby generator also has significant risks if not installed by a qualified electrician. Installing one is extremely dangerous and definitely not a DIY project.

Portable versions are less expensive than permanent or standby models and power only select appliances. The most expensive permanent generators — standby versions that are permanently installed and power most of the appliances in your home — are convenient but pricey. The average permanent system costs around \$10,000.

Safe Electricity points to other important precautions to take when using a generator:

- Operate a portable generator in well ventilated locations outdoors away from all doors, windows and vent openings to avoid CO poisoning. Read and follow the instructions that come with it; they are important.
- Turn the generator on before using it. Once it's running, turn your

appliances and lights on one at a time to avoid overloading the unit. Generators are for temporary use and limited load; prioritize your needs.

- Never use a generator in a puddle or standing water or touch with wet hands.
- To protect a portable generator from moisture, operate it on a dry surface under an open, canopy-like structure.
- Never use or install a generator in an attached garage, even with the door open.
- Turn off portable generators and let them cool down before refueling. Never refuel a generator while it is running.
- Store fuel for your portable generator in a container that is intended for the purpose and is correctly labeled as such. Store the containers outside of living areas.
- Keep children and pets away from all generators, especially portable ones. Many generator components are hot enough to cause burns during operation.

Using a generator is serious business and shouldn't be done in haste. **Learn more about using electricity safely and efficiently at SafeElectricity.org.**

No Barriers For Disabled Veterans

America's rural communities are home to millions of men and women who have served in our armed forces, many of whom are living with a disability. Highline Electric Association is teaming up again with its financial partner, CoBank, to honor and support veterans with disabilities in our community by enabling them to participate in one of four, five-day expeditions offered through the No Barriers Warriors program. These No Barriers Warriors expeditions offer more than just a mountain vacation. It's an opportunity to challenge limitations — both real and perceived — and to create a network of support that can last a lifetime.

CoBank, a cooperative bank serving agribusinesses, rural infrastructure providers and Farm Credit associations throughout the United States, piloted the program with No Barriers USA in 2017.

This year, the bank is once again sponsoring up to 50 veterans to participate in a No Barriers expedition. CoBank covers all the costs

of the program and there is no expense for participants.

CoBank customers like Highline can nominate veterans from their communities to participate in the program, which is open to veterans of any age and any branch of service. To be eligible, a veteran must simply have a VA disability rating. No Barriers Warriors expeditions are adapted to enable participation by veterans with various physical disabilities as well as those with "invisible" disabilities like post traumatic stress disorder.

If you want to be nominated by Highline Electric to participate in this program, please contact Jessie or Tad at 970-854-2236 or NoBarriers@hea.coop. We will share additional information about the opportunity and direct you to the special CoBank program application. Nominations must be made and applications completed by the April 15 deadline, and expeditions are filled on a first come, first served basis, so don't delay. **Call us today.**