

HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

The Beacon

MARCH 2019



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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

I want to personally invite our members to Highline Electric Association's 81st Annual Meeting, March 26 in Holyoke. In last month's Across the Board, I shared my thoughts on how things have gone smoothly in 2018, with no rate increases the last two years. I believe the board of directors and employees did a good job of directing and managing Highline for its consumer-members.

You have an important part in a successful Highline, and I encourage our consumer-members to not be complacent in your duties. The annual meeting is where we share an update on the business of the association for the prior year, share where we are heading in the future and is where you vote on the directors who serve on the board of directors. There are four director positions to be voted on for three-year terms at this annual meeting. Those director positions are outlined elsewhere in our insert.

You will have the opportunity to comment on any concerns you may have or direction you want to have considered. This is your meeting, so please schedule the evening of March 26 on your calendars.

Trent Loutensock, Highline's manager of engineering, accepted the position of General Manager at Y-W Electric Association based in Akron. Trent was with Highline for almost 27 years. Trent's last day at Highline was February 22. He served Highline well over the years and was highly respected in our industry. Highline will miss Trent but we will maintain a close relationship with him at Y-W through being neighbors and working with Y-W through our shared services agreement.

Our shared services agreement has been in place for 22 years, and we work together in several areas. We share engineers and engineering services, SCADA (supervisory

control and data acquisition) communications, AMI information and, recently, information technology backup. Our shared services agreement has been a vital part of providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity to our consumer-members. I look forward to working with Trent and Y-W Electric in meeting the needs of our joint consumer-members.

I hope to see you the evening of March 26 at the Phillips County Event Center in Holyoke.



COLORADO
Energy Office

Colorado Agricultural Energy Efficiency Program

The Agricultural Energy Efficiency (AgEE) program is set up to meet the unique needs of Colorado's agricultural producers. The purpose of this program is a coordinated approach to energy efficiency improvements in Colorado's agricultural sector. Participants in the program will receive a free energy audit, preliminary renewable energy assessment, technical support and implementation support. Participants are strongly encouraged to pursue implementation. Implementation of energy efficiency improvements is voluntary and is not required to sign up for the audit and technical support.

Please note that this program is not intended for hobby farms. A typical dairy, crop farm or greenhouse will have a monthly electric or heating bill of about \$400 or more (for crop farms this typical monthly bill will only be expected during irrigation months).

To get started, fill out the AgEE program application today at <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/energyoffice/agricultural-energy-efficiency> or contact Tadius Huser at 800-816-2236 or 970-854-2236 for more information.

No Barriers for Disabled Veterans

America's rural communities are home to millions of men and women who 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 such as 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.**

Rebates for Energy-Efficient Appliances

Like many of us, you have an extra refrigerator in your basement or garage that you have had forever. Except for some dings and the ugly '60s paint color, it still runs and keeps your food and beverages cool. So why worry about budgeting for an upgrade?

Replacing a refrigerator made before 1993 with a new, Energy Star-rated model could knock between \$65 and \$100 off your electricity bill each year. And to sweeten the deal, rebates funded jointly by Highline Electric and Tri-State Generation and Transmission provide further incentives for folks replacing old appliances with new, energy-efficient alternatives. As a member of Highline Electric, you may qualify for rebates on certain energy-efficient equipment and appliances, such as Energy Star

appliances, LED lightbulbs, premium efficiency irrigation motors and more.

Over the last three years, Highline Electric and Tri-State have issued over \$190,000 back to consumer-members for energy-efficient rebates. It doesn't take much to apply for these rebates; most require a submission of your receipt or invoice, proof of Energy Star certification and account number of the service where the equipment or appliance is being installed.

A few things to keep in mind about Highline's rebate program are:

1. Rebates must be applied for within 120 days from the invoice date.
2. Equipment being rebated must be installed on a Highline service.
3. Rebates can be submitted online at [www.hea.coop/Energy_Efficiency/](http://www.hea.coop/Energy_Efficiency/SubmitRebate.aspx)

[SubmitRebate.aspx](http://www.hea.coop/Energy_Efficiency/SubmitRebate.aspx).

4. Rebates totaling \$25 or less will automatically be applied as a credit on the Highline account.
5. For rebates totaling more than \$25, members can choose if they rather receive the rebate as a check or a credit on the Highline account.
6. Submission of rebate information does not guarantee a rebate.

Please call 970-854-2236 or go online to www.hea.coop and find out more or submit your rebate.

CLOSURE TIMES FOR ANNUAL MEETING, MARCH 26

The Holyoke office will close at 4 p.m. on March 26 for the annual meeting. Ovid and Sterling offices will close at 3:30 p.m.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

Did you know we post outage information, energy efficiency tips, scholarship deadlines and more on our Facebook page? Check us out at facebook.com/HighlineElectric.

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

Mark Harshbarger — 44 years
Deon Skomp — 26 years
Jon King — 26 years
Robie Adams — 15 years
Ryan Bingham — 3 years
Tracy Simpson — 3 years

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. Interoccean, Holyoke, CO 80734 or P.O. Box 57, Holyoke, CO 80734 on or prior to February 5, 2019.



SEVERE WEATHER?
Have a plan in place
and a storm kit ready
to keep **everyone** safe!

 Safe
Electricity.org

Daylight-saving time
will begin Sunday, March 10.

Three Easy DIY Projects to Save Energy

BY ABBY BERRY

Winter weather can have a big impact on your energy bills and pocketbook. Now that spring is just around the corner, it's the perfect time to tackle a few DIY efficiency projects for your home. The good news: You don't have to be an energy expert to do this.

There are several easy ways to save energy, but if you're willing to take a hands-on approach, here are three projects you can do now to start saving.

Make the most of your water heater

Start with one of the easiest projects: insulating your water heater. Insulating a water heater can save 7 to 16 percent annually on your water heating bills. If your water heater is new, it is likely already insulated, but if your water heater is warm to the touch, it needs additional insulation.

You can purchase a precut jacket or blanket for about \$20. You'll also need two people for this project. Before you start, turn off the water heater. Wrap the blanket around the water heater and tape it to temporarily keep it in place. If necessary, use a marker to note the areas where the controls are so you can cut them out. Once the blanket is positioned correctly, tape it permanently in place and then turn the water heater back on. If you have an electric water heater, do not set the thermostat above 130 degrees, as it can cause overheating. Setting it at 120 degrees will save on heating costs.

Seal air leaks with caulk

The average American family spends \$2,000 annually on energy bills. Unfortunately, much of that money is wasted through air leaks in the home. Applying caulk



around windows, doors, electrical wiring and plumbing saves energy and money. There are many different types of caulking compounds available, but the most popular choice is silicone. Silicone caulk is waterproof and flexible and won't shrink or crack.

Before applying new caulk, clean and remove any old caulk or paint with a putty knife, screwdriver, brush or solvent. The area should be dry before you apply the new caulk.

Apply the caulk in one continuous stream and make sure it sticks to both sides of the crack or seam. Afterward, use a putty knife to smooth out the caulk, then wipe the surface with a dry cloth.

Weather strip exterior doors

One of the best ways to seal air leaks is to weather strip exterior doors, which keeps out drafts and helps you control energy costs. Weather stripping materials vary, so ask your local hardware or home store for assistance if you're unsure about the supplies you need.

When choosing weather stripping materials, make sure it can withstand temperature changes, friction and general wear and tear for the location of the door. Keep in mind, you will need separate materials for the door sweep (at the bottom of the door) and the top and sides.

Before applying the new weather stripping, clean the moldings with water and soap, then let the area dry completely. Measure each side of the door, then cut the weather stripping to fit each section. Make sure the weather stripping fits snugly against both surfaces so it compresses when the door is closed.

By completing these simple efficiency projects, you can save energy while increasing the comfort level of your home and impress your family and friends with your savvy energy-saving skills.

Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.