

# Y-W ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

MARCH 2019



## MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box Y  
Akron, CO 80720-0570



## STREET ADDRESS

250 Main Avenue  
Akron, CO 80720



**ph** 970-345-2291  
**tf** 800-660-2291  
**fax** 970-345-2154  
**web** [www.ywelectric.coop](http://www.ywelectric.coop)

### 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.

## LOUTENSOCK SELECTED AS GENERAL MANAGER OF Y-W ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.



TRENT LOUTENSOCK

The Y-W Electric Association Board of Directors named Trent Loutensock as its next general manager. He began his new duties on February 25, 2019. The general manager, appointed by the board of directors, serves as the top executive of Y-W Electric and reports to a nine-member board of directors representing specific districts within its service territory in Washington and Yuma counties, Colorado.

“I am very excited to come to Y-W Electric and be a part of the Y-W family,” Loutensock said. “I value the opportunities I’ve had to work with the Y-W Electric board of directors, current staff and general manager on many projects for the last 22 years as part of the Highline Electric Association and Y-W shared engineering services. Their focus on the membership of Y-W and their commitment to excellence have set a high standard moving forward. I look forward to being part of continuing this legacy as we begin to address new industry opportunities and challenges now and into the future. I wish Terry Hall all the best in retirement as he moves on to the next chapter in his life.”

Loutensock replaces Terence J. Hall Jr. who has served as general manager since December 7, 1992. Hall retired from the cooperative February 28, 2019 after 42 years of service to the Y-W Electric membership.

“The board selected Loutensock following a nationwide search conducted through the National Rural Electric Association over the last few months,” board president Roger Schenk said. “The board contracted with the NRECA executive search team to take advantage of their

expertise and to streamline the process of selecting a general manager. The board takes its fiduciary responsibility very seriously and interviewed numerous highly qualified candidates — ultimately selecting Loutensock. We felt that Trent was the best candidate for the cooperative due to his experience, familiarity with Y-W Electric’s system, irrigation and water issues, and community involvement.”

During his career at Highline Electric, Trent was the manager of engineering for 26 years. Y-W Electric and Highline Electric Association share engineering and communications services. Through these shared services, Trent was involved in the planning and implementation process of many current projects that both cooperatives are undertaking.

His experience and educational

*[continued on page 9]*

### 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.)

### Winners claiming \$20 from the January 2019 issue:

**Dwight and Percilla Brown**  
**M Ashley Lemke**  
**Jason and Jackie Page**

# Annual Meeting of Members Y-W Electric Association, Inc.

**MARCH 15, 2018**

The 73rd Annual Meeting of the Members of Y-W Electric Association, Inc. was convened at 6:30 P.M. on March 15, 2018, at the Akron High School gym, Akron, Colorado, pursuant to notice required by the Bylaws of the Association.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Manager Terry Hall led the members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **INVOCATION**

Pastor Pete Tel gave the invocation.

## **DRAWING – GRAND PRIZE**

Manager Hall announced that the names of two members of the Association were drawn by a member of the Credentials Committee from a drum containing the names of all members. The names were each put in separate envelopes. The first member drawn will be the winner of the \$5,000 grand prize provided that member is present at the meeting. If that member is not present, the second member drawn will be the winner provided that member is present. The names of two members attending the meeting were drawn from a different drum containing names of all members that registered at the meeting. They will be the winners of the \$250 and \$500 prizes and their names were also placed in envelopes to be opened at the end of the meeting.

## **CALL TO ORDER**

President Roger Schenk called the meeting to order.

## **APPOINTMENT OF CREDENTIALS AND ELECTION COMMITTEE**

President Schenk introduced the members who have been appointed to serve on the Credentials and Election Committee.

Tony Wells (Chairperson) – Akron  
Kenny Henry – Yuma  
Jerry Patterson – Otis  
Leo Pieper – Akron  
Charlotte Ritchey – Wray  
Arnella Corliss (Alternate) – Yuma

## **INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF**

President Schenk introduced the members of the Board of Directors, their wives who were present and members of the Y-W staff.

## **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Manager Hall introduced guests.

## **QUORUM AND VOTING RULES**

Attorney Levi Williamson reviewed the bylaw provisions relating to quorum and voting rules.

## **REPORT OF ATTENDANCE**

Brandee Bullard, Office Manager, reported that there were 421 members registered for the meeting and this constitutes a quorum for the conducting of any business that might come before the meeting, including the election of directors.

## **READING OF NOTICE OF MEETING**

Secretary Joneal Young read the Notice of Annual Meeting, which includes the time and place of the annual meeting, proof of publication, and the names of nominees for each of the vacancies on the Board of Directors.

## **APPROVE 2017 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

It was properly moved, seconded and carried that the reading of the minutes of the Annual Meeting of Members held March 14, 2017 at Wray, Colorado, be dispensed with and approved as published in the *Colorado Country Life* magazine.

## **DIRECTOR MAX OLSEN RECOGNITION**

Manager Hall introduced Director Max Olsen. Hall recognized Olsen for his service to Y-WEA as a member of the Board of Directors since 1979. Olsen is retiring from the Board.

## **INTRODUCTION OF NOMINEES FOR DIRECTOR**

Manager Hall introduced the nominees for Director:

Larry Winger – District 2 – Yuma County  
Chet Gebauer – District 5 – Washington County  
Steve Schoenfeld – District 9 – Town of Otis

## **ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

President Schenk announced that because there is no competition for any of the Director positions, a voice vote is appropriate. It was properly moved, seconded and carried to elect Winger, Gebauer, and Schoenfeld, as directors for their respective Districts.

## **2017 CREA CAMP DELEGATES**

Andy Molt introduced the students that Y-W sent to the 2017 CREA Camp. They were: Denise Christensen, Otis; Chloe Bleak, Otis; Andrew Anderson, Wray; Alexa Tena, Wray; and Jacob Williams, Akron. They gave a slideshow presentation of their time at the camp.

## **2018 CREA CAMP DELEGATES**

Andy Molt announced the delegates for the 2018 CREA camp and Washington D.C. Youth Tour. They are Makenna Metzler, Otis, Youth Tour; Kevin Hurley, Akron; Ruby Halcomb, Otis; Dennis Houston, Wray; Austin McCracken, Arickaree; and Heather Vance, Lone Star.

## **2018 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**

Andy Molt announced the 2018 Scholarship winners. They are:

Y-W ELECTRIC 4 YEAR \$1,000 - Renewable  
Casey Shaw – Liberty  
Tyler Wylie - Akron

Y-W ELECTRIC \$1,000 – One Time

Madalyn Soehner - Wray  
Shayna Mason - Arickaree  
Austin Blomstrom - Yuma  
Andrew Anderson - Wray  
Chloe Bleak - Otis  
Sarah Clarkson - Akron  
Ely Kipp – Akron  
Crystann Brown – Akron  
Ashley Danforth – Wray  
Britney Riley – Wray  
Tate Goble – Otis  
Allyssa Burns – Colorado Prep Academy  
Sarah Leifheit – Yuma  
Avery Whitehead – Yuma  
Grace Merrit – Wray

BASIN ELECTRIC MEMBER DEPENDENT - \$1,000

Alexa Tena - Wray  
TRI-STATE G&T \$500

Katie Arnold – Akron

Katelyn Shaw – Liberty

Y-W ELECTRIC \$500 CONTINUING EDUCATION

Levi Basler – Colorado Mesa University

Alexys McGuire – University of Wyoming

Brandon Schenk – Colorado State University

Erin O'Donnell – UC-Denver

LINE TECHNICIAN

Jacob Williams - Akron

## MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Hall presented his report with the aid of a slide show. He presented and discussed the Balance Sheet, Statement of Revenue, Expenses, and Margins. The financial reports were for the year 2017. The assets of Y-W were \$110,315,268. Y-W's long term debt was \$39,172,348. Total member investment in Y-W was \$60,325,454. The current and accrued liabilities were \$10,817,466.

Hall reviewed revenues for 2017. The irrigation consumers paid \$21,209,592 towards the 2017 operating costs of Y-W. This is 48.7% percent of the total revenue received. Y-W's residential consumers provided 14.8% of Y-W's revenue. Commercial sales amounted to \$13,874,849 or 31.8%. Other electric revenue was .5% of the total revenue and was \$235,108. Non-electric revenue was .8% of the total revenue. Y-W's share of Tri-State capital credits for 2017 is \$1,476,974. The total revenue received was \$43,565,429.

Manager Hall reviewed expenses. 70.2% was spent to purchase the electricity. This was \$28,544,643. The operation and maintenance expense was over \$6,930,479, which was 17.1% of the operating expense. The next three areas, depreciation, property taxes, and interest, amounted to 12.7% of the operating costs. Depreciation of the facilities amounted to \$2,936,651. Property taxes paid was

\$784,412 and the interest expense of Y-W was \$1,445,576. The total cost of providing electricity was \$40,641,761.

Y-W's operating margin from the sale of electricity was \$1,100,581. There was \$187,086 earned from interest and other non-electric sales. Capital credits that were allocated to Y-W from Tri-State amounted to \$1,476,974. Other capital credits and patronage dividends received by Y-W were \$159,027. The total margin in 2017 was \$2,923,668.

For 2017, Tri-State G&T increased their revenue requirement, and the result was a 3.66% rate increase to Y-W. Y-W Electric Association decided to pass the increase on to Y-W members on a dollar for dollar basis which resulted in a 2.60% overall increase. The increase to each rate class was based on Y-W's current cost of service study.

Hall reported on issues related to the Republican River Compact. He reported on Y-W distribution line rebuilding projects. Y-W upgraded 1.6 miles of three phase overhead line to larger conductor. Y-W rebuilt 19.1 miles of single phase lines to a larger conductor. Y-W replaced 2.4 miles of underground primary cable. Y-W installed 60 new services and retired 50 idle services in 2017. Hall reported on the results of Y-W's annual pole testing and replacement.

Hall reported on CREA's efforts in the Colorado legislature and on the status of the national Clean Power Plan.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Schenk reviewed some of the high points of 2017. He reported on the new headquarters building, loans made by Y-W through its Revolving Loan Fund, and the new mobile substations. He also reported that Y-W received Pinnacol Assurance's Circle of Safety award for the fifth consecutive year. Y-W was one of 42 companies selected out of Pinnacol's 55,000 insureds. Schenk reported on Y-W's efforts to install or purchase solar energy from installa-

tions installed on Y-W's system. There are only two substations that are conducive to a solar project in the IMW range. Schenk reported on the status of Y-W's AMI project. Approximately 200 meters have been installed. Installation of the entire system should begin in April.

## TRI-STATE REPORT

Jim Soehner, Y-W's Representative on the Tri-State G&T Board of Directors, introduced Joel Bladow, Senior Vice President for transmission at Tri-State Generation & Transmission. Bladow discussed Tri-State's renewable energy portfolio. He also reported on Tri-State's efforts to increase reliability.

## APPROVAL OF REPORTS

It was properly moved, seconded and carried that the members accept and approve the reports presented at the meeting and approve the actions of the Board of Directors for the year 2017.

## DISMISS COMMITTEES

President Schenk dismissed all the committees he appointed to serve this meeting with the thanks of all members.

## PRIZE DRAWINGS

Throughout the meeting, drawings for prizes were conducted by Manager Hall. Royal Woods was drawn for the \$5,000 prize. He was present, so the prize was awarded.

## ADJOURNMENT

President Schenk called for any other business that should come before the meeting, and, hearing none, ruled that the meeting be adjourned.

*Joneal Young*

Secretary

*Roger Schenk*

President

## Loutensock Selected as General Manager

*[continued from page 7]*

background have prepared him well for his new role as general manager. He holds a bachelor of science in electrical engineering and is a graduate of the NRECA management internship program.

During his career, Trent has been active volunteering in his community, including at the Colorado Department of Corrections

Sterling Correctional Facility, assisting inmates with life-planning skills, counseling and putting on programs; assisting youth in judgment and evaluation of 4-H projects; and working with Cooperative Ministries in Sterling on numerous ongoing food drives to assist the disadvantaged and homeless. Trent has been active with Boy Scouts of America, Troop 17, including scout master, troop committee chairman and troop

committee member. He has also been an organizer for community service projects directing volunteers on projects such as nursing home volunteering, painting buildings at the local museum and assisting targeted elderly or infirm citizens through construction of wheelchair ramps, house painting and yard maintenance. *[Larry Weyerman, 1182804001]*

# 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 pre-cut 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. *[Travis Albert, 453401600]*

## 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 water-proof 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. *[Ruby Cody, 1403402901]*

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. *[Bob E. Thompson, 3706007607]*

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

---

## Billing Corner

### Annual Meeting Registration Begins at 5:30

Y-W Electric Association's Annual Meeting will be Thursday evening, March 21, 2019, at Wray High School. **Registration will begin at 5:30 p.m. and will end promptly at 6:30 p.m.** to begin the business meeting. A meal will be served beginning at 5:30 p.m.

We mailed a one-page Notice of Annual Meeting the last week of February. This notice includes your **Registration Card** as well as the **Drawing Card** for prizes. We ask that you **bring this notice with you to the meeting.** This will speed up the registration process.

There will no longer be a specific line for you to get into. You can register with any of the employees sitting at the tables. Registration tables will have iPads that will easily read your Registration Card. Y-W will keep the Registration Card and you

will drop the Drawing Card off in the gold tumbler.

There will be two separate attempts to award the \$5,000 grand prize. Two cards will be drawn from the entire membership for Y-W Electric at the start of the business meeting. The first card drawn will be placed in an envelope labeled number one and sealed. The second card will be placed in an envelope labeled number two and sealed. The card in envelope one will be verified first. If that member is not registered for the meeting, the card in envelope two will be checked. If neither member is registered or present, no grand prize will be awarded.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact our Akron office at 970-345-2291, or if outside the local area, call 1-800-660-2291. *[Pat & Anne McGinnis, 1231706608]*