

YAMPA VALLEY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2019



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Yampa Valley Electric Association is a cooperative that provides value to its consumer-members by delivering safe and reliable electric service in an environmentally and financially responsible manner.

YAMPA VALLEY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

COLORADOCOUNTRYLIFE.COOP

UNDERSTANDING THE WHY OF YVEA

Part 4: The Role of Capital Credits

BY STEVE JOHNSON GENERAL MANAGER



STEVE JOHNSON

As a nonprofit, member-owned electric cooperative, Yampa Valley Electric Association tries hard to set itself apart from other industries by working for our consumer-members. One of the benefits of being a member of YVEA is capital credits. In this article, I am going to go through capital credits, what they are, what they stand for and why we focus upon their value.

Capital credits are calculated from the cooperative's annual revenue minus yearly expenses, otherwise known as margins. From this calculation, each consumer-member is allocated capital credits based upon his or her annual usage. Each consumer-member's capital credit allocation represents ownership in our cooperative; these credits continue to build up as long as the consumer-member continues service with YVEA.

Each year, the YVEA Board of Directors reviews the status of the company and determines the retirement value or allocation of capital credits. Once this is determined, these capital credits are "retired" back to the membership in the form of cash. However, the decision to retire capital credits is not always an easy one because it is based upon the financial status of the cooperative.

Retired capital credits are generally paid in June or July to active consumer-members who received service from YVEA for those years of the retired credits. If the consumer-member's retirement amount is over \$50 they receive a check. Capital credit returns under \$50 earn a bill credit. The

amount paid is determined by a number of factors, including federal guidelines, financial ratios, system goals and objectives, interest rates and YVEA bylaws.

Every year, YVEA is unable to return a small amount of capital credits to its members due to a refund check being returned by the post office as undeliverable, or from a consumer-member who chooses not to cash the check. If you are or were a member of YVEA and believe you are missing credits, check the list that is annually published in the area newspapers and online. To claim your capital credits, please call YVEA at 970-871-2284, or toll free at 888-873-9821, or email capitalcredits@yvea.com.

Capital credits are an important benefit that only consumer-members of YVEA receive. When capital credits are returned to you, our members, you are seeing the return on your investment, one of the benefits of being served by a nonprofit utility.

Thank you for your membership.

New YVEA.com Website

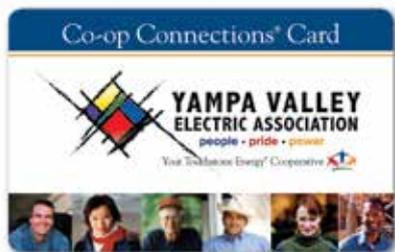
Visit our newly revamped YVEA website at www.yvea.com and give us feedback. A project of YVEA's member outreach team, the new website has been streamlined and designed with members' needs in mind. Sign into your account, learn how to be an Energy Hero, learn about YVEA programs and more.



Standby Generator Program

A new residential and commercial Standby Generator program is now available to qualifying consumer-members. Under the new program, consumer-members can purchase an American-made Briggs & Stratton standby generator for 50 percent down, with the remaining 50 percent paid monthly as part of the monthly power bill from YVEA, or consumer-members can obtain funding for up to 10 years through a Briggs & Stratton finance partner.

The generators are installed by YVEA. **For more information, email generators@yvea.com or call 970-879-1160 and ask for Mike Beyer.**



It's Here!

Start Saving With your Co-op Connections Card

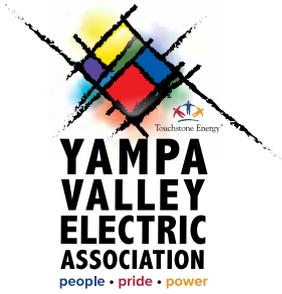
YVEA is proud to offer the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives' Co-op Connections program to members. Members should receive their cards with this April issue of Colorado Country Life magazine. The free program provides you with a simple card and phone app that you can present to participating businesses to help you save money and live healthier, while also promoting local and national business discounts and other discounts on prescriptions. You can also save on dental, vision and other medical services, as well as hotels, car rentals, cash back shopping, event tickets and more. Local businesses can join the program for free and have their businesses and discounts promoted for free, while members achieve significant savings year-round.

Download the Co-op Connections app on your mobile device today. For more information, visit yvea.com or email coopconnections@yvea.com.



ENERGY HERO

— FIGHT ENERGY WASTE —



YVEA Unveils ENERGY HERO PROGRAM

Yampa Valley Electric Association is proud to unveil Energy Hero, a new program designed to help members manage their energy costs by fighting energy waste through tips and information on improving energy efficiency in their homes and businesses. Information about how you can become an Energy Hero can be found online at www.yvea.com/be-energy-hero-your-home for residential information and www.yvea.com/be-energy-hero-your-business for commercial members.

At the Energy Hero website, you can discover ways to fight energy waste. You'll find an energy calculator to calculate your costs on certain energy users like

refrigerators and space heaters, the Home Efficiency Analysis Tool (HEAT) and detailed projects for upgrading your home.

Energy Hero also has a DIY resource library, videos and a library of relevant articles on energy efficiency. Residential customers can also request a home energy evaluation appointment with a YVEA energy advisor by calling 970-879-1160.

"YVEA's goal is to help its members become more aware about their energy usage and that by even making small adjustments they can save money while reducing energy waste."

To learn more about Energy Hero and other programs and services offered by YVEA, visit www.yvea.com.

April Work Projects

We at YVEA work year-round to keep the power flowing for our members. For your safety and that of our crews, we share the upcoming work projects for April. Please use caution near our work sites and whenever you see a YVEA crew working near the road. We want you and our crews to get home safely.

- Field staking and construction will begin in Moffat and Routt counties to replace the Condition 3 poles found during the 2018 pole inspection.

- Field staking and design work will begin in the Riverside Subdivision for underground power line replacement this spring.
- YVEA contract crews from CPI will continue working to replace the overhead power line just south of Phippsburg and along Routt County Road 15.



SPREAD THE WORD

High-speed broadband is on the way! Powered by Yampa Valley Electric Association, Luminate Broadband is in the process of building its fiber optic broadband network, which will deliver high-speed internet to improve your quality of life.

Visit the www.LuminateBroadband.com website to sign up to declare your interest in fiber broadband internet

service, track our construction progress, sign up for service when it's available. Packages and pricing will be available this month.

We look forward to bringing you streaming, telecommuting, conferencing and other tools at up to gigabyte speed. Luminate your life at www.LuminateBroadband.com.

Let YVEA Advertise Your Business for FREE!

Let us promote your local businesses for free through our new YVEA Co-op Connections program. We do all the advertising for FREE, all we ask is that you provide an attractive discount for our members. We will do the promoting to get our 20,000 members through your doors. We also have a mobile app that "geo locates" the discounts, so our members

know the businesses to visit.

To learn more, go to <https://www.connections.coop/323-landing.aspx> to watch a short video. From there, you can sign up your business to participate or request more information. Sign up today and grow your business with the free help of YVEA, and more than 20,000 of your fellow members.



Making a Difference: Join Operation RoundUp

YVEA members have the opportunity to help local nonprofits by adding a few cents to their monthly electric bill.

By rounding the bill up to the nearest dollar, the added pennies go to the YVEA Operation RoundUp Foundation. Operation RoundUp has given over \$200,000 to 100 local nonprofits. These pennies, combined with contributions from other members, benefit local communities, and the average yearly cost is only \$6.

Be a difference maker. Call YVEA at 970-879-1160 or 970-824-6593 and ask a member service representative to help you get started. Members can also visit <https://www.yvea.com/content/sign-me-operation-round>.



Call 811 before you dig

No Foolin': April Is Safe Digging Month

April showers bring May flowers but digging on your own this spring could spell big trouble.

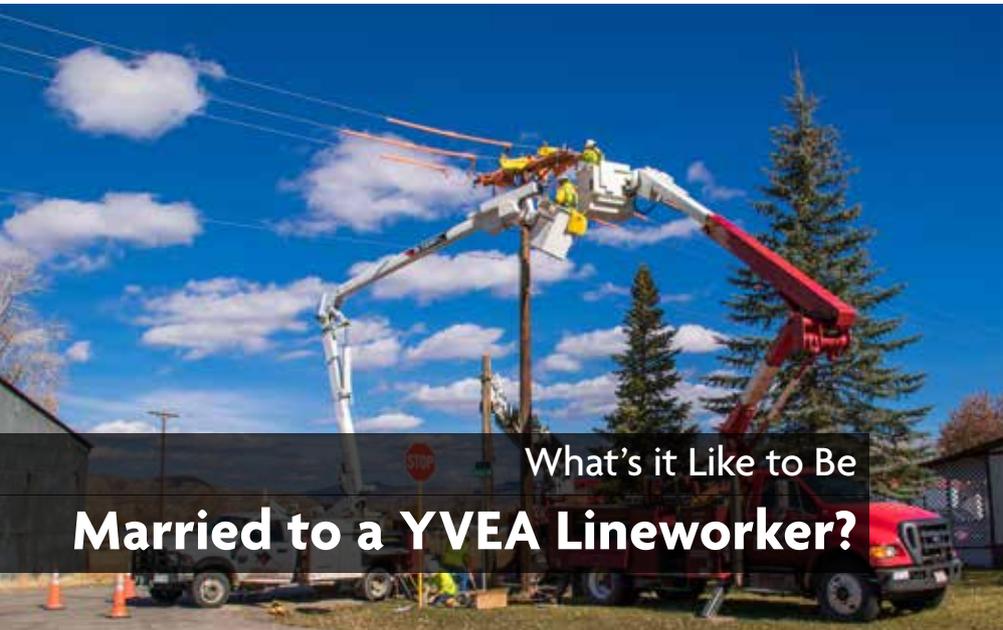
Before you use that posthole digger or other digging tools, stop and call 811 to request buried electric, gas, cable and other live lines in or near your yard be marked. The service is free but digging in an unmarked yard could be costly and dangerous!

You might think you don't have time to call and ask yourself, "What's the worst that could happen?" Simply put: You could die or become seriously injured, which makes that yard project less pressing, doesn't it?

Other consequences of blindly digging and taking a chance include:

- Causing a power outage.
- Hitting a gas line, which could burn your skin or cause an evacuation in your neighborhood.
- Getting a fine.
- If you hit a telephone line or broadband line, you and your neighbors might lose your telephone, cable television or internet service.

Take the time to look over landscaping or fence plans, or any other plans that require digging and call 811 before you dig. You'll be glad you did.



What's it Like to Be Married to a YVEA Lineworker?



When a YVEA lineworker walks out the door to go to a job during hazardous work conditions at any time of day or night, it is often a spouse who is holding down the fort. Although not the only high-stakes profession, often the public does not realize the potential hazards a lineworker faces on the job.

Here in the Rockies, electric lineworkers often do their job in extreme or rugged conditions. They love the excitement and variety of their job and take great pride in their work. But imagine for a minute doing your work outdoors in a hydraulic-powered bucket 40 feet up — in some locations lineworkers must physically climb the poles. Then there are extreme weather conditions. For example, your sweat is freezing and your feet are numb while making precise repairs to an electric line that, when live, has thousands

“As a nurse practitioner, I have to turn off my ‘medical brain’ every time my husband leaves for work and pretend he does a desk job that is perfectly safe - if I think about the risks, I go crazy. Luckily, I have a great imagination!”

— Liz Srite,
wife of YVEA Working Foreman,
Dave Srite

of volts of electricity running through it.

Wives of lineworkers are immensely proud of their husbands and their passion for the profession, but the sacrifices wives make and concern for their husbands are constant.

We asked some of the wives of our lineworkers who have been in the industry for many years how they are affected by their husbands dangerous jobs.

“Being married to a lineman reminds me to be present and focus on every moment we share as a family,” said Bethany Baker, wife of YVEA lineman Perry Baker. “His career centers on providing a tremendous service for the community but simultaneously puts his life at risk every time he leaves the house. I take nothing for granted.”

How do they deal with the ups and downs of seeing their husbands walking out the door for work hundreds of times, over and over again?

Mandy Broden is understandably proud of the important role her husband, Ian, has in the community. “Power isn’t only a comfort; it’s very important to a lot of people who have medical conditions requiring them to have equipment in their homes and rely on power,” she said. “It’s hard and dangerous work. When the phone rings in the middle of the night, I know it’s Ian getting called out to work. That’s just the mentality of a lineman’s wife. They have to ensure power remains on even on the coldest of nights. This is the lifestyle we choose. I hold down the fort and patiently wait for him to check in or call to say he’s on his way home. And let me tell you, it’s music to our ears when my daughter and I hear that bucket truck backing into the driveway when daddy’s home.”

Next time the power goes out, remember that electric linemen are working as efficiently and safely as possible to get all of us back to business as usual. No one knows that better than their spouses.

Among other safety requirements, electric lineworkers must always:

- Stay aware of their surroundings
- Use their tools appropriately
- Work in teams
- Take their time and work methodically, even in high-pressure situations; many accidents happen when workers try to rush a job
- Wear proper safety equipment

Source: U.S. Department of Labor

JOIN YVEA IN CELEBRATING LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY ON APRIL 18.

#THANKALINEMAN