

Y-W ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 2019



MAILING ADDRESS

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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.

BY THE COMMUNITY, FOR THE COMMUNITY

October is National Co-op Month

BY TRENT LOUTENSOCK, GENERAL MANAGER

When you think of October, pumpkins, Halloween and beautiful fall foliage naturally come to mind. But October is notable for another reason: It's National Co-op Month. This is the time of year when cooperatives across the country, including Y-W Electric Association, celebrate who we are and, more importantly, the consumer-members we serve.



TRENT LOUTENSOCK

Cooperatives are different than other types of businesses. When the market declines to offer a product or service or does so at a high price, co-ops intervene to fill the need.

Similar to how Y-W Electric Association was built by consumer-members who came together to bring electricity to our community, cooperatives are conveners for the common good. Your electric co-op exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, the consumer-members of the co-op. Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the consumer-members we serve.

As a co-op, we are well-suited to meet the needs of the community because we are locally governed. Y-W Electric Association's leadership team and employees live right here in the community. Our board of directors, which helps set long-term priorities for the co-op, live locally on co-op lines. These board members were elected to the position by neighbors like you.

We know our consumer-members — that's you! — have a valuable perspective. That's why we are continually seeking your input. Whether through community events, our social media channels or the annual meeting, we want to hear from you.

One of the features that sets our co-op apart from a traditional utility is one of our core principles: concern for community. We work with local schools for our youth development programs, such as scholarships; the Washington D.C. Youth Tour; Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp held in Steamboat Springs; health and safety fairs; and career days. We also work with local fire, police and emergency medical service crews to train them about electric safety.

Ultimately, the larger community benefits from these programs because of you and your neighbors. You empower the co-op through your membership and through your participation in and support of these programs.

We hope you will think of Y-W Electric Association as more than your energy provider, but instead as a local business that supports this community and powers economic development and prosperity for the people.

We will continue to learn from our consumer-members about their priorities so that we can better serve you — because your electric co-op was built *by the community, for the community.* [Janet L. Ekbart-Smith, 1290107501]

Y-W Sponsors Opportunities for High School Juniors

Attention high school juniors: If you are interested in an intriguing, all-expenses-paid experience next summer, please obtain and fill out an application for the Leadership Camp and the Washington D.C. Youth Tour. **The application deadline is January 6, 2020.**

Washington D.C. Youth Tour

The selected applicant will join other students from Colorado co-ops and co-ops across the United States, June 18-25, 2020.

A week of activities begins in Denver on June 18. Students will visit our state capitol building before heading to Washington, D.C. Once in Washington, D.C., the youth will meet many of our Colorado congressional members and learn about electric cooperatives and the issues facing the electric industry today. There will be plenty of time for fun and touring. The lucky student will visit Mount Vernon, National Cathedral, the Holocaust museum, Arlington National Cemetery and the Library of Congress. He



Leadership camp students on their way to a great week of fun.

or she will stroll through the Smithsonian museums, visit the monuments and memorials and much more. There will be an opportunity to learn about electricity generation, transmission and distribution, while having the time of their life with over 1,500 other students from around the country. An evening at the theater, a cruise on the Potomac River, dancing and mingling are all a part of this once-in-a-lifetime experience with many memories to share.

Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp

About 100 students are chosen and sponsored by rural electric cooperatives from all over Colorado, Kansas, Wyoming and Oklahoma to attend Leadership Camp July 11-16, 2020. The camp is designed to provide a better understanding of cooperatives, the legislative processes, energy prices, power generation and the rural electric cooperative program. It also focuses on developing leadership skills to handle challenges of the future. The camp, run by the students, is a lot of fun, but also provides an excellent learning experience. Field trips are planned to tour a large open-pit coal mine and an electric generation power plant. There is also time for fun and sightseeing. Free time is taken up with volleyball, swimming, whitewater rafting, dancing, a banquet and meeting many new friends.

All expenses for the camp are covered by Y-W Electric. The parent or guardian of an applicant must be a member of Y-W and/or directly receive electric power from Y-W



Washington D.C. Youth Tour students.



2019 Leadership Camp students.

Electric Association. The selection process is conducted similar to a job interview, so students will gain experience in that area.

Applications for both the Youth Tour and Leadership Camp are available on our website, www.ywelectric.coop, this month.

For more information, please see your guidance counselor or call Andy Molt at Y-W Electric at 970-345-2291. He will be happy to answer any questions. [Patty Jo Vaughn, 732122000]



A handful of Leadership Camp students are all smiles.

Billing Corner

Self-Serve Website

Have you checked out our website at www.ywelectric.coop lately? Our website gives you the ability to check your monthly usage, payment history and past billing invoices. Payments can also be made on our website using SmartHub. Once you register, you can make payments, view your history or contact our office. You can also choose to go paperless. An email will be sent on the day the bills are generated to let you know you have a new bill available. This is only an option. A paper bill will be mailed until you choose not to have one sent.

The SmartHub app can also be downloaded on a mobile device. It is compatible with both Android and iPhones. A payment can be made this way as well.

Y-W Electric does not use a third party for payments. If you are charged for making a payment, this is not being made on the Y-W website. For your security, please make sure you are logged into the Y-W website, www.ywelectric.coop, when making a payment or use the SmartHub app.

Please contact our office if you have any questions about our website.
[Clinton Schlepp, 1380700400]

Don't Miss Out on College Scholarships

Available through Y-W Electric Association for 2020!

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

- Y-W Electric* \$1,000 per year scholarships, renewable up to \$4,000
- Y-W Electric* \$1,000 scholarships
- Basin Electric \$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 the 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 will be available on our website, www.ywelectric.coop, beginning in October 2019
- **Applications must be delivered to Y-W prior to 5 p.m. January 31, 2020**
- **Applications received after January 31, 2020, WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED, regardless of postmark!**
- For more information, please see your guidance counselor or call Andy Molt at Y-W Electric at 970-345-2291. He will be happy to answer any questions.
[Susan Couch, 4322005025]

It's Large and In Charge: Respect the Mighty Substation

You may live near or drive by a substation each day and not give it much thought, unless you happen to be an electrical engineer or utility employee.

Although they look like something that could transform into a giant-sized, building-stomping futuristic robot, substations play an important role in providing electricity to your work or home.

Fenced-in substations are part of the electrical generation, transmission and distribution system. Transformers are contained inside many of them, and their job — as its name implies — is to transform voltage from high to low or vice versa, depending on its location on the distribution path.

Besides containing transformers, substations usually house switches, protective devices and control equipment. In large substations, circuit breakers are used to interrupt any short circuits or overloads that may occur.

Substations carry high voltages of electricity and they should be respected. Here are some safety tips from Y-W Electric Association:

- Never go near a substation.
- Teach children to never go near a substation or climb its fence to retrieve a ball or pet. Let them know to tell a parent or adult, who should call Y-W Electric to report the incident at 970-345-2291.
- In general, teach children about the dangers of electricity from a young age.
- If a transformer near your home catches on fire, do not try to put out the fire yourself — water and electricity don't mix. Call 911 to report the fire.



- If you see an issue with or notice something unusual about a substation, transformer or power line, contact Y-W Electric. Never try to address a problem yourself.

Once you have the safety tips down, consider a fun fact to know about transmission substations. There are three types: step-up, step-down and distribution. According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration:

- A step-up version receives electric power from a nearby generating facility and uses a large power transformer to increase the voltage so it can travel to distant locations.
- Step-down transmission substations are located at switching points on an electrical grid and connect different parts of the electrical system.
- Finally, distribution substations are located near end-users like you and me and change voltages to lower levels to power homes and businesses.

For more information about substations, transformers and anything else concerning electricity, call us at 970-345-2291 or visit SafeElectricity.org. [Cindy Chesterman, 2066009416]

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 August 2019 issue:

- Manuel A. Rosales
- Sammy L. Jones
- Steve and Maxine Reynolds



October 2019

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Cooler weather is on the way! Heating requires more energy than any other system in your home, typically making up about 42% of your energy bill. With proper equipment maintenance and upgrades like additional insulation and air sealing, you can save about 30% on your energy bill.

Source: energy.gov