

WHITE RIVER ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

JUNE 2020



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White River Electric Association, Inc., strives to provide its member-consumers with safe, reliable and responsible electric energy and other services at the most reasonable costs possible while remaining committed to customer and community service.



LET'S TALK

BY ALAN MICHALEWICZ
GENERAL MANAGER



ALAN MICHALEWICZ

The energy industry is undergoing rapid change, and technology is paving the way for innovation in the way energy is used, produced, stored and shared. Consumers are interested in more green energy alternatives, while smart homes and apps make managing energy use and paying your electric bill more convenient than ever.

While the changing energy market has created more options for consumers, it has also resulted in more utility scams and misleading information surrounding solar installations in particular. That's because of two factors.

First, utility scams are common because of the vast number of utilities that exist, and consumers are understandably anxious with the threat of disruption to their electric, heating or water service. Second, new products and services in the energy industry provide an opening for scammers and pop-up companies to provide misleading information or shoddy products and services.

Avoid phone scams

A common phone scam typically begins with a phone number that appears to be from a local number — one that you are more likely to answer. The scammer will claim to represent White River Electric Association and warn you about a past due account and threaten to disconnect service or take legal action. The scammer will typically demand that you use a prepaid debit card or money order, often within an extremely short, urgent time frame to pay the “past due” amount.

You can combat this scam by being aware of the status of your account and know that White River Electric will never demand that

you pay over the phone to avoid disruption of service. Regardless of who the caller claims to represent, never give your banking or personal information over the phone to someone you did not call. If you have a question or concern about your energy bill, call us directly at 970-878-5041. Do not use the phone number given by the scammer.

Avoid solar scams

While White River Electric is not aware of recent rooftop solar scams in our area, other co-ops report that members have been contacted by scammers offering an accessory, upgrade or extended warranty to their solar array. The calls could be from crooks claiming to represent a solar company, promising to replace faulty or broken parts or improve efficiency. Again, if you are not expecting the call, don't be fooled. These calls offering misleading information are likely a scam. Hang up and call the company that installed the solar array if you think there may be a problem.

Use trusted sources

If you're considering solar for your home, make sure you are working with a reputable company. Because this is still an emerging industry with evolving technology, there has been a proliferation of pop-up companies in the market to make a quick buck. Representatives of rooftop solar companies may have more sales experience than knowledge of the energy industry, and their primary goal could be making a sale and moving on to the next prospect.

Experts can offer a candid assessment to determine whether rooftop solar is right for you, but it's important for you to research and

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WREA SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS 2019-2020

White River Electric's philanthropic commitment to its community is best highlighted by the annual scholarship program. Graduating high school seniors within the WREA service territory are eligible to apply. In addition to the scholarships awarded from White River Electric, WREA is grateful for the opportunity to administer additional scholarships donated by Tri-State Generation and Transmission and Basin Electric Power Cooperative. Annually, approximately \$15,000 is awarded to assist young cooperative members with their undergraduate degrees.

In 2019, WREA established memorial scholarships in honor of the late Dean Parr and Gary H. Dunham — both long-standing members of the board of directors and valiant supporters of the WREA scholarship program.

The scholarship program is funded by a combination of WREA's unclaimed capital credits and personal contributions from the WREA Board of Directors. Capital credits are paid annually based on allocated margins for a particular year. Checks that are not cashed after a specific amount of time are categorized by statute as unclaimed capital credits. Colorado law allows for electric cooperatives to utilize unclaimed capital credits for educational purposes.

WREA is proud to introduce you to the following graduates who will receive these rewards in conjunction with their high-school diploma at the graduation ceremonies scheduled for June 6, 2020.

\$1,000 DEAN PARR MEMORIAL RENEWABLE SCHOLARSHIP



KIRSTEN BROWN

GPA: 4.0

ACCOLADES AND ACTIVITIES: National Honor Society, four-year student athlete with honors – volleyball, basketball, track
COLLEGE/FIELD OF STUDY: Fueling her competitive nature, Kirsten will study accounting and business pre-law at an Colorado State University with the goal to become an attorney.

\$1,000 BASIN ELECTRIC POWER NONRENEWABLE SCHOLARSHIP



JOSE GARCIA

GPA: 3.94

ACCOLADES AND ACTIVITIES: National Honor Society, FFA, baseball, golf, student council representative, three-year perfect attendance
COLLEGE/FIELD OF STUDY: Jose will study civil engineering at Montana State University and is the first generation in his family to attend college.

\$1,000 GARY H. DUNHAM MEMORIAL RENEWABLE SCHOLARSHIP



KOLBI FRANKLIN

GPA: 4.0

ACCOLADES AND ACTIVITIES: RBC 4-H Club president and leader, numerous 4-H championship awards, FCCLA, volleyball, choir, Junior Hereford Association president
COLLEGE/FIELD OF STUDY: Kolbi will study agribusiness at Oklahoma State University and has a goal to speak fluent Spanish by 2024.

\$500 WREA RENEWABLE SCHOLARSHIP



RIDGE WILLIAMS

GPA: 4.0

ACCOLADES AND ACTIVITIES: Choir, band, drama, National Honor Society, four-year student athlete in football and wrestling, child grievance care volunteer with HopeWest
COLLEGE/FIELD OF STUDY: Following a two-year mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Ridge plans to attend Brigham Young University where he will study exercise science.

\$500 WREA RENEWABLE SCHOLARSHIP



MAKENNA BURKE

GPA: 4.0

ACCOLADES AND ACTIVITIES: FCA, FCCLA, FFA, National Honor Society, four-year student athlete, certified nursing assistant
COLLEGE/FIELD OF STUDY: Due to her love of science and human anatomy, Makenna will pursue a degree in medical research at the University of Arizona.

\$500 WREA RENEWABLE SCHOLARSHIP



KARLEE NIELSEN

GPA: 4.0

ACCOLADES AND ACTIVITIES: FFA, four-year student athlete in basketball, National Honor Society and numerous community volunteer activities
COLLEGE/FIELD OF STUDY: Inspired by a life surrounded by wildlife, hunting and fishing, Karlee will study wildlife management and ecology at an undetermined university.

\$500 WREA RENEWABLE SCHOLARSHIP



JENIFFER KINCHER

GPA: 3.96

ACCOLADES AND ACTIVITIES: Dance, swimming, cheerleading, FCCLA, FFA, National Honor Society

COLLEGE/FIELD OF STUDY: Jeniffer will attend Colorado State University where she will focus on a degree in animal science with the goal of returning to Meeker to be a rural veterinarian.

\$500 WREA RENEWABLE SCHOLARSHIP



BRANDON LOZANO-GARAY

GPA: 3.979

ACCOLADES AND ACTIVITIES: Student council president, FFA, National Honor Society, drama club and International Thespian Society

COLLEGE/FIELD OF STUDY: Brandon will study environmental science at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine.

\$500 WREA RENEWABLE SCHOLARSHIP



JULIA ANN DINWIDDIE

GPA: 3.9

ACCOLADES AND ACTIVITIES: Four-year student athlete in basketball, volleyball and track, FCA co-organizer, National Honor Society, FFA

COLLEGE/FIELD OF STUDY: Julia will study nursing at John Brown University with the goal to become a missionary nurse.

\$500 WREA RENEWABLE SCHOLARSHIP



JOSHUA DINWIDDIE

GPA: 3.69

ACCOLADES AND ACTIVITIES: FFA, National Honor Society, track, cross-county, basketball, FCA

COLLEGE/FIELD OF STUDY: Joshua will study biochemistry and molecular biology with the goal of becoming a forensic scientist.



CONGRATS GRADUATES!



\$500 WREA RENEWABLE SCHOLARSHIP



MATILDA BROWN

GPA: 3.39

ACCOLADES AND ACTIVITIES: Four-year student athlete in softball and basketball, 4-H, community volunteer

COLLEGE/FIELD OF STUDY: Matilda will study nutrition and kinesiology at Mississippi State University with the goal to become a physician's assistant.

\$500 WREA NONRENEWABLE SCHOLARSHIP



SARINA GOEDERT

GPA: 3.898

ACCOLADES AND ACTIVITIES: Four-year student athlete in basketball and softball, FFA, FCA, National Honor Society, 4-H

COLLEGE/FIELD OF STUDY: Sarina plans to study aviation and train to become a commercial airline pilot at the Coast Flight Training school in California.

\$500 TRI-STATE G&T NONRENEWABLE SCHOLARSHIP



JILLIAN OWENS

GPA: 3.94

ACCOLADES AND ACTIVITIES: FFA, 4-H, community volunteer, cheerleading, National Honor Society

COLLEGE/FIELD OF STUDY: Jillian will attend Texas Tech University where she will seek a degree in agriculture education and hopes to some day become an FFA teacher.

\$500 TRI-STATE G&T NONRENEWABLE SCHOLARSHIP



ANNELISE AMACK

GPA: 3.87

ACCOLADES AND ACTIVITIES:

Cheerleading, dance, National Honor Society, student council, FCA, FCCLA

COLLEGE/FIELD OF STUDY: Annelise will pursue a degree in special education at an undetermined university to fulfill her passion of working with disadvantaged or special needs youth.

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properly vet all sales calls. As a guide, consult a solar expert whose "bottom line" is not directly tied to the sale of a product or service.

In this ever-changing environment, it's important to remember you have a trusted energy advisor — and we are listening to you. The two-year success of our White River Solar lease program tells us that our consumer-members are interested in participating in renewable energy projects and cost savings, but without the expense

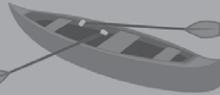
of installing a private solar array. We will continue to explore and research renewable projects that make economical sense for our co-op and our consumer-members.

Remember, we're just one call or click away, so please reach out with any questions about your electric service or bills — we're here to help.

LOVE THE OUTDOORS?

BE SAFE OUT THERE

 **2/3** of lightning fatalities are associated with outdoor **recreational activities.**

 Pay attention to weather forecasts **before you go canoeing or boating.** Get off the open water as soon as you **hear thunder.**

 **Do not use generators in enclosed areas.** The same goes for grills, camping stoves or other small appliances that produce carbon monoxide.

 **Look up** for power lines while fishing or sailing.
FACT: Fishing is the most common outdoor activity associated with lightning-related deaths.

 **Going for a hike?** If you hear thunder or see lightning, **do not seek shelter under a tree.**

 **Tent camping?** Plan ahead, seek shelter in a hard-top vehicle or four-sided building during a storm or at the first sight of lightning.



I Hit a Power Pole or Other Electrical Equipment: Now What?

We all think it will never happen to us, but it can, and in an instant.

Drivers veer off the road and run into a power pole. Farmers sometimes make contact with a power line while driving tractors or other machinery. Dump truck drivers raise or lower their bed and snag a power line.

If you hit a power pole, pad-mounted transformer (green box) or other electrical equipment, do not get out of the vehicle or cab. Instead, call 911 and wait for utility crews to come and de-energize power.

For questions, call us at 970-878-5041. For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

June 2020

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Home cooling makes up a large portion of your energy bills. Try to keep the difference between the temperature of your thermostat setting and the outside temperature to a minimum. The smaller the difference, the more energy you will save.