

HIGH WEST ENERGY



SPARKS
Focused on people. Built on power.

Board Approves Nearly \$1.3 Million in Patronage Dividends

High West Energy Cooperative was founded by our members, and our continued success is only possible because of you; the members. So it's only right that you share in that success.

In August, the board of directors voted unanimously to retire \$1,296,591 in patronage dividends. This marks the 35th consecutive year High West members will receive patronage dividends, and for the ninth year in a row, the total dividend value has exceeded \$900,000.

Learn more about patronage dividends on the next page.

OCTOBER

highwestenergy.coop



WHAT ARE PATRONAGE DIVIDENDS?

Cooperative members share in the ownership, construction, maintenance and prosperity of the co-op. When you move into a home or establish a business in the High West Energy service territory, and when you apply for membership, a patronage dividend account is set up in your name.

At the close of every fiscal year, any funds remaining after expenses have been paid are allocated to each member's patronage capital account based on the amount of electricity used the previous year. The board then determines if the cooperative is financially healthy enough to retire a portion of that capital, which members receive as patronage dividends.

OPTIONS FOR RECEIVING YOUR DIVIDENDS

High West offers our members with \$10 or more in patronage dividends the following options to receive your payment (dividends of less than \$10 will be held until a member's dividend total reaches the minimum \$10 payout amount):

01

Apply the dividend amount to your bill.

02

Donate your patronage dividends to Operation Round Up,[®] helping support others in a time of loss or need.

03

Receive a check in the mail.

- **If you are a new member:** You will get a check automatically, unless you ask for one of the other options listed above.
- **If you received a dividend in 2019:** You'll get this year's dividend the same way you received last year's, unless you request a change.
- **If you have a past-due balance:** High West Energy will automatically credit your patronage dividend to your account.

To update or change your selection, please call Kimberly Gotfrey at 307-245-4328. Members must make their selections no later than Friday, Oct. 30.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

If you move, please be sure to leave your new address with us so that we can continue to refund patronage dividends you are eligible to receive in the future.

When a member passes away, the patronage account is available for estate retirement. A representative of the estate should contact High West Energy to settle the patronage account.

Using Social Media to Help Our Members

Like so many cooperatives, High West Energy is always looking for effective ways to communicate with our members. We recognize this means giving our members different platforms so you may choose how to receive information and, when necessary, to respond.

The magazine in your hands is one very helpful platform, and we encourage members to let us know what information you'd like to see in future issues of Sparks.

We also are developing our social media channels—specifically Facebook, Twitter, and more recently LinkedIn—to give you easy access to services, money-saving opportunities and information on new programs on your mobile devices.

In the last year, our Facebook audience has increased by 45 percent as more than 1,100 additional people are following the High West page. Our Twitter page has increased by 14 percent over that same time span.

The most important question, however, is what would you like to see as we look to make social media a regular part of our communication efforts? What do you see on our pages that you find helpful? What is not on these pages that you would like to see more of?

Member input is essential, so feel free contact us directly at jeast@highwestenergy.com. Or you can follow us on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn and send us a message there. We read them all!



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

The average household owns 24 electronic products, which account for roughly 12% of home energy use. When shopping for electronics, consider purchasing ENERGY STAR®-certified products, which can be 70% more efficient than conventional models.

Source: www.energystar.gov



- OCT 12 COLUMBUS DAY
- OCT 31 HALLOWEEN
- NOV 1 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS
- NOV 3 ELECTION DAY



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MONDAY-FRIDAY • 7:30 AM-5 PM

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3302 I-80 SERVICE ROAD
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MONDAY-FRIDAY • 8 AM-5 PM

HIGH WEST ENERGY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER, EMPLOYER, AND LENDER.

GBSD Opens Door to Economic Growth

HIGH WEST COMMUNITIES TO SEE 1,000 NEW JOBS OVER NEXT 15 YEARS



Brian Heithoff
CEO / General Manager

High West Energy is proud of our history of working to support the military. And earlier this year, we learned of a new project that will bring long-term growth and prosperity to Cheyenne for more than a decade.

In August 2020, the Air Force announced that F.E. Warren Air Force Base would be the first of three locations to have its land-based nuclear missiles replaced in the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent (GBSD) program. The GBSD is expected to take more than a decade and create more than 1,000 jobs locally.

High West Energy stands ready to do our part to complete this project, vital to both our national security and the economic growth of the communities we serve and call home.

Nearly 60 years ago, we took on the serious commitment of providing reliable electric service to 92 Minuteman facilities in this region of the country.

We strengthened our long-term connection with F.E. Warren in 2008, when we were awarded

the Utilities Privatization contract to purchase, operate and maintain the electric utility infrastructure on the base for 50 years.

In addition to our professional commitments, our co-op and our employees donate time, resources and money every year to show our appreciation for the military. We recognize that the men and women who courageously volunteer for military service make this country and the Cheyenne community a safer, stronger and better place to live, work and raise a family.



Looking to the future, High West has been actively engaging with the Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce and Northrop Grumman—the company awarded the GBSD contract—for the past few years, doing what we can to ensure the new missile system moves forward.

Last year, we co-hosted a town hall event with the town of Pine Bluffs for local citizens to learn about the project. If opportunities present themselves, or if the need arises, we may organize additional community meetings in the future.

The GBSD will bring positive change to many aspects of our communities—workforce, housing, schools, roads, bridges and more. With careful planning and coordination throughout the region, we believe this will be a net positive for our region.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------|
| Michael Lerwick | District 11 | (307) 630-1277 |
| Gary Smith | District 12 | (307) 649-2375 |
| Ed Prosser | District 13 | (307) 632-6068 |
| Jerry Burnett | District 14 | (970) 895-3386 |
| Damon Birkhofer | District 15 | (308) 235-7296 |
| Jamie Fowler | District 16 | (307) 214-9191 |
| Kevin Thomas | District 17 | (308) 879-4396 |

Meetings are typically held on the fourth Monday each month.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Brian Heithoff | CEO/General Manager |
| Dave Crouse | Chief Information Officer & HWDS Manager |
| Jim East | Communications Manager |
| Lindsay Forepaugh | Chief Financial Officer |
| David Golden | Engineering Manager |
| Ken Haas | Operations Manager |
| Konnie Keehnen | Member Services Manager |
| Carol Macy | Employee Services Manager |
| Marv Powell | WAFB Operations & HWW Manager |



HIGH WEST
DIGITAL SOLUTIONS
A High West Energy Company

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We Can.**

Get peace of mind with a professionally installed security camera system from the name you trust: High West Digital Solutions. Our experts will customize a state-of-the-art video security system for you.

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