

Y-W ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 2020



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.

POWER ON: OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

BY TRENT LOUTENSOCK GENERAL MANAGER



TRENT LOUTENSOCK

As an electric cooperative, our top priority is always to provide reliable, affordable energy to you, the consumer-members we serve. Because we are a co-op, our mission is to enrich the lives of our consumer-members and serve the long-term interests of our local community — and this mission has never been more critical than in recent months. One of the seven principles that guides all co-ops is concern for community. To me, this principle is the essential DNA of Y-W Electric Association, Inc., and sets us apart from other electric utilities.

October is National Co-op Month, and electric cooperatives across the country are highlighting the many ways we “Power On.” Keeping this theme in mind, I recognize the essential role we play in serving a special community like ours.

Who would have fathomed in March that the COVID-19 virus would amount to a test of our community and our nation? The changing circumstances due to the pandemic have created both challenges and opportunities. Over the past several months, we’ve all been challenged to operate differently, and Y-W Electric has stepped up to help our consumer-members and strengthen the safety net for our more vulnerable neighbors.

As an essential service and to ensure reliability of your power supply, we modified our operations to safeguard business continuity. Our staff and line crews began working out of separate locations to

maintain separation. Some staff worked remotely. In the office, we limited and modified meetings and gatherings to allow for safe separation. We also adjusted our walk-in office availability and in-person service calls to ensure the health and safety of our employees and our valued members. For the health and safety of everyone, we think these measures were the prudent course of action for the times.

For our consumer-members impacted by COVID-19 who needed help with their electric bills, we waived late fees and worked with those hardest hit to make special payment arrangements.

I tell you about all of these efforts not to boast about Y-W Electric, but to explain how much we care about this community — because we live here, too.

We’ve seen other local businesses rising to meet similar challenges during this time, because that’s what communities do. While the challenges caused by COVID-19 have been daunting, I’m heartened to see how everyone is pulling together.

In 1945, Y-W Electric Association, Inc., was built by the community to serve the community, and that’s what we’ll continue to do: Power On. [Eleazar Lujan, 4235004008]

Billing Corner

We have moved!

We have moved to our new headquarters located at 26862 U.S. Highway 34. Our office is open. A drive-up drop box is located next to the flagpole.

As always, payments can be made at www.ywelectric.coop. Once you have an account set up, you can make payments, check usage and payment history, view past billing invoices and turn off paper bills. By going paperless, you get notified on the day your bill is available. Still want a paper bill? No problem, you can get both when you have the SmartHub app.

You can also pay using your Android or iPhone by downloading the SmartHub app, or by calling the interactive voice response system at 855-385-9911. Instructional videos can be found on our website.

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 Y-W's website. For your security, please make sure you are logged into Y-W's website, www.ywelectric.coop, when making a payment or using the SmartHub app. [Darrel G. Eyestone, 821100601]

Please contact our office if you have any questions about our website.

[Delmar E. and Margaret Serl, 443501806]

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.

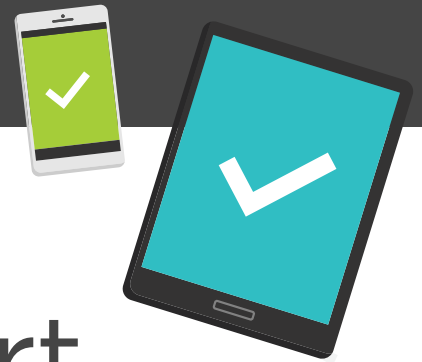
Get acquainted with your account number, read your *Colorado Country Life* magazine and pick up the phone. That's all the energy you'll need to claim your energy bucks.

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 August 2020 issue:

- Lisa Boyd
- Ellen Figueroa
- Marcy Brown
- Lanny and Judi Strohmman

We can all play a part in making our interconnected world safer.



Do Your Part.
#BeCyberSmart.



October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month.
Visit staysafeonline.org for cybersecurity tips.



▲ Colorado students visit the Colorado State Capitol before heading to Washington, D.C.



▲ Students from four states get acquainted at Leadership Camp.

Youth Tour and Leadership Camp

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 Youth Leadership Camp and the Washington D.C. Youth Tour. **The application deadline is December 18, 2020.**

Washington D.C. Youth Tour

The winner will join other students from Colorado co-ops and co-ops across the United States June 15-21, 2021.

A week of activities begins in Denver on June 15. 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 students will visit Mount Vernon, the National Cathedral, the Holocaust Memorial Museum, Arlington National Cemetery and the Library of Congress. They 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 your life with over 1,900 other students. 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.

Youth Leadership Camp

On July 17-22, 2021, a total of about 100 students are chosen and sponsored by rural electric cooperatives from all over Colorado, Kansas, Wyoming and Oklahoma to attend the Youth Leadership Camp. The camp is designed to provide a better understanding of cooperatives, legislative processes, energy prices, power generation and the rural electric cooperative program. It also focuses on developing leadership skills to handle the challenges of the future. The camp, run by the students, is a lot of fun and 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 Association. The parent or guardian of an applicant must be a member of Y-W and/or directly receive electric power from Y-W Electric. The selection process is conducted similar to a job interview, so you will gain experience in that area.

Applications became available on www.ywelectric.coop beginning in October 2020.

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.

[Richard D. and Monica King, 731423300]

Cast Your Vote on November 3

Colorado's electric cooperatives' top priority is providing consumer-members with safe, reliable and affordable energy. But this job requires more than stringing and maintaining power lines. It requires political engagement. That may seem far removed from our core mission, but it's absolutely essential to the services cooperatives provide.

That's why electric co-ops in Colorado and across the country are participating in Co-ops Vote, a nonpartisan program that encourages all co-op members to participate in national, state and local elections. The program also aims to educate political candidates and elected officials about the important role electric cooperatives play in their local communities.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative

Association, the service organization representing the nation's electric co-ops, launched Co-ops Vote in 2016. Co-ops Vote started as a national get-out-the-vote initiative that helped drive rural voter turnout.

As co-ops, the civic virtue of voting is in our DNA. We show concern for community — one of the seven cooperative principles — through participation in our democracy.

Co-ops have another advantage: Elected officials and decision-makers across the political spectrum trust us because of the work the electric cooperative family has put into political engagement. When we all get involved, we can make things happen politically and in our local communities.

We know Election Day may look a little different this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and that's why we're encouraging

all co-op members to stay engaged and informed of any changes to mail-in balloting procedures or ballot drop-off locations.

Voting is central to American democracy. We hope you will commit to cast your ballot on November 3. To learn more about the upcoming elections and access resources that can help you stay informed, visit www.vote.coop.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association is the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56% of the nation's landscape. [Marshall and Joy Zweygardt, 134090136]

Rural communities depend on Co-op Voters.

- ✓ Learn about the issues.
- ✓ Talk to your family and friends.
- ✓ Cast your vote.

**Election Day is
November 3, 2020**



Be an active participant in our democracy. Be a Co-op Voter.

www.vote.coop