

Y-W ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 2020



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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.

WE'RE THANKFUL FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP

BY TRENT LOUTENSOCK GENERAL MANAGER



TRENT LOUTENSOCK

“Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.” In the spirit of this quote by author William Arthur Ward, I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for your membership in our electric cooperative. Because of your connection to Y-W Electric Association, Inc., we all make our community a better place.

I use this space to provide updates on new projects and developments, and report on the progress of ongoing initiatives. We share these updates so all of our consumer-members have a window into our priorities, progress and challenges. But I also use this column to share our appreciation of you, our consumer-members. During this season of giving thanks, it's especially important to let all of you know what an impact you have on Y-W Electric Association, Inc., and the greater community, likely in ways you may not realize.

As part of the cooperative business model, one of our core principles is “concern for community.” While our priority is always to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy, we view our role in the community as a catalyst for good.

We work closely with our local schools to provide safety demonstrations, award college scholarships and sponsor youth groups. Y-W Electric Association, Inc., also participates in an annual Youth Tour where we take our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C., for a weeklong immersion to experience democracy in action. The trip is inspirational for many students, and we are both humbled and honored to be a part of this leadership development journey. Ultimately, the larger community benefits

from these programs because of you. You empower the co-op through your membership and through your participation in and support of these programs.

When you attend co-op events, alert us to problems and provide suggestions online or to our employees, you help us improve operations and thereby better serve the larger co-op membership.

We are thankful that our co-op board members carve out time to attend important training sessions, participate in planning meetings and keep abreast of industry trends. This investment of time results in better informed advisors that serve Y-W Electric Association's interests in a way that our consumer-members expect and deserve.

On a more personal note, we appreciate the countless acts of kindness our linemen and other employees receive when they are working in severe weather and dangerous conditions. Our employees are thankful for your patience and consideration when we try to restore power during challenging situations and prolonged periods.

Y-W Electric Association, Inc., was originally established 75 years ago to bring electricity to our area when no one else would. The cooperative is a reflection of our local community and its evolving needs. Together, let's continue making our corner of the world a better place. We can't do it without you and, for that, we're thankful for your membership. [Jeffery W. and Tracy L. Rush, 3013006003]

Youth Tour and Leadership Camp

Attention High School Juniors

If you are interested in an intriguing, all-expenses-paid experience this 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 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, the National Cathedral, the Holocaust Museum, Arlington National Cemetery and the Library of Congress; 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, about 100 students chosen and sponsored by rural electric cooperatives from all over Colorado, Kansas, Wyoming and Oklahoma, will attend 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, 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 sight-seeing. 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 Electric. The selection process is conducted similar to a job interview, so you will gain experience in that area.

Applications became available on our website, www.ywelectric.coop, beginning 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.

[Melissa Stephens, 3011009412]

Don't Bake Up High Energy Bills This Holiday Season

Avoid high energy bills and long cook times by following a few oven efficiency guidelines this holiday season:

- Prepare and chop all necessary ingredients before you even turn on your oven. This includes defrosting items in the refrigerator ahead of time.
- Consider using a smaller appliance. Often, you can use a countertop oven, slow cooker or microwave oven to reheat or cook small meal portions, which saves energy by heating a smaller space. Microwave ovens may also reduce cooking energy by as much as 80%.
- Preheat the oven to the exact temperature

required. Preheating is not necessary for foods that cook for several hours.

- Leave the oven door shut as much as possible. Opening the door lowers the temperature as much as 25 degrees.
- If your oven is outdated, consider switching to an Energy Star model that has a convection feature. According to EnergyStar.gov, convection ovens use 20% less energy per month compared to a standard oven. Self-cleaning ovens are also more energy efficient because they have better insulation.
- When picking out cookware, try brass, glass and ceramic versions, which conduct heat more efficiently than other materials and can reduce cooking times.

- Regularly clean and maintain your kitchen appliances and cookware. Grime or grease buildup in your oven and using warped pots and pans can increase baking times and energy use.
- If you have a self-cleaning oven, the best time to use the feature is just after cooking a meal — the oven will still be hot, and the cleaning feature will require less energy.
- More is less. If possible, prepare extra portions of your meal and cook them together. Reheating leftovers uses much less energy than cooking from scratch.

For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Don't miss out on college scholarships available through Y-W Electric Association for 2021

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

- Y-W Electric* \$1,000/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 homeschool 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 were made available on our website, www.ywelectric.coop, beginning in October 2020
- Applications must be delivered to Y-W prior to 5 p.m., January 29, 2021
- Applications received after January 29, 2021 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. [Rob G. Trautman, 731415113]

Billing Corner SmartHub Bill Pay & More

For convenience, Y-W Electric offers the ability to pay your account with the SmartHub app. This service allows you to pay your bill electronically with a credit or debit card or checking account. This is also a great place to go to get account information. Information on billing history, usage, payment history and past billing invoices is available. There is also a link to sign up for auto payment.

Reporting an outage is also available on SmartHub. This information goes directly to our operations department in an email. This leaves our phone lines open for those who do not have SmartHub available.

The app is compatible with iPhones as well as Androids. Check our website at www.ywelectric.coop for more information. [Raymond and Kristi Roseberry, 2721002203]

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 September 2020 issue:

- Andrew and Kenna Dible
- Byron and Lyn McCall
- Lori Willis
- Jessica Brophy

November 2020

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month



Keep cold air out to save energy. Seal air leaks around pipes and any gaps around chimneys and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets.

Source: energy.gov

Make Sure Safety is on Your Holiday Menu This Year

The kitchen can be a busy place during the holiday season: prepping, preparing and sampling favorite recipes. While this year's holiday festivities may look different for many of us due to COVID-19 safety measures, people are spending more time in their own homes and kitchens than ever before.

Whether you are a seasoned cook or novice baker, it's important to keep electrical safety in mind. In the United States alone, approximately 1,000 deaths occur each year as a result of electrical injuries, according to the National Institutes of Health. An additional 30,000 nonfatal shock incidents occur each year.

The following kitchen hazards may cause electric shock:

- Damaged or worn electrical cords
- Equipment and appliances with improper or faulty wiring
- Using damp cloths or water for cooking or cleaning near sources of electricity

The following tips may help prevent electric shock in your home:

- Always read and follow an appliance's operating instructions.
- Always dry your hands before handling cords or plugs.
- If an unplugged appliance cord gets wet or damp, do not plug it in until it is thoroughly dry.
- Do not handle electrical cords or appliances when standing in water.
- Pull on the plug, not the cord, to disconnect an appliance from an outlet.
- To avoid damaging cords or causing a tripping hazard, don't run them across walkways or underneath rugs.
- Regularly inspect electrical cords and plugs for damaged insulation and exposed wiring; immediately discard any damaged item. Avoid using any cord or plug that is frayed, cracked, taped or otherwise questionable.
- Only handle the insulated part of a plug or cord when disposing it.
- Do not overload extension cords, multi-pack power strips or surge protectors with too many appliances or other items, or plug them into each other. Use them only as a temporary solution, not a permanent one.
- Ensure extension cords, power strips and surge protectors are in good condition and the appropriate gauge for the job — the lower the number, the bigger the gauge and the greater the amperage and wattage.



- Never remove the third (round or U-shaped) prong from a plug, which is a grounding and safety feature designed to reduce the risk of shock and electrocution.
- If you have doubts about your home's electrical system, have a licensed electrician evaluate wiring, outlets and switches to verify they are in working order.
- Educate yourself and everyone in your household on how to properly turn off your home's power in case of an emergency.

For more information about electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org). [Frank Hernandez, 332504405]

Care for Your Lair

Get your heating system regularly maintained and serviced by a heating professional so that it works at peak efficiency. Keep your furnace clean and change the filter monthly. **For more winter energy efficiency tips, visit [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org).**