

HIGH WEST ENERGY



SPARKS

Focused on people. Built on power.

Board Approves \$1.37 Million in Patronage Dividends

FOR 36 YEARS AND COUNTING, MEMBERS SHARE IN CO-OP'S SUCCESS

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

At the board of directors meeting in August, the board voted unanimously to retire more than \$1.37 million in patronage dividends. This marks the 36th consecutive year High West members will receive patronage dividends, and for the 10th year in a row, the total dividend value has exceeded \$900,000.

—Turn the page to learn more about patronage dividends.—

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 a 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 you 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.

This year's retirement will go to people who were members in 1992, 1993, 1994 and 2020.



Did You Know?

Electric cooperatives have retired \$18 billion to members since 1988 – \$1.3 billion in 2019 alone. Because electric co-ops operate at cost, any excess revenues (called margins) are allocated and retired to members in the form of patronage dividends.

Source: National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation

Options for Receiving Your Dividends

For all members receiving \$50 or less in dividends, the amounts will automatically be applied as bill credits later this year.

Members who are receiving more than \$50 have several choices as to how they will get their payout.

01

You can apply the dividend to your bill.

02

You can donate your patronage dividends to Operation Round Up®, an account used to offer financial support to your fellow members in a time of loss or need.

03

You can receive a check for the full amount in the mail.

- **If you became a High West Energy member in 2020:**
You will get a check automatically, unless you call to request one of the other options listed above.
- **If you received a dividend in 2020:**
You will get this year's dividend in 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.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS



If you move, please be sure to provide us with your new address so 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.

TO UPDATE OR CHANGE HOW YOU WILL RECEIVE YOUR PATRONAGE DIVIDEND,
PLEASE CALL (307) 245-3261. MEMBERS MUST MAKE THEIR SELECTIONS NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, OCT. 29.

Get Familiar With Cyber Basics

OCTOBER IS CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

At a time when we are more connected than ever, being “cyber smart” is of the utmost importance. This year has already seen more than a fair share of cyberattacks and breaches. These cyberattacks are growing more sophisticated with more bad actors cropping up each day all over the world. Luckily, there are several proactive steps that you can take on a daily basis to mitigate risks for your homes and businesses. For expert assistance on cybersecurity, you can **call High West Digital Solutions at 307-245-3802 or contact us through hwds.com.**



HERE ARE A FEW QUICK TIPS YOU CAN BEGIN USING TODAY:

- **Enable multi-factor authentication.**
Multi-factor authentication creates an additional layer of security by verifying your identity when logging in to one of your accounts. By requiring multiple methods of authentication, your account is further protected from being compromised, even if a cyber criminal hijacks your password.
- **Use strong passphrases/password manager.**
This may seem obvious, but all too often securing strong passphrases/password managers is overlooked. Using long, complex and unique passwords is a good way to stop your account from being hacked, and an easy way of keeping track and remembering your passwords is by using a password manager app or software.
- **Perform software updates.**
Having the latest security software, web browser and operating system on your devices is one of the best defenses against online threats. So, don't wait—update.
- **Check your settings.**
Be diligent to double-check your privacy and security settings and be aware who can access your documents. This extends from Google docs to Zoom calls and beyond. For meetings on Zoom, for example, create passwords so only those invited to the session can attend, and restrict who can share their screen or files with the rest of the attendees.



The Power of Pink

Throughout the month of October, you'll see our linemen continue a long tradition of wearing pink hard hats as one way to show our support for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. October serves as a reminder for women to be screened in the hope that, by doing so, early detection will lead to more positive outcomes in the fight against breast cancer.



OCT 11 COLUMBUS DAY
OCT 31 HALLOWEEN
NOV 07 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS



OUTAGE CALLS
24 HOURS A DAY
(888) 834-1657



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TOLL-FREE (888) 834-1657
MONDAY-FRIDAY • 7:30 AM-5 PM



CHEYENNE SERVICE CENTER
3302 I-80 SERVICE ROAD
CHEYENNE, WY 82009
MONDAY-FRIDAY • 8 AM-5 PM

Winter is on the Way

BUILD YOUR STORM PREP KIT TODAY



Jared Routh
CEO / General Manager

Mother Nature doesn't always give us fair warning when it comes to blizzards. Do your family a favor this month—and every October—by making sure you have the supplies you need in a secure location so the next winter storm doesn't catch you off guard.

It doesn't take very long to gather the medicine, food, water, batteries, pet supplies and other key items, but it's a lot easier to do it before you get a foot of snow dropped on your doorstep. High West Energy recommends a little proactive preparation, and you'll be happy to earn a little peace of mind knowing your family is ready in advance.



STORAGE:

Before you start building your kit, create a place in your home where it can all be stored together. This might be a closet, a spot in your basement or a couple of waterproof plastic totes.



MEDICINE:

If someone in your home needs prescriptions on a regular basis, you don't want the stress of trying to get to the pharmacy when the roads are slick or maybe even impassable. Create a list of the prescriptions you need and talk to your doctor about the possibility of getting one extra month's worth in advance. Most prescriptions will last for more than a year (again, please check with your doctor), so five or six months in your storm prep kit should be fine.



FOOD AND WATER:

You might already have a good supply of canned goods and other nonperishable food in your pantry, but you should have three days' worth of food and water (one gallon per person, per day) set aside for storms.



DEVICES AND BATTERIES:

A battery-powered radio can come in handy if you can't turn on the TV to get safety updates. Flashlights (one for each person) and lanterns are also very helpful in the event of a power outage. Make sure each device has fresh batteries in it, along with a backup set.



PHONES, TABLETS AND CHARGERS:

These days, many of us get our safety updates and weather reports on our phones. If bad weather is coming, you want to make sure you charge all the phones in the house, and you can get an affordable backup battery pack to recharge those devices. If the power is out, turn off the Wi-Fi and Bluetooth settings on your devices to prolong battery life.



PET SUPPLIES:

Don't forget the four-legged members of the family! One bag of pet food won't take up much space, but you'll be so glad it's there if getting to the store for your dog or cat is just not possible.

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
Kosha Olsen	District 16	(307) 214-4940
Kevin Thomas	District 17	(308) 879-4396

Meetings are typically held on the fourth Monday each month.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Jared Routh	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

**You can't keep an eye on your home or business 24/7.
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.

GO TO HWDS.COM OR CALL 307-245-3802.