HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

The Beacon

OCTOBER 2021

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Our mission is to provide our members with reliable, high-quality electricity and other needed services, which will improve their economic and social well-being and provide significant long-range benefits for our communities, our state and our nation.

HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

Touchstone Energy®

IT'S A MATTER OF **(CO-OP!)** PRINCIPLES

BY **DENNIS HERMAN** GENERAL MANAGER

DENNIS HERMAN

Ace Hardware, State Farm, REI, Land O'Lakes and Highline Electric Association all share something in common: We're all cooperatives.

We may be in different industries, but we all share a passion for serving our members and helping our communities thrive. In fact, all cooperatives adhere to the same set of seven principles that reflect our core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service to the greater community good. October is National Co-op Month, so this is the perfect time to reflect on these principles that have stood the test of time but also provide a framework for the future. Let's take a look at the first three cooperative principles.

VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP

Just like all co-ops, Highline was created out of necessity — to meet a need that would have been otherwise unmet in our community. So in 1938, a group of neighbors banded together and organized our electric co-op so everyone in our community could benefit. For a modest membership fee to the co-op, any farmer could get electricity brought to his farm. Neighbors came together to tackle a problem that they all had but couldn't solve alone. They worked together for the benefit of the whole community, and the newly established electric lines helped power economic opportunity in our community.

While this history may be forgotten, key parts of that heritage remain: the focus on our mission and serving the greater good. In this, we include everyone to improve the quality of life and economic opportunity for the entire community. Membership is open to everyone in our service territory, regardless of race, religion, age, disability, language, political perspective or socioeconomic status.

DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

Our co-op is well-suited to meet the needs of our members because we are locally governed. Each member gets a voice and a vote in how the co-op is run, and each voice and vote are equal. Highline's leadership team and employees live right here in the community. Our board directors, who help set long-term priorities for the co-op, also live locally on co-op lines. These board members are elected by neighbors just like you. We know our members have a valuable perspective, and that's why we are continually seeking your input and encourage you to weigh in on important co-op issues and participate in co-op elections.

Our close connection to this community ensures we get a firsthand perspective on members' priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments in our distribution system.

MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

As a utility, our mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to our members. But as a co-op, we are also motivated by service to the community, rather than profits. Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of Highline Electric. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for co-op programs, initiatives, capital investments and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

Because we are guided by seven

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cooperative principles, it's not just about dollars — it's about opportunity for all and being fair when engaging with our members. The cooperative way is a values-based business model.

Highline Electric is a reflection of our local community and its evolving needs. We view our role as a catalyst for good and making our corner of the world a better place. And by the way, that sums up the seventh co-op principle, "concern for community," which I'll elaborate on next month.

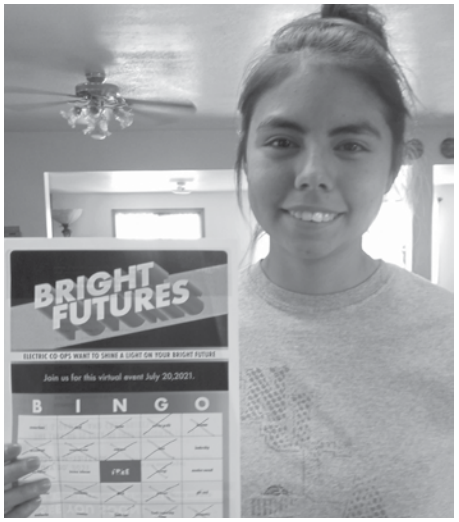
Employee Anniversaries

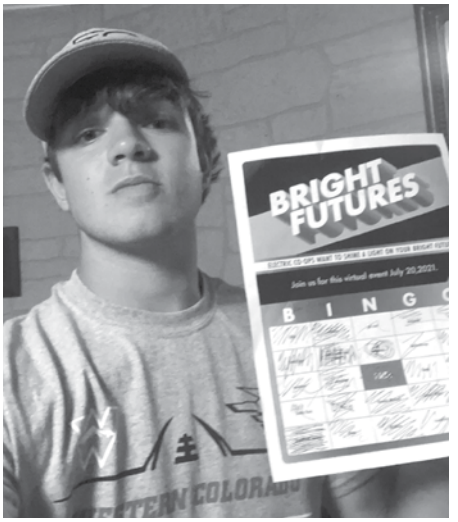
Congratulations to the following employees who observe an HEA employment anniversary in October:

Jill Baumgartner . . . . . 32 years
Lucas Bracelin . . . . . 4 years
Tadius Huser . . . . . 3 years
Justin Wert. . . . . 2 years

BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Since Leadership Camp and the Washington D.C. Youth Tour were canceled due to COVID-19, CREA held the Bright Futures webinar in July to give students an opportunity to connect and gain leadership skills in this ever-changing world. We are proud to announce that Lamya Kuntz, Nevada Mitchell and Cole Sigmon from Highline Electric attended the webinar. These three students were also surprised with a $500 scholarship from the Colorado Electric Educational Institute (CEEI).





Pictured above: Cole Sigmon

Pictured left to right: Lamya Kuntz and Nevada Mitchell

Rebate $$ available for members!

As a member of Highline Electric, you may qualify for rebates on certain energy efficient equipment and appliances, such as:

- Energy Star® certified appliances
- LED lightbulbs (500 lumens minimum)
- Heat Pumps/Air Conditioning systems
- Premium efficiency irrigation motors and more...

It's easy to apply; we ask for your receipt/invoice, proof of Energy Star® Certification (where applicable) and account number of the service where the equipment or appliance is being installed.

Rebates must be requested within 120 days of the purchase date (not install date), so don't wait. Call us or go online today!

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Contact us:

- www.hea.coop
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- Holyoke: 970.854.2236
- Ovid: 970.463.5400
- Sterling: 970.522.2650

HELP US CELEBRATE CO-OP MONTH!

ENTER TO WIN A CORDLESS 21" ELECTRIC MOWER

HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

SANTIAGO'S BREAKFAST BURRITOS!

OCTOBER 14 8AM-10AM

Join us for a FREE Santiago's breakfast burrito at any one of our offices as we celebrate YOU, our member! Supply is limited, first come, first served. While you're here, sign up for one or both of our drawings detailed below.

Logan County Crime Stoppers Annual Shred-A-Thon!

Shred Documents with Sensitive Information

In the spirit of the seventh Cooperative Principle, Concern for Community, we would like to encourage members to take sensitive documents needing shredded to the Logan County Crime Stoppers Annual Shred-A-Thon. Businesses as well as individuals are welcome to participate. Provisions have been made for drive up delivery of your shredding.

Details

- **Saturday, October 16**
- **9AM until Noon**
- **South Parking Lot of Sterling City Hall (421 N 4th St.)**
- **$5/box (limit of 2 boxes)**

This Association is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

ENTER ANY TIME DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER!

AUTO PAY

Sign-up for auto pay any time during the month of October to be entered to win a 21" EGO Power+ electric lawn mower! This is the first lithium-ion mower to exceed the power of gas! Receive all the torque of gas without the noise, fuss and fumes.

SIGN UP FOR EMAILS

Join our email contact list in office or online during the month of October for a chance to a $25 bill credit on your Highline account.

Must be a Highline member to win. Board members, employees and spouses are not eligible.

2022 LOAD CONTROL

Load control for 2021 is over. Please note the following important information for Highline Electric's 2022 Load Control Program.

Letters will be sent to all irrigators in mid-November. All irrigation wells that were in the 2021 Load Control Program will be **automatically** enrolled in the 2022 program on the same option unless HEA is notified by January 31, 2022. Included in the letter will be a fact sheet detailing each load control option. If you have changes for the 2022 program, including tenant changes, please call the HEA office and contracts will be sent to you.

The deadline to return executed contracts for the 2022 Load Control Program is January 31. No option changes, additions or deletions will be allowed after January 31.

Please watch for your letter and notify us of any changes you want for the 2022 program.

REMINDER:
Daylight Saving Time
—ENDS—
November 7

Nebraska LIHEAP

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps low-income households stay safe and healthy by providing financial assistance to offset the costs of heating and cooling. LIHEAP particularly helps households that pay a high portion of household income for home energy to meet immediate home energy needs. Heating season runs from October 1 to March 31.

A person can apply to receive assistance from LIHEAP by calling ACCESSNebraska at 1-800-383-4278 or by visiting https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/ACCESSNebraska.aspx.

Colorado LEAP

Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) is a federally funded program that helps eligible Colorado families, seniors and individuals pay a portion of their winter home heating costs. The goal is to help bring warmth, comfort and safety to your home and family by assisting with heating costs. LEAP will begin accepting applications for the 2021-2022 season on November 1, 2021.

Please call 1-866-HEAT-HELP (1-866-432-8435) for more information or visit www.colorado.gov/cdhs/leap.

Highline Electric wants members to stay warm and safe this winter. Applications for both LIHEAP and LEAP may also be picked up at your local HEA office.