

Y-W ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 2021



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.

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

BY TRENT LOUTENSOCK GENERAL MANAGER



TRENT LOUTENSOCK

Ace Hardware, State Farm, REI, Land O'Lakes and Y-W Electric Association, Inc., 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, Y-W Electric Association, Inc., was created out of necessity — to meet a need that would have been otherwise unmet in our community. So in 1945, 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 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, gender

identity, 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. Y-W Electric Association'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 products and programs that we offer, sponsorships and activities we support. Sponsorships to fire departments, local events and youth groups are awarded annually. High-voltage safety presentations, scholarships and youth leadership programs are always at the top of our list of causes to support because of the support and suggestion of our membership.

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

■ YOUR CO-OP NEWS

Y-W Electric Association, Inc. 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 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.

Y-W Electric Association, Inc., 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. By the way, that sums up the seventh co-op principle, concern for community, which I'll elaborate on in a future column. [Casey and Brandi Sievers, 1131300906]

Y-W WELCOMES NEW LINE TECHNICIAN



▲ Dylan Paulsen, line technician, started in August.

We at Y-W Electric Association want to welcome **Dylan**

Paulsen to the cooperative. He started his employment with Y-W on August 11. Dylan was raised in Aurora, Colorado. He graduated from Gateway High School then continued his education at Presentation College in Aberdeen, South Dakota, where he earned his bachelor's degree in business.

While at Presentation College he played football and baseball. In 2020 he decided to become a line technician and attended Western Colorado Community College. He graduated in May 2021. His hobbies include spending time outdoors, hunting, fishing and many other activities. Welcome to the Y-W family, Dylan. [Goldie Harman, 552201801]

BILLING CORNER

SELF-SERVE WEBSITE

Have you checked our website at www.ywelectric.coop lately? Our website gives you the ability to check your monthly usage, payment history and past billing invoices. Payments can also be made on our website using SmartHub. Once you are registered, you can make payments, view your history or contact our office. You can also choose to go paperless. An email will be sent on the day the bills are generated to let you know you have a new bill available. This is only an option. A paper bill will be mailed until you choose not to have one sent.

The SmartHub app can also be downloaded on a mobile device. It is compatible with both Android and iPhones. A payment can be made this way as well.

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 our website. For your security, please make sure you are logged into our website, www.ywelectric.coop, when making a payment or using the SmartHub app.

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

CLAIM YOUR CREDIT

Each month, Y-W Electric offers consumer-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 the August issue:

- Ron Kraich Jr.
- Ryan W. and Ronella Noble
- Thomas P. Kitchin



October 2021

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Old, uninsulated and improperly installed exterior doors can waste energy and money. Shut the door on wasted energy by weather stripping and sealing all exterior doors. If you have an old exterior door, consider replacing it with a newer, energy efficient model.

Source: energy.gov

DON'T MISS OUT ON COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Available through Y-W Electric Association for 2022



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

- Y-W Electric* \$1,000 per 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 unclaimed capital credits.

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 a copy of your 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 are available on our website, www.ywelectric.coop, beginning October 2021
- **Applications must be delivered to Y-W prior to 5 p.m. January 28, 2022**
- **Applications received after January 28, 2022, WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED, regardless of postmark.**

For more information, please see your high school guidance counselor or call Andy Molt at Y-W Electric at 970-345-2291 and he will be happy to answer any questions. [Frances Berggren, 2002001002]

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month.



Do Your Part. #BeCyberSmart

PASSWORD DOS AND DON'TS

DO:

- Change the manufacturer's Wi-Fi password on your router.
- Use two-factor authentication.
- Use unique phrases (like lyrics to your favorite song) to remember passwords.

DON'T:

- Don't use common words or numbers like "password" or "1234."
- Don't use personal details like your date of birth in a password.
- Don't use the same password for multiple accounts.

[Brady and Jordan Buck, 1141133702]

Core Values Foundation



Integrity

Members first – every day



Accountability

Every member has an equal voice



Commitment to Community

Improve members' quality of life



Innovation

Innovative solutions and state-of-the-art technology

2022 YOUTH TRIPS

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS

Win a trip to Washington, D.C., or a week at camp at Glen Eden Resort!

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 17, 2021.**

WASHINGTON D.C. YOUTH TOUR

The winner will join other students from Colorado co-ops and co-ops across the United States **June 12-19, 2022**. A week of activities begins in Denver on June 12. Students will visit our state capitol building before heading to Washington, D.C. Once in Washington, D.C., students will meet many of our Colorado congressional members and learn about electric cooperatives and the issues facing the electric industry today. There will 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. Students 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 1,700 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 16-21, 2022**, 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, the 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 it 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 spent playing 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. [Roger Chrismer, 732802501]

- Applications will be available on our website, www.ywelectric.coop, beginning October 2021.
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