

YAMPA VALLEY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 2021



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Yampa Valley Electric Association

is a cooperative that provides value to its member-owners through technology that delivers safe and reliable electrical service in an environmentally and financially responsible manner.

**YAMPA VALLEY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION
IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.**

EVEN DURING CHALLENGING YEARS, THERE'S MUCH TO BE THANKFUL FOR

BY STEVE JOHNSON PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER



STEVE JOHNSON

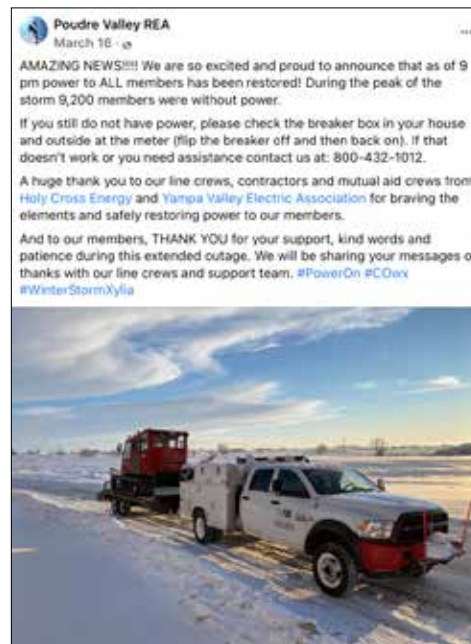
With the challenging year we had in 2020, we hoped that 2021 would give us a sense of normalcy again. While there were things that returned (I'm thankful for concerts and the rodeo coming back, just to name a few), not everything was smooth sailing for the world. We saw extreme weather events, supply chain disruptions and difficulty with filling workplace positions due to a housing crisis. No matter the problem we encountered as a co-op, I knew we had a team in place that would step up, take charge and be the difference makers we needed to keep moving forward. Looking back on the year, here are a few examples of how YVEA teams rose to the occasion and showed our communities why we are a trusted and reliable partner.

EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

This summer, most of our service territory, as well as the rest of the country, faced serious threats from wildfires. We experienced such a situation in South Routt with the Muddy Slide Fire threatening homes and infrastructure. Our company was all-hands on deck for this event, coordinating with local and outside agencies, providing them with support and updates on our infrastructure. This was no small feat for our co-op — we asked for much needed assistance and direction from all departments, and we are grateful for all they did. From linemen, operations, member services, dispatch, IT, engineering and communications, this was a team effort that meant long hours and late nights.

ANSWERING THE CALL TO AID

This isn't the only example of our team making a difference in communities. In



Mutual aid is an important example of YVEA's commitment to help neighboring cooperatives.

March, we assisted Poudre Valley REA during a snowstorm that knocked out power to 9,200 of its members. We were able to send crews and supplies down to assist with the restoration of service; a truly incredible thing about the co-op world is the willingness to lift a hand to aid others. We are thankful for our friends who help us in a time of need and are happy to reciprocate this to our fellow co-ops throughout the country.

LUMINATE MILESTONES

September ushered in a major milestone — Luminate internet celebrated having 1,000 customers and is steadily approaching 1,500 customers. This is an amazing accomplishment which highlights the strength of the partnership between YVEA and Luminate. We had our grants team working to secure funds for build out and engineers working

on projects to get fast, reliable broadband to many underserved communities. We are excited about the future of Luminate, as well as the growth of partnership between the two companies

PLANNING COMMITTEES TO HELP SOLVE CHALLENGES

There have been several challenges within our company and community, and we recognized this was an incredible opportunity to get our employees involved in coming up with solutions. From assisting us in creating solutions to the housing crisis impacting current and future employees, to creating plans to streamline processes within the company, we have seen our employees raise their hands and offer their help in coming up with solutions to improve who we are

as a co-op. This goes beyond our company as well — we have employees volunteering their time to help sponsor local events and show support in our communities, picking



▲ Luminate employees volunteer in the community by picking up trash on the highway.

up litter along our local highways, and organizing fundraisers for Lift-Up and Love, Inc.

So what am I thankful for after this challenging year? I am incredibly thankful for

our dedicated employees. They show up and work hard for our communities. No matter the time of day, the weather or the situation, our employees are ready to buckle up and take on any challenge. This dedication and care to our membership is truly incredible, and I am thankful for all our employees do to create a trust within our communities. Thank you to you, our members, for allowing us to be your trusted partner, and allowing us to continue to bring you safe, reliable, and environmentally and financially responsible power to home.

Steve Johnson

OPERATION ROUND UP BOARD UPDATE

We want to give our heartfelt thanks to Judy Jones for her service on the Operation Round Up Board of Directors for her term.

We appreciate her enthusiasm and candor when it came to serving on the ORU board.

“It’s been such a great privilege to serve on the Operation Round Up board,” Judy said.

“It’s a wonderful opportunity to give financial help to so many deserving nonprofits that serve our community.

I’m so pleased that I had this opportunity.”

We are excited to announce the appointment of Becky Sharp as the new Steamboat Springs representative. Becky is currently the pastor at Euzoa Bible Church in Steamboat Springs, and she is looking forward to serving our communities.

ORU board members from left to right: Becky Sharp, Cindy Svendsen, Ken Rogers, Judy Jones, Christina Oxley, and Sharon Farquhar. ➤

▲ ORU Board President Ken Rogers presents a service award to retiring board member, Judy Jones.



YVEA Member Survey Did you enter for a chance to win a \$50 chamber gift card?

Our member survey is open until December 31. Please call YVEA member services at 970-879-1160 and verify your email address today. Your responses are confidential and when you fill out your survey, you will be entered to win one of five \$50 chamber gift cards in Craig or Steamboat.



SMALL CHANGE, BIG DIFFERENCE: OPERATION ROUND UP

Operation Round Up grants provided \$43,275 to help nonprofit organizations around the YVEA territory during the October 2021 grant cycle. The Operation Round Up Board of Directors allocated funds to the following organizations for the funding period ending October 15, 2021:

- Book Trails
- Craig Concert Association
- Hayden After Prom 2022
- Lift Up Routt County
- Maybell Town Park
- North Routt Community Charter School
- NW Rocky Mountain CASA
- Oak Creek Mountain Park
- Partners Routt County
- Routt County Council on Aging
- South Routt School District
- Steamboat Creates
- Yampa River Botanic Park
- Yampa Valley Parkinson's Support Network

Thanks to participating YVEA members rounding up their bill, more than \$450,000 has been donated through Operation Round Up to organizations making a difference throughout the YVEA service territory. **Join Operation Round Up by visiting yvea.com/operation-round-up or calling 970-879-1160.**

The next nonprofit organization application deadline is May 15, 2022.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

From our co-op family to yours, wishing you a happy holiday season and a joyous new year.

YVEA offices will be closed December 23 and 24 for the Christmas holiday, as well as December 31 in observance of the New Year's Day holiday.

YVEA is proud to announce the launch of its Choose EV webpage in partnership with the City of Steamboat Springs. When a member visits yvea.com/yvea-choose-ev they can learn facts about electric vehicles, use a savings calculator, find nearby chargers and so much more.

2022 YOUTH TRIPS SPONSORED BY YVEA

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS

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

Yampa Valley Electric Association is now accepting applications for the 2022 summer youth programs. Students have the opportunity to attend the Washington D.C. Youth Tour and the Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Each program is all expenses paid. Current high school students between the ages of 16 and 18, as of June 2022, are encouraged to apply.

Join other students from Colorado co-ops and co-ops across the United States **June 12-19, 2022** for the **Washington D.C. Youth Tour**. Once in Washington, D.C., students will meet Colorado congressional members and learn about electric cooperatives. There will be plenty of time for fun and touring. 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 2,000 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.

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 July 16-21, 2022**. 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. 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, attending a banquet and meeting many new friends.

Yampa Valley Electric Association covers all costs to participate in either program, including travel, lodging and food. The only costs to the students is spending money for souvenirs or extra snacks.

Interested students must complete an application form and short essay. For more details, visit yvea.com/washington-dc-youth-tour for Youth Tour and yvea.com/youth-leadership-camp for the Youth Leadership Camp. **Application deadline is January 15, 2022.**

LUMINATE: THANKFUL AND GRATEFUL

As we approach one of the most festive times of the year, it's a good opportunity to spend some time reflecting on all that was, all that is and all that will be. Most, if not all of us, will celebrate and spend time with our loved ones during the holidays. It would stand to reason that many of us are ready for a new chapter, or perhaps a new book — one without the grip of a global pandemic and the challenges that come along with trying to figure out and maintain the “new normal.”

The Luminate Broadband and Yampa Valley Electric Association teams are thankful for so many things, but the most important part of our appreciation is toward you — our customers — who trust us with so much of your lives. Yes, the internet has become an essential part of life whether we like it or not. While internet service may toe the line of being a commodity, we certainly agree that it's undoubtedly a necessity for many. For the Luminate and YVEA teams, we see internet service as an opportunity, not for the staff, but rather for you, our customers. The Luminate network is top-notch. It is built with sustainability, reliability and affordability in mind — the top characteristics of what we believe to be a futureproof network.

We could go into all the details of why other providers in the area are inferior to

Luminate. But what really sets Luminate apart is commitment, dedication, perseverance and grit. Luminate is far more than an internet pipe to your house. Luminate provides you the runway to control as much as you desire: lights, locks, HVAC, refrigerators, games and anything else that makes sense for you and your digital lifestyle.

Additionally, the myLuminate app is great to keep you in the know about your family and children, network and devices, and security to keep all your devices safe. Internet safety and security is difficult. We are parents, too, and we understand that it's nearly impossible to keep track of everything your kids encounter online. myLuminate is a tool designed to help you with that. Our goal is to protect you and your kids online and make your cyberlife more manageable and safe. We hope you find value in this. If you have questions about myLuminate, please reach out to the Luminate customer-experience team for more information and education.

Luminate Broadband, like many of us, had to endure some extremely challenging times in recent months. The company officially launched and began connecting customers to gigabit-capable fiber late in 2019 into 2020. Imagine for a moment starting a business during these times: Navigating the challenges of a global



pandemic; working through hiring challenges; shifting from office to home, back to office, back to home; hiring contractors; maintaining inventory with supply chain issues; shifting resources as needed to maintain business continuity due to COVID-19 related issues; and catering to our customers' needs while ensuring the safety of you and our staff. It's a lot. And we're sure there are some of you who have a similar story. This has not been an easy road for any of us, but you have persevered and Luminate has persevered, so congratulations — we're in this together. We aren't out of the woods yet, but we trust that things are improving.

We want to take a moment and say “thank you.” Thank you for trusting our team, our service and our processes. Luminate has 1,000 customers, which is incredible. It is because of you that Luminate has experienced such great success through one of the most difficult times many of us will ever experience. We wish you a happy holiday season. Thank you for trusting Luminate and YVEA — we are grateful for you.

ENERGY HERO DECEMBER TIP:

TIME TO TURN ON YOUR HEAT TAPE.



Many YVEA members in our cold climate use heat tape to prevent ice from forming on roofs and gutters and to prevent pipes from freezing. Yet, most heat tape users do not realize how the use of heat tape increases their monthly electric bill.

Heat tape consumes energy based on its wattage and length. One hundred feet of heat tape can use up to 30 kilowatt-hours per day, which equals 900 kWh per month and can add up to an extra \$84 on your monthly electric bill.

Wait until the first snow to energize heat tape. To reduce the energy usage of heat tape, do not run it continuously. YVEA recommends installing timers on all heat tape circuits to operate from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. This may seem counterintuitive, but the best time to run heat tape is during the day.

Be sure to mark your calendar to remember to turn off your heat tape at the end of the winter season.

To learn more about heat tape, rebates on heat tape timers to help save you money, and for other tips on how to fight energy waste, visit yvea.com/energyhero.