

# Y-W ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

FEBRUARY 2022



## MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box Y  
Akron, CO 80720



## STREET ADDRESS

26862 U.S. Hwy 34  
Akron, CO 80720



**ph** 970-345-2291  
**tf** 800-660-2291  
**fax** 970-345-2154  
**web** [ywelectric.coop](http://ywelectric.coop)

**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.

## FIVE REASONS WE LOVE SERVING OUR MEMBERS

BY TRENT LOUTENSOCK GENERAL MANAGER



TRENT LOUTENSOCK

February may be the shortest month of the year, but it's packed with special observances such as Presidents Day, American Heart Month, Valentine's Day, and a host of unofficial "national" days you probably never heard of like "National Tater Tot Day." But they all have something in common: They were created to draw attention to a particular issue or theme.

Valentine's Day may seem like an observance originally created by a greeting card company, but over time it's become a widely celebrated day generating millions of dollars spent on flowers, candy and, of course, greeting cards professing our love. But Valentine's Day isn't just for the lovebirds. It's also the perfect time to let our friends, family, co-workers and other special people in our lives know we care about them—with or without a store-bought greeting card.

In that vein, we created our list of the top five reasons why we love serving you, the consumer-members of Y-W Electric.

- 1. We love serving our consumer-members because without you, the co-op wouldn't exist.** Our purpose is to provide you with safe, reliable and affordable electricity. Simply put, Y-W Electric exists to serve you. That's why we were formed in 1945—to bring power to our local area when for-profit utilities would not.
- 2. You enable us to complete our mission by supporting our efforts to give back.** A major part Y-W's mission is to serve the community and look after the greater good. With your assistance, we can help the most vulnerable members of our community through programs like Energy Outreach Colorado that help local families pay their energy bills when times are tough.
- 3. Consumer-members of our co-op also serve on the board of directors.** They provide guidance for setting co-op

priorities and for helping make big decisions. Because our board members live in the area, they can serve as the pulse of the larger community and identify immediate and long-term needs. The broader co-op membership provides helpful input through their vote on director elections and by weighing in on co-op and community issues.

- 4. You help us get it right.** Y-W Electric consumer-members are great about keeping us in the know. We do our best to avoid power outages, but Mother Nature can occasionally throw us a curveball. Our consumer-members are quick to report any power disruptions and are patient as our crews work to safely restore power. We know outages are frustrating, and your support as we work through storms means so much to our employees. Your support is critical for the co-op's success, and we thank you for that.

- 5. You and other Y-W Electric consumer-members make up the community we serve—and for us, it's all about community.** Our employees live and work here too and care about our community the same way you do. We're invested and work to help it thrive. That's why the cooperative donates to schools, community events, fire departments and scholarship funds. It's also why we invest in economic development and why you'll see our employees volunteering at local schools and other charitable and community endeavors.

As a co-op, our mission is to enhance the quality of life in our community and to look after its long-term interests. We love serving our consumer-members and our local community and, just like you, want to see it continue to thrive. [Nicholas Bain, 482301102]

# MARJIE HOTTINGER RETIRES AFTER 47 YEARS



Y-W Electric Association, Inc., wants to congratulate Marjie Hottinger on her well-deserved retirement from the cooperative after more than 47 years. Over the years, Marjie has worked a diverse and impressive career. She retired on January 31.

Marjie began her 47-year tenure at Y-W Electric in 1974 as a radio dispatcher. She moved to cashier receptionist where she loved meeting consumer-members. Marjie was promoted to bookkeeping and then to member services. While still working, she started taking evening classes in Denver twice a week at Regis University to earn another degree. After finishing her degree, she was promoted to her current position to management staff as human resource manager. She loved helping fellow employees with their benefits and always believed in the value of saving for the future, a passion she passed on to employees. She repeatedly said, “Retirement seems like a long time away, but it will be here in a flash.”

Marjie was active in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association concerning employee benefits and retirement plans. Keeping current with human resources laws, issues and activities was always interesting for Marjie. She was consistently up to the challenge of keeping the company and employees safe.

Marjie also served as the company photographer, taking pictures at events such as Y-W Electric Annual Meetings and employee gatherings. Preserving history is important to her.

Marjie was very involved in Y-W Electric’s insurance programs. She worked closely with our workers’ compensation company and with Federated Rural Electric Insurance helping to keep premiums low, while at the same time helping keep Y-W Electric’s employees and the cooperative safe.

Featured twice in National Rural Success Stories articles for advising employees to put money in their 401(k) and having an emergency fund, Marjie was known for saying, “Don’t spend everything you get.”

Marjie loves baking and shares baked goods around town for the elderly to enjoy. She has lots of children come in to learn baking and to have fun. She’s not sure what trouble she will get into in retirement but thinks, after more than 47 years, it might be time to explore other things. She might even do some consulting, but “who knows?”

“There’s a lot of great memories. I’ve made lifelong friends with other employee, directors, consumer-members of Y-W Electric and colleagues all over the co-op world whom I worked with over the years,” Marjie says.

Good luck and best wishes in retirement, Marjie!

## BILLING CORNER

### SIGNING UP FOR SERVICE

When a new consumer-member comes into our office or calls to connect an account into his/her name, the information given at that time is very important. The first step is filling out and signing an application for service and membership. This is the information used to set up your membership and billing records and is extremely important. Following are some situations that need to be considered when filling out the application:

1. If you are a husband and wife, and only one spouse’s name is on the application, all bills, capital credit allocations and future refunds will go to the one person whose name is on the account. If both parties sign the application, any capital credits accrued for that membership are considered jointly owned, and checks will be made payable to both names. Credit history is being recorded for the person(s) whose name is on our records.
2. If you are a roommate and paying part of the bill but your name is not on the

application, Y-W Electric has no record of you. When capital credit refund checks go out, they are made out to the person whose name appears on the application. If you apply for service in the future, you would be considered a new consumer-member.

3. Payment of the bill is the responsibility of the person(s) who signed the application. If a deposit is paid, any amount refunded will go to the name on the account. If the bill is not paid, this name will then go to the collection agency.
4. Irrigation accounts are always connected to the landowner’s name. The landowner is ultimately responsible for payment for electric usage on the service; however, bills can be mailed to one or both parties.

These are just a few of the things to consider when signing up for electric service with Y-W Electric. Your membership record with us is carefully created and monitored throughout your service term and years beyond. Please consider carefully how you want our records to reflect your membership.

If you have any questions, please contact our office in Akron at 970-345-2291 or, if outside our calling area, 1-800-660-2291.

### 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 December 2021 issue:

- Allen E. and Denise Zuege
- Steve Frey
- S W Bill Runge

## Cars, Power Lines & a Plan of Action

Ice, heavy snow and accidents can bring down power lines. If you get in a car accident involving power lines and your car is on fire or you see smoke, make a solid, clean jump from your vehicle and hop away with your feet together; go as far away as you can. If you run or walk away, you could get electrocuted. [Edmond and Nancy Gelvin, 1040100100]



February 2022

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

About 30% of a home's heating energy is lost through inefficient windows. Caulk and weather-strip windows to seal air leaks. When running your home heating system, lock all operable windows to ensure the tightest seal possible.

[Bridgette Cline, 340102905]

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

## SAFETY TIPS FOR YOUR HOME WORKSHOP

Without taking proper precautions, the enjoyment of a do-it-yourself project can quickly turn into disaster. You may have all the latest power tools, hand tools, hardware and materials, but if you do not put safety first, you may end up with a trip to the hospital instead of a new set of shelves, upgraded lighting in the kitchen or a trendy shiplap accent wall in the bedroom. Here are some fundamental workshop and electrical safety tips to help keep any DIY project running smoothly.

### WEAR SAFETY GEAR, GLASSES & GLOVES

The first rule of workshop safety is to dress appropriately. Avoid loose clothing that can get caught in power tools. Never wear dangling jewelry or scarves. Roll up your sleeves or choose a shirt with sleeves that are tight against your skin. Closed-toe shoes are a must, and steel-toed boots are recommended.

Safety glasses are necessary 100% of the time. Gloves are great for handling materials. Before you reach for a belt sander or scroll saw, however, take the gloves off to minimize the risk of their getting caught and to allow you to get tactile feedback in case anything goes wrong.

### OBSERVE ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Before you start any DIY project, inspect all your power tools and their cords for loose plugs, exposed wires or worn insulation. Fires are one of the top dangers when working with electricity, especially if you have combustible materials such as sawdust around.

If you must use an extension cord, choose one long, heavy-duty, appropriately rated cord and keep it untangled and out of the way to prevent tripping or yanking your tools off the workbench. When you are done working, unplug everything from the extension cord and put it away.

## DON'T CUT CORNERS USE POWER TOOLS SAFELY

### KEEP YOUR WORKSPACE CLEAN

Anything left on the floor is a tripping hazard, and you do not want to imagine what could happen if you trip while using a power tool. Anything cluttering your worktable introduces obstacles that can get caught in a saw or drill mechanism or block your ability to move your project safely as you work on it. The byproducts of DIY work — such as sawdust, cast-off nails and screws, and rags or brushes with potentially combustible or hazardous fluids on them — increase the risk of fires and projectiles.

### KEEP TOOLS IN GOOD CONDITION

Besides inspecting the cords and plugs for electrical safety, everything works better in the workshop if you have clean, sharp and well-lubricated tools. A dull saw blade brings a much higher chance of injury than does a sharp one. Dull blades are less likely to cut smoothly through the wood or other material and more likely to kick back and cut you. Dull saws, routers or drill bits also run the risk of breaking during use. Use appropriate lubrication such as WD-40 or others specifically created for power tools.

### KNOW YOUR LIMITS

If you have a lot of experience as a DIYer, there are projects you can tackle from memory. However, for maximum workshop safety, approach anything new as if you are a beginner. Read instructions and look up reputable guide videos to refresh your skills or learn something new. Most importantly, recognize when you are in over your head and leave those projects to the professionals.

For more information about electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org). [Evan McKinney, 852711803]



# 2022 Energy Efficiency Products Program (Rebate)



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Energy Star is being used as a benchmark for Tri-State and Y-W Electric incentives in a number of areas in the Energy Efficiency Program.

## Space Heating/Cooling

### **Energy Star Ground Source Heat Pump:**

\$700/ton incentive - new installations

\$450/ ton -replacement units

### **Energy Star Air Source Heat Pumps:**

New Tier system -

Tier1=HSPF greater than 9 and SEER greater than 15

Tier2=HSPF greater than 10 and SEER greater than 16

**Tier 1 rebate = Under 2 tons \$675 + \$100/ton**

**Over 2 tons \$1,800 + \$100/ton**

**Tier 2 rebate = Under 2 tons \$1,000 + \$100/ton**

**Over 2 tons \$2,400 +\$100/ton**

\*rebate amounts will not exceed 50% of equipment cost

Contact Y-W Electric for more information.

## Water Heaters

**30-55 gallon minimum storage type only**

### **Standard Warranty:**

New or Conversion = \$30

### **Life Time Warranty:**

New or Conversion = \$50

### **Heat Pump Water Heater**

New or Conversion = \$450



**Wiring allowance—conversion from gas**

**to electric: \$50**

### **Energy Star LED Bulbs**

LED Energy Star rated bulbs. Lumen

out-put of 500 or greater. Limit 50

bulbs rebated per member per year.

50% of lamp cost, maximum \$8.00 per



## **Commercial Lighting retrofit**

**Rebates vary, contact Member Services**

## **Refrigerators / Freezers**



Energy Star Refrigerators and Freezers = \$60

Additional \$60 if retired and no longer in service.

## **Clothes Washer**

Energy Star rated top load

Clothes Washer = \$60

Energy Star rated front load Clothes

Washer = \$80



## **Clothes Dryer**

Energy Star rated clothes dryer = \$60

Energy Star rated hybrid clothes dryer

(ventless) = \$180



## **Irrigation Electric Motors**

Applies to installation of premium efficiency irrigation motors.

\$14/hp for motors from 10 through 500 hp

\$1.50/hp if motor replaces fossil fuel

Contact Y-W Electric for a motor table of minimum standards.



## **Variable Speed Drive for Irrigation Retrofit**

25 hp = \$1,600 30 hp = \$1,750 40hp = \$2,050

50 hp = \$2,350 60 hp = \$2,650 75hp = \$3,100

100hp = \$3,800 125hp = \$4,600 150hp = \$5,300

200hp and larger = \$6,800

Contact Member Services at 970-345-2291 for more information regarding Energy Efficiency Rebates

[Allen and Edith Hussey, 492403501]