

# YAMPA VALLEY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY 2022



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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.

## YVEA BOARD Q&A

Beginning this month, we will feature a Q&A with a member of the Yampa Valley Electric Association Board of Directors, allowing YVEA members to get to know their representatives. **This month's Q&A is with District 5 (Hayden area) Representative Patrick Delaney.**

**Tell us about your professional background.** I've worked in resort property management in Steamboat Springs since the early 1990s. I am a co-owner/baker/developer at Wild Goose Coffee and Hayden Historic Granary.

**Tell us about your personal/family life.** I am a fifth-generation Coloradan who married a Routt County native. We have two adult children who are both back in the Valley. We live on an historic 100-year-old ranch just outside of Hayden. I am fascinated with history and advocate for historic preservation. I enjoy cycling on our wonderful gravel roads and cross-country skiing.

**What inspired you to run for the YVEA Board of Directors?** I was recruited by a current board member, as I have a business background and have been involved in community organizations for many years. I wanted to contribute but also be a part of the fundamental change in energy distribution and use that is occurring at the present time. I think it is important that Hayden and West Routt County have representation in this area.

**What strengths do you bring to the YVEA board?** I have been involved in local business for many years. I work in Steamboat, but live in West Routt County and have a good understanding of the needs and challenges that Steamboat faces,



Patrick Delaney,  
Dist. 5 Representative

while also understanding the needs and differences of the more rural parts of our territory. I am a strategic thinker and a strong advocate for our local economy and lifestyle.

**What major challenges do you believe YVEA will face in the next 5-10 years?** We are living through a revolutionary time in terms of power generation and distribution. In the next 10 years, our region will change from an energy producer to a net energy importer. YVEA needs to make certain that our distribution network continues to be modernized and that we ensure reliable, affordable and clean energy continues to flow to the members. We also need to leverage our reputation to encourage clean and reliable energy production within our territory. We must also continue to build the Luminate fiber network to serve as many families and businesses as possible with reliable broadband.

**What are your thoughts on the status of the electric industry in Colorado?** While the transition from coal to renewable energy sources is painful for our northwestern Colorado communities, I believe that our push to change our energy sources puts Colorado at the vanguard of the new frontier. This is resulting in innovation that will be utilized across the world. While there will be hiccups along the way, I think we will look back on this time as a revitalization of our rural communities with clean energy and the ability to work

[continued on page 8]

[continued from page 7]

from anywhere. I am optimistic about the future of our region of Colorado.

**What changes do you believe will have the most significant effect on the electric industry over the next 10 years?** In our territory, the change from coal to other energy sources will dynamically change the electric industry. The need for storage and the development of “smart grids” will make all electrical users more active participants in the distribution of energy.

**What is the greatest concern you have for the electric industry and how it will impact our service territory?** Our territory will change from a net producer of electricity to a net importer. Transmission is currently designed to flow from our area to the Front Range — will it work as well flowing from the Front Range and other areas to our territory? The looming shutdown of the power plants in Hayden and Craig and the impacts to the coal mines will have real economic and social impacts on our communities.

## NOTICE

### ELECTION PROCESS FOR DIRECTOR DISTRICTS AND ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of Members of Yampa Valley Electric Association, Inc., will be held on **June 28, 2022**, and will include the election of directors for the following districts:

- District #4: Dean Brosious;
- District #5: Patrick Delaney;
- District #7: Sonja Macys.

Petitions for nomination of directors are available at the Steamboat Springs and Craig YVEA offices, and on our website at [yvea.com/annual-meeting-election](http://yvea.com/annual-meeting-election).

Petitions for nomination of directors must be returned to YVEA by **April 29, 2022**. Ballots will be mailed on **May 27, 2022**.

## ENERGY SAVINGS TIP

**A smart thermostat** is a Wi-Fi-enabled device that automatically adjusts heating and cooling temperature settings in your home for optimal performance and savings.

1. **Set your schedule:** Smart thermostats aim to learn your schedule, but you can help it out by setting your schedule via its interface or web app.
2. **Go low:** Smart thermostats steer you toward energy-efficient temperatures, but you can save even more money by finding ways to keep yourself warm while the house stays cooler. Bundle up and enjoy the savings.
3. **Save money with YVEA Rebates:** Learn more about saving money on your thermostat at [yvea.com/rebates](http://yvea.com/rebates).



## SOLAR POWER

### Making the Solar Switch: Common YVEA Member Solar Installation Considerations

YVEA regularly works with co-op members and solar contractors to transition to solar power through our net metering program. As the demand for solar power increases, so does the number of calls we receive from members with concerns about solar company sales tactics, costs and logistics.

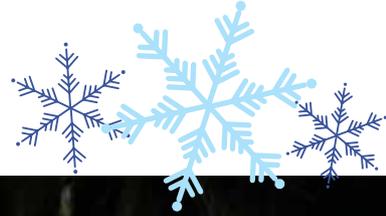
**Thoroughly investigate the company: Is it backed by the Better Business Bureau? Is it contracted to do business in Colorado?** Important note: If a representative from a solar company contacts you claiming to be “with YVEA” or that they are “part of YVEA’s solar efforts,” please know that is a sales pitch (but not a 100% truthful one). YVEA does not have preferred solar installation contractors, at this time, but YVEA is working on a qualified installer program, which we will be rolling out in 2022.

**Know all the costs, not just those for equipment and installation.** In addition to equipment and labor, there are also pricey “soft costs” that can cost more than the system itself, according to Energy.gov. Soft costs include permit acquisition; financing charges; and “pass-along” marketing, advertising and research costs. Be cautious of companies that are making claims that sound too good to be true.

**How will the installer work with YVEA to meet interconnection requirements? Does the installer have experience coordinating and integrating solar systems with the electric grid? How much energy will the system provide and is it enough? Too much?** Solar is a substantial investment and we encourage members to contact us prior to purchasing a solar system to ensure that it can fully integrate and connect with YVEA’s system. Learn more at [yvea.com/distributed-generation-interconnection](http://yvea.com/distributed-generation-interconnection).

# PARADE OF LIGHTS

YVEA proudly sponsors Parade of Lights tours in several communities, including Baggs, Craig and Yampa. At the time of press, Baggs pictures were unavailable. Pictured below: Yampa had a five-way tie for first place and Craig chose three winners.



Yampa: Five-way Tie for First Place



Yampa: Five-way Tie for First Place



Yampa: Five-way Tie for First Place



Craig: First Place



Yampa: Five-way Tie for First Place



Craig: Second Place



Yampa: Five-way Tie for First Place



Craig: Third Place

# LUMINATE: FIBER VS. FIXED WIRELESS—WHAT’S THE DIFFERENCE?

Last month, we focused on different mediums of internet service, specifically coax versus fiber versus DSL.

This month, we want to put our focus on fiber versus fixed wireless so you can make the best internet decision for your household. Let’s dig right in.

## WHAT IS FIXED WIRELESS?

Fixed wireless internet is broadcast from towers or rooftops through airwaves to receivers that the service provider installed on the user’s property. For most fixed wireless internet connections to work, the receiver needs to be within around 10 miles of the service provider’s tower and requires a direct line of sight. If the home is surrounded by hills, trees, buildings or other obstacles, service quality and availability will likely be a cause for user frustration.

Generally, fixed wireless towers — or nodes — are oversubscribed at large ratios, in some cases 64:1 or worse, and users often experience degradation of speed and poor service quality at peak times during the morning and evening, due in large part to the lack of scalability. In addition, older fixed wireless technology is highly affected by rain, snow, other weather conditions and obstructions, such as a trash truck or

train going by that interferes with the signal. Another important thing to note on fixed wireless is that it is not built to scale, like Luminate Broadband’s network.

In addition to the fiber network, Luminate provides a fixed wireless solution to some of its service territory. However, Luminate’s approach to fixed wireless differs from the above description. Thanks to the availability of the fiber network, Luminate can place many more nodes closer to homes with fiber-fed radios at considerably shorter distances. More nodes plus closer proximity to your home equals a better internet experience. The power of our network also means we don’t put as much demand on one single connection point as other providers do, which means your internet signal won’t slow during peak usage time.

There are claims that suggest fixed wireless can provide great “fiber-like” speeds, which is true in Luminate’s case. Luminate is uniquely positioned to deliver the same quality of service over fixed wireless as in our present fiber areas.

## HOW IS FIBER DIFFERENT?

Fiber transmits light pulses through wavelengths; is not shared (there is a direct connection to your home); is unaffected

by weather; and is the most commonly deployed network in the world. Luminate Broadband’s fiberoptic network is new, the equipment is state-of-the-art and customers never experience any degradation of speed during peak usage times.

This may seem biased — and it is — but they’re the facts. Luminate is building a network with you in mind. We know what other internet service players lack, and our goal is to provide the Yampa Valley with the best internet service available on the market today.

With Luminate’s fiber internet, you get fast, symmetrical speeds (up to 1 gig!); more reliability and fewer disruptions; local customer service; and a network that is scalable, more secure and trustworthy.

Now that you have a better understanding of the competitive landscape and the anatomy of internet, connect with Luminate Broadband today. We promise you it will be the best and last internet decision you’ll ever make.

Check availability for your home or business at [luminatebroadband.com](http://luminatebroadband.com). It’s fiber and it’s what we do best.



## OPERATION ROUND UP SUPPORTS ART PROGRAM AT LOCAL SCHOOL



▲ The new kiln at Soroco school was made possible by a donation from YVEA’s Operation Round Up program.

Thanks to a donation from Yampa Valley Electric Association’s Operation Round Up program, Soroco students are enjoying a new kiln in their art class. “It has been such a stress relief to know that the students’ precious [ceramic] artwork fires successfully every time,” Secondary Art Teacher Jody Elston said. “Soroco students appreciate all that you do for us.”

The mission of Operation Round Up is to extend the principle on which electric cooperatives were built over 75 years ago — neighbor helping neighbor. “Small change that changes lives” is the foundation upon which Operation Round Up is built.

YVEA members have the option to round their energy bill up to the nearest dollar, and the donated cents add up to big changes in our communities.

To learn more or to sign up today, please contact member services at 970-879-1160.



**NOTICE: The YVEA Board of Directors has made changes to the Colorado Rules, Regulations and Extension Policy effective February 15, 2022. For more information visit [yvea.com/service-rules-and-regulations](http://yvea.com/service-rules-and-regulations).**