

Y-W ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

MARCH 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

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.

ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

Y-W ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

MARCH 21, 2019

The 74th Annual Meeting of the Members of Y-W Electric Association, Inc., was convened at 6:30 p.m. on March 21, 2019, at the Wray High School gym, Wray, Colorado, pursuant to notice required by the Bylaws of the Association.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Manager Trent Loutensock led the members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION

Pastor Ben Wentworth gave the invocation.

DRAWING – GRAND PRIZE

Manager Loutensock announced that the names of two members of the Association were drawn by a member of the Credentials Committee from a drum containing the names of all members. The names were each put in separate envelopes. The first member drawn will be the winner of the \$5,000 grand prize provided that member is present at the meeting. If that member is not present, the second member drawn will be the winner provided that member is present. The names of two members attending the meeting were drawn from a different drum containing names of all members that registered at the meeting. They will be the winners of the \$250 and \$500 prizes and their names were also placed in envelopes to be opened at the end of the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

President Roger Schenk called the meeting to order.

APPOINTMENT OF CREDENTIALS AND ELECTION COMMITTEE

President Schenk introduced the members

who have been appointed to serve on the Credentials and Election Committee.

- Charlotte Ritchey (Chair)
- Jerry Patterson
- Leo Pieper
- Tom Fuller
- Arnella Corliss
- Kenneth Henry
- Byron McCall
- Max Olsen
- Peggy Brown
- Junior Weisshaar (Alternate)
- Elva Masters (Alternate)

INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF

President Schenk introduced the members of the Board of Directors, their wives who were present and members of the Y-W staff.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Manager Loutensock introduced guests.

QUORUM AND VOTING RULES

Attorney Levi Williamson reviewed the bylaw provisions relating to quorum and voting rules.

REPORT OF ATTENDANCE

Brandee Bullard, Office Manager, reported that there were 294 members registered for the meeting and this constitutes a quorum for the conducting of any business that might come before the meeting, including the election of directors.

READING OF NOTICE OF MEETING

Secretary Joneal Young read the Notice of Annual Meeting, which includes the time and place of the annual meeting, proof of publication, and the names of nominees for each of the vacancies on the Board of Directors.

APPROVE 2018**ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

It was properly moved, seconded and carried that the reading of the minutes of the Annual Meeting of Members held March 15, 2018 at Akron, Colorado, be dispensed with and approved as published in the *Colorado Country Life* magazine.

INTRODUCTION OF NOMINEES FOR DIRECTOR

Attorney Williamson introduced the nominees for Director:

- Robert Bledsoe - District 1
- Roger Schenk - District 4
- Stuart Travis - District 8
- Randall Franck - District 8

Candidates Stuart Travis and Randall Franck addressed the membership. Floor ballots were collected. Floor ballots and previously received mail ballots were counted in a separate room with oversight by the credentials committee.

2018 CREA CAMP DELEGATES

Andy Molt introduced the students that Y-W sent to the 2018 CREA Camp. They were: Austin McCracken, Arickaree; Kevin Hurley, Akron; Ruby Halcomb, Otis; Heather Vance, Lone Star. They gave a slide-show presentation of their time at the camp.

2019 CREA CAMP DELEGATES

Andy Molt announced the delegates for the 2019 CREA camp and Washington D.C. Youth Tour. They are Joseph Barr, Wray, Youth Tour; Elija Myers, Arickaree; Talon Glanz, Idalia; and Orian Wagers, Akron.

2019 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Andy Molt announced the 2019 Scholarship winners. They are:

Four Year Y-W \$1000 Renewable Scholarships

- Cheyenne McGuire - Akron
- Derek Poss - Akron

Y-W \$1000 One Time Scholarships

- Levi Kipp - Akron
- Tyson Lichty - Liberty
- Megan Waitman - Idalia
- Kathleen Pachner - Akron
- Connor Buchanan - Arickaree
- Arturo Ramos - Arickaree
- Hanna Ellis - Wray
- Garrett Hurlburt - Idalia
- Breann Shaffer - Idalia
- Ruby Halcomb - Otis
- Dawson McMillion - Akron

Basin \$1000 Scholarship

- Tayler Clarkson - Akron

Y-W \$500 One Time Scholarships

- Logan Klein - Yuma
- Kyle Neubauer - Wray
- Makenna Metzler - Otis
- Anthony Dreher - Akron
- Jeron Lippert - Wray
- Cade Hillman - Wray

Tri-State \$500 Scholarships

- Dennis Houston - Wray
- Austin McCracken - Arickaree

Continuing Ed \$500

- Austin Blomstrom - Western Nebraska Community College
- Shayna Mason - CU
- Alexys McQuire - University of Wyoming
- Brandon Schenk - CSU
- Madalyn Soehner - Kansas State University

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Loutensock presented his report with the aid of a slideshow. He presented and discussed the balance sheet, statement of revenue, expenses, and margins. The financial reports were for the year 2018. At the end of 2018 the assets of Y-W were \$118,973,449. Y-W's long-term debt is \$40,508,758. Total member capital credits is \$61,638,735. The current and accrued liabilities are \$16,825,956.

The irrigation consumers paid over \$20,000,000.00 towards the 2018 operating costs of Y-W. This is 48% of the total revenue received. Y-W's residential consumers provided 15% of Y-W's revenue. Commercial sales amounted to \$14,510,531 or 33.1%. Other electric revenue was 0.5% of the total revenue and was \$225,978. Non-electric revenue was 1% of the total revenue. Y-W's share of Tri-State capital credits for 2018 is \$1,041,002. This is 2.4%. It is not cash at this time, but it will be returned to Y-W in the future. These capital credits will be returned to Y-W members as Tri-State retires capital credits. The total revenue received is \$43,829,176.

Loutensock reported on expenses. 70.6% was spent to purchase the electricity used by Y-W members. This was \$28,940,729. The operation and maintenance total was just under \$7,000,000.00 and was 17% of the operating expense. The next three areas, depreciation, property taxes, and interest, amounted to 12.4% of the operating costs. Depreciation of Y-W facilities amounted to \$2,723,166. Property taxes paid were over \$760,000 and the interest expense of Y-W was just over \$1.57 million. The total cost of providing electricity was \$40,972,236.

Y-W's 2018 operating margin from the sale of electricity was \$1,354,854. There was \$274,938 earned from interest and other non-electric sales. Capital credits that were allocated to Y-W from Tri-State amounted to \$1,041,002. Other capital credits and patronage dividends received by Y-W were \$184,685. The total margin in 2018 was \$2,855,479.

Loutensock reported on capital credits returned to Y-W members. The total refunded to past Y-W consumers has amounted to over \$30 million. The monies refunded during the last 10 years is over \$16 million. This is money that members of a cooperative receive.

Loutensock reported on the growth of Y-W. In 1974 Y-W had 5,302 consumers. The number of consumers peaked in 2014 at 8,930. The number has gone down slightly, during the last three years. Y-W's kilowatt-hour sales do vary considerably from year to year. The variability is due to the large irrigation load Y-W serves. Y-W's peak summer load is about 130 MW and the winter load is about 30 MW. Y-W has approximately 100 MW of irrigation load. The sales to irrigation is highly dependent on the amount of rain in the summer which varies greatly from year to year. The most Y-W has ever sold in a year was 413,106,000 kWh, which occurred in 2012. It was one of the hottest and driest years during this time period.

Loutensock reported on Y-W's assets. The largest items are Net Plant at over \$76 million and Tri-State capital credits which is over \$32 million. Assets have increased as new and replacement utility plant is built and as Tri-State allocates their margins.

Loutensock reported on the Republican River Compact. The compact allocates the water of the Republican River among Colorado, Nebraska and Kansas. The compact was signed in 1942. The Republican River drains most of the Y-W service territory. In the late 1990s Kansas sued Nebraska over reduced flow into Kansas from Nebraska, and Colorado was later brought into the suit. The special master appointed by the supreme court made the critical decision in the case that the ground water in the Ogallala formation is tied to the surface flows in the Republican River. The state legislature authorized the establishment of the Republican River Water Conservation District to bring Colorado into compliance with the compact.

A long-term agreement with Kansas and Nebraska has been reached which includes:

Water is being pumped from the sandhills north of Laird and delivered through a pipeline that dumps into the North Fork of the Republican River just before the Nebraska state line. Colorado gets 100% credit for the water delivered. Bonny Dam has been drained so the seepage and evaporation will not be counted against Colorado.

Colorado will retire 25,000 irrigated acres in the South Fork Basin. Y-W serves about 35% of the wells in the basin. In addition, Colorado has paid Nebraska \$4,000,000 for being out of compliance from 2003 to 2013.

A lawsuit is ongoing concerning surface rights on the South Fork of the Republican River which has the potential to shut down pumping groundwater for irrigation. Y-W continues to monitor the situation and analyze the effect this program will have on Y-W.

Loutensock reported on system improvements made in 2018. Y-W completed several distribution line rebuilding projects. 4.0 miles of three-phase overhead line were upgraded to larger conductor. 22.1 miles of single-phase power line was rebuilt with larger conductor. Y-W replaced 0.6 miles of underground primary cable. Y-W installed 43 new services. Y-W also retired 55 idle services.

Last year Y-W had a contractor inspect 8,125 poles. They found 201 poles that need to be replaced. Y-W replaced 297 power poles with 374 poles, some of which were found the previous year.

Loutensock thanked Y-W's employees and directors for their hard work and dedicated service, and Y-W's members for their support.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Schenk reviewed some of the high points of 2018. He reported on the new headquarters building and Y-W's AMI system. He

also reported that Y-W received Pinnacle Assurance's Circle of Safety award.

TRI-STATE REPORT

Jim Soehner, Y-W's Representative on the Tri-State G&T Board of Directors, reported on the history of Y-W's power supplier Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc.

APPROVAL OF REPORTS

It was properly moved, seconded and carried that the members accept and approve the reports presented at the meeting and approve the actions of the Board of Directors for the year 2018.

PRIZE DRAWINGS

Throughout the meeting, drawings for prizes were conducted by Manager Loutensock. Jon and Jane Roberts were drawn for the \$5,000 prize. They were not present, so the second envelope was opened. Donald and Pamela Drummond were on the second card. They were not present, so the prize was not awarded.

ADJOURNMENT

President Schenk called for any other business that should come before the meeting, and, hearing none, ruled that the meeting be adjourned.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The ballots were still being counted at the time of adjournment. After the meeting was adjourned, the following candidates were announced as winners of their respective elections:

Robert Bledsoe - District 1
 Roger Schenk - District 4
 Stuart Travis - District 8

Roger Schenk, President
 Joneal Young, Secretary



Reap What You Sow

Stay safe during planting season

Long hours and fatigue are a constant battle for farmers during planting season. If you farm, remember to take care of yourself by getting as much rest as possible and allowing yourself breaks to clear your head. [Rodney Seaman-891902102]

Be especially aware of electrical hazards around the farm. Be cautious and think twice before working around electricity and electrical equipment. Y-W Electric Association and Safe Electricity offer farmers the following reminders:

- If your machinery or vehicle comes in contact with a power line, do not get out. Once contact has been made with a live line (even when your tractor or truck makes contact), you are now a pathway to ground and you could get electrocuted if you step out. Instead, stay where you are and call 911 to dispatch the appropriate utility to de-energize the power.
- If you come across an accident or incident near a downed power line, alert individuals from a distance to stay in the tractor or vehicle if there is no imminent danger. Do not approach the scene. [Gregory L. Klein-720700501]

- When using machinery with long extensions or tall antennas, and when using ladders, look up to avoid contact with overhead power lines.
- Even if there is no contact, an electrical current can jump or arc. Keep equipment at least 10 feet from surrounding power lines at all times.
- Remember, nonmetallic materials, such as tree limbs, ropes and hay, can conduct electricity, depending on dampness and dust or dirt accumulation. [Shane and Lindsey Galles-731628002]
- Visually inspect overhead lines, which may not meet height codes due to age or pole damage. If a wire is hanging low or is on the ground, consider it energized and stay at least 50 feet away; call 911 to have the operator dispatch the utility.
- Every day, map out where equipment will be moved to ensure it will clear power lines. [Devin and Tami Ridnour-1141113301]
- When working in the vicinity of power lines, always use a spotter who has a broad vantage point.
- Train anyone working with or for you (including seasonal employees) to be aware of power line locations and teach them proper clearance distance. Also design and implement a safety training program that includes a review of electrical hazards and how to safely deal with power lines.
- According to American Family Insurance, “Know your PTO.” To stay safe when working with a power take off (PTO), always disengage the PTO, turn off the engine and remove keys before getting off the tractor. Also, never step across a rotating power shaft.

For more information on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org. [Roger and Joan Deines-1140315502]

BILLING CORNER

Have you checked our website at 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 register, you can make payments, view your history or contact our office. You can also choose to go paperless. With the paperless option, an email will be sent on the day the bills are generated to let you know you have a new bill available. This is optional for consumer-members. 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 devices and iPhones. Bill payments can be made through SmartHub on your mobile device.

Y-W Electric does not use a third-party for payments. If you are charged a fee for making a payment, this is not being made on our website. For your security, please make sure you are logged into our website, ywelectric.coop, when making a payment; or use the Y-W Electric 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 January 2022 issue:

- Robert L. Richmond
- Barney and Jessica Filla
- Lila M. Harms