

Y-W ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 2022



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.

CELEBRATING MEMBERSHIP October is National Co-op Month

BY TRENT LOUTENSOCK GENERAL MANAGER

Fall is a busy time. October is a particularly eventful month with school, community and sports activities in full swing. It's also when all cooperatives celebrate National Co-op Month.

When I say Y-W Electric Association, Inc. celebrates Co-op Month, it really means we are celebrating you, our consumer-member. After all, our co-op wouldn't exist without you. [Francis M & Kathy S O'Donnell, 991400912]

Our core business purpose is to serve as your electricity provider, but the larger mission of the co-op is to help make our corner of the world a better place. "Concern for community" is one of seven guiding principles that all co-ops share.

Similar to how our wires run through our service territory, our concern for community flows through all of our decisions, because being a co-op means being a responsible partner and good neighbor.

Y-W Electric works to help our community thrive through initiatives led by our employees and local board, which is composed of neighbors who live right here in our community. Because we're local, we understand our community's unique needs and strive to help meet them.

We're proud to support local youth through our Youth Tour, camp and scholarship programs, donations to civic groups and county 4-H councils, and safety demonstrations. Y-W Electric donates to Energy Outreach Colorado to provide assistance to our community's most vulnerable. We support our area food banks and other charitable organizations and fire departments.



TRENT LOUTENSOCK

The word "cooperative" is close to "cooperation," defined as people working together toward a common goal: mutually benefiting one another and the larger community. That's the essence of the cooperative spirit. Our employees and member-elected board of directors are invested in the community in which they live and serve.

Above all, as a co-op we put our consumer-members' priorities first. As your trusted energy partner, we know that saving energy and money is important to you, which is why we have numerous programs in place to help, including energy efficiency rebates, home energy usage audits and energy efficiency advisory services.

We want to empower you to manage energy use at home. If you haven't already, I encourage you take a moment and download our SmartHub app. Through the app, you can conveniently monitor and manage your energy use. And, of course, we're here to help. Give us a call if you have questions about your energy bills.

Y-W Electric is continuously examining ways to operate more efficiently while continuing to provide the highest level of friendly, reliable service you expect and deserve. After all, we're your local co-op and we were built by the consumer-members we serve. [Primitivo Trejo, 833631300]

ON TIME BILL PAYING

Each year, Y-W Electric Association, Inc., must write off the balances left unpaid by consumers-members disconnecting their services. While this amount is not an exceptionally large amount, the cost to the cooperative is a burden carried by all consumer-members. This cost has been lowered by three things: First, by doing a better job collecting amounts due. Second, by administering a more consistent deposit procedure. Third, by educating our consumer-members so they realize that paying the electric bill is as important as paying the mortgage. [Jessie A. Crider Jr., 2066009417]

Many times, paying your bills is a simple matter of priorities. Obviously, shelter is the number one priority for most people. Next would be heat, lights, food and basic clothing. We at Y-W Electric think your electric bill payment should be taken as seriously as your mortgage or rent payment. Paying on time helps our cash flow and helps the cooperative run as efficiently as possible. Plus it helps to keep rates as low as possible. When you pay late or don't pay at all, you affect the rest of Y-W Electric consumer-members.

We have an average of 750 consumer-members each month who receive delinquent notices. More than 1,200 notices are printed. The cost of these notices and the postage required is a cost to the cooperative that is paid by all consumer-members. Sometimes it is simply a mail delay. However, more than 100 consumers each month require a second contact. This is by telephone, direct lineman

contact or a door tag. Our collection employees treat everyone with respect while they impress upon the consumer-member that payment is needed to prevent disconnection. [Robert D. & Cassey A. Rahm, 742902801]

Y-W Electric has more than 3,700 consumer-members with more than 8,500 meter locations. At least 80% pay on time. We truly appreciate consumer-members who treat their electric bill with the seriousness it deserves. We hope that those consumer-members who wait for that extra nudge to pay their bill will come to understand that a late bill payment is a cost that affects the amount everyone has to pay for electric service. By paying on time, every consumer-member avoids the possibility of a contact charge or even an after-hours charge for reconnection. [Laird Community Center, 1340600400]

If you need help with your bills, please call the billing department. Payment options are available, including budget plans and automatic bank payment plans. Help us keep our costs at a minimum so everyone will benefit being a consumer-member of Y-W Electric.



Congratulations to the winners claiming \$20 from the August 2022 Issue:

Rebecca A. Remington

Gary W. and Sharilyn K. Mansfield

Attention High School Juniors

WASHINGTON DC YOUTH TOUR

Now Accepting Applications



Want to go on an intriguing, all-expense-paid experience this summer to the nation's capital? Then go to ywelectric.coop to obtain an application. Submit your application to the Y-W Electric office by December 16, 2022.

**Deadline to Apply:
December 16, 2022**

APPLY TODAY

The Washington D.C. Youth Tour begins in Denver on June 12. Students will visit our state Capitol 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 be 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. They'll tour 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 more than 1,500 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.

APPLY NOW FOR YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP 2023

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, CO



**Y
W** ELECTRIC
ASSOCIATION, INC.

CONTACT YW ELECTRIC at 970-345-2291
APPLICATION DEADLINE: 12/16/2022

VISIT YWELECTRIC.COOP for more information.

On July 15-20, 2023, about one hundred students are chosen and sponsored by rural electric cooperatives from all over Colorado, Kansas, Wyoming and Oklahoma to attend Youth Leadership Camp. The camp is designed to provide a better understanding of cooperatives, 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, but 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 taken up with 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 Association. The selection process is conducted similarly to a job interview so applicants will gain experience in that area.

- Applications available on our website, ywelectric.coop.
- For more information, please see your guidance counselor or call Andy Molt at Y-W Electric 970-345-2291. He will answer any questions.

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

What would you do if you came upon a downed power line?

While typically not an everyday occurrence, overhead power lines, pad-mount transformers (green boxes) or other electrical equipment can become damaged due to the effects of storms, fires, car accidents, animal interference or a car slipping off the road.

(Spoiler alert. Do not do any of these things.) If you were in an accident involving a downed overhead power line, would you get out of the car and run? If you saw a car accident involving a downed line or damaged green box, would you run to the scene to help? If you saw a downed line across a road, would you approach it or try to move it?

Any of these actions can cause serious injury or death by electrocution. Downed lines and other damaged equipment can energize the ground, nearby people and

objects. Never go near a downed power line or try to move it with an object. Electricity can jump from a wire or object straight to you, its quickest path to ground.

The safest place to be after an accident involving a downed power line is inside your vehicle or cab. Unless your vehicle is on fire or giving off smoke, here is what you should do:

1. Stay inside your vehicle or cab.
2. Call 911 and report that there are downed or damaged power lines.
3. Try to remain calm.
4. Wait for the Y-W Electric Association, Inc., crew to arrive and de-energize the power.
5. Do not get out until someone from the utility says it is safe to do so.

If you must get out of the vehicle because it is on fire, cross your arms over

your chest and make a clean, solid jump out, then intentionally hop with your feet together as far away as you can. If you are unable to make solid hops, shuffle with your feet close together.

When you exit, do not touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time — you could become electricity's path to ground from "touch potential" (touching something energized and the ground at the same time).

Hopping helps avoid "step potential" (placing each foot at a different voltage). When electricity escapes into the ground, it is likened to ripples in a pond, with each ripple representing a different voltage.

To learn more about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

DON'T MISS OUT ON FREE MONEY FROM Y-W ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

GET YOUR APPLICATIONS IN PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE TO COMPETE FOR THE FOLLOWING SCHOLARSHIPS:

Y-W Electric* \$1,000/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 G&T \$500 scholarships

Y-W Electric* \$1,000 line technician training scholarship

* Y-W Electric scholarships are funded by unclaimed capital credits.

For more information, please see your high school guidance counselor or call Andy Molt at Y-W Electric 970-345-2291. He will be happy to answer any questions.

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 home-schooling program or be a continuing college student.
- ✓ You must maintain full-time resident student status.
- ✓ Semesters must be continuous excluding summer.
- ✓ You must provide copy of grade transcript to Y-W Electric 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, ywelectric.coop, beginning October 2022.
- ✓ Applications must be emailed or delivered to Y-W prior to 5 p.m. January 31, 2023.
- ✓ Applications received after January 31, 2023 WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED, regardless of postmark.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE THROUGH Y-W ELECTRIC



APPLY TODAY!

