

Y-W ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 2022



MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box Y
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STREET 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.

We will be closed **November 11**
for Veterans Day,
November 24 and 25
for Thanksgiving.

CELEBRATING MEMBERSHIP October is National Co-op Month

BY TRENT LOUTENSOCK GENERAL MANAGER

“Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.” In the spirit of this quote by author William Arthur Ward, I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for your membership in our electric cooperative. Because of your connection to Y-W Electric Association, Inc., we all make our community a better place.

I use this space to provide updates on new projects and developments and to report on the progress of ongoing initiatives. We share these updates so all of our consumer-members have a window into our priorities, progress and challenges. But I also use this column to share our appreciation of you, our members. During this season of giving thanks, I think it’s especially important to let all of you know just what an impact you have on Y-W Electric Association, Inc., and the greater community, likely in ways you may not even realize.

As part of the cooperative business model, one of our core principles is “concern for community.” While our priority is always to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy, we view our role in the community as a catalyst for good.

We work closely with our local schools to provide safety demonstrations, award college scholarships and sponsor youth groups. Y-W Electric Association, Inc., also participates in an annual Youth Tour where we take our community’s brightest young people to Washington, D.C., for a weeklong immersion to experience democracy in action. The trip is inspirational for many students, and we are both humbled and honored to be a part of this leadership development journey. Ultimately, the larger community benefits from these programs because of you. You empower the co-op



TRENT LOUTENSOCK

through your membership and through your participation in and support of these programs. [A Fred & Ardith B Kerst 1360704300]

When you attend co-op events, alert us to problems and provide suggestions online or to our employees, you help us improve operations and thereby better serve the larger co-op membership.

We are thankful that our co-op board members carve out time to attend important training sessions, participate in planning meetings and keep abreast of industry trends. This investment of time results in better-informed advisors that serve Y-W Electric Association, Inc.’s interests in a way that our consumer-members expect and deserve.

On a more personal note, we appreciate the countless acts of kindness our linemen and other employees receive when they are working in severe weather and dangerous conditions. Our employees are thankful for your patience and consideration when we try to restore power during challenging situations and prolonged periods.

Y-W Electric Association, Inc. was originally established 75 years ago to bring electricity to our area when no one else would. The cooperative is a reflection of our local community and its evolving needs. Together, let’s continue making our corner of the world a better place. We can’t do it without you, and for that, we’re thankful for your membership.

BILLING CORNER

Smart Hub Bill Pay & More

For convenience, Y-W Electric offers the ability to pay your account with a “Smart Hub” app. This service allows you to pay your bill electronically with a credit or debit card or checking account. This is also a great place to go to get account information. Information on Billing History, Usage, Payment History and Past Billing Invoices are available. There is also a link to sign up for Auto Payment.

You can report an outage on Smart Hub. This information goes directly to our Operations Department in an email. This leaves our phone lines open for those who do not have Smart Hub available. [Keith S Damrow 2432009700]

The app is compatible with iPhones as well as androids. Check out our website at www.ywelectric.coop for more information.

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

Riverside Farms
Don Keller
Rodney & Bridgette Mason
Alan D Welp
Rob Church



Our Hours are Changing

Y-W Electric moves to winter hour operations beginning Monday, November 7.

Monday-Friday
8 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



BE SAFE ON THE HUNT

- Always implement firearm safety techniques.
- Do not lean a tree stand against a utility pole.
- Never fire toward power lines or equipment.



STAY SAFE WHILE HUNTING

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that 101.6 million Americans participate in wildlife-related activities each year, including hunting, fishing and wildlife-watching. It is estimated that there are 11.5 million hunters and nearly 36 million anglers.

Hunters should put safety first, as incidents and accidents do happen. Cardiac disease, lacerations and tree-stand accidents are the most common reasons for hunters to visit the emergency room.

Be safe out there and follow these guidelines:

1. Watch for the warning signs of a heart attack or other life-threatening condition. Hunters can walk far distances when shooting and dragging an animal. Completing these activities, especially if the person is not otherwise active, can increase the heart rate and induce heart attacks. [David Gebauer 242104001]
2. Wear a full-body harness when in a tree stand to prevent falls that can cause serious injury.
3. Check tree stands regularly; they can deteriorate over time.
4. Do not lean tree stands against utility

poles. Keep them far from overhead power lines.

5. Watch for power lines in wooded areas. Make sure they will not be in your line of sight when shooting.
6. Write a hunting plan and share it with loved ones. Where will the hunt take place and for how long?
7. Have a way to get in touch with the outside world. Keep your cellphone in a pocket rather than in a pack. Take a portable battery charger.
8. Know the hunting area. Check National Forest boundaries and avoid private land. Survey the area for potential electrical hazards. [Amanda J Bales 2001005005]
9. Always carry a first-aid kit.
10. Respect firearms: Have the safety on, handle the gun as though it is always loaded, always point it away from others and know what and where the target is.
11. Do not fire at power lines, insulators or conductor cans. They can drop to the ground and energize it or cause a fire.
12. Wear blaze orange.

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.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE THROUGH Y-W ELECTRIC



APPLY TODAY!

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 a 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.



EMPOWER CHILDREN TO STAY SAFE OUTDOORS

According to the National Institutes of Health, electricity causes approximately 1,000 deaths and 30,000 injuries in the United States each year, 20% of which are children. Empower your family with electrical safety knowledge that can potentially save their lives. Always remember that electricity is everywhere, even when playing outdoors, away from screens and other plug-in devices.

- Electrical substations may spark a child's imagination with high towers and sprawling gates, but make sure your children know never to enter one for any reason. An adult should call Y-W Electric Association or help if a lost pet or toy enters one.
- Always assume that power lines are energized and dangerous. Inform children to stay away from downed or low-hanging power lines and ask them to tell an adult if they see one. Y-W Electric will send a professional to assist.
- Children should never play with, climb on or open padmount transformers or outdoor electrical "green" boxes. They contain electrical equipment for underground service to homes and businesses and may be dangerous. If children see a box that is open or damaged, they should stay away from it and tell an adult to contact Y-W Electric.
- While it may look like fun, never play on a flooded street or in a water-filled ditch. The water may hide fallen power lines or damaged electrical equipment, which could cause serious injury or death.
- Do not plan outdoor activities if a thunderstorm is expected. Wait at least 30 minutes after the last observed clap of thunder or lightning bolt to play outside.
- If enjoying the outdoors near water, such as a lake or pool, never use electronics with damp hands or while standing in water.
- Kites and other flying devices, such as toy airplanes or drones, should be used only in large, open areas far away from power lines and electrical equipment. [Donald G. and Susan G. Rogers 1150109702]

For more information on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Each month, Y-W Electric offers consumer-members a chance to earn a \$20 credit on their next electric bill. If you find 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. You must claim your credit during the month in which your name appears in the magazine. (Check the date on the front cover.)

APPLY NOW FOR YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP 2023



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 100 students, chosen and sponsored by rural electric cooperatives from all over Colorado, Kansas, Wyoming and Oklahoma, will 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 and also provides an excellent learning experience. Field trips are planned to tour solar farms and other electric co-op operations. 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 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.