

Y-W ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY 2023

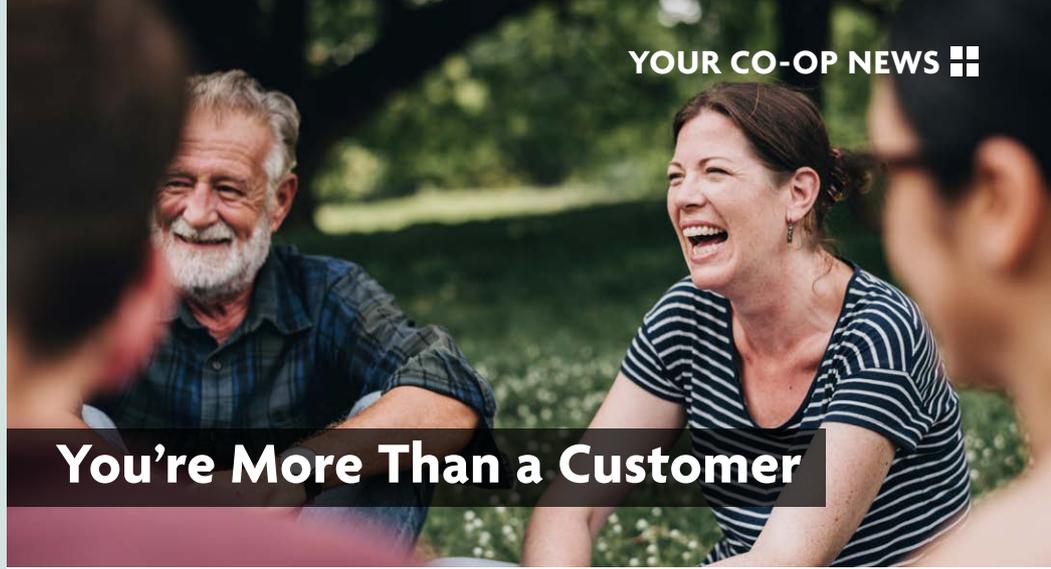
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Akron, CO 80720**ph** 970-345-2291
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web ywelectric.coop**Y-W Electric Association, Inc.**

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.



Each month, Y-W Electric Association 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.)



You're More Than a Customer

BY TRENT LOUTENSOCK GENERAL MANAGER

Author Anthony J. D'Angelo said, "Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community."

To a large degree, this reflects Y-W Electric Association's philosophy toward our consumer-members and the broader service territory we serve. As a cooperative, we have a different "bottom line." While our priority is always to provide reliable and safe energy, there is another equally important part of this equation. Your well-being and that of the larger community that we serve are of paramount concern.



TRENT LOUTENSOCK

To us, you are not just a customer; you are a consumer-member of our co-op and without you, we would not exist. [Wieser Farms LP & Dennis Wieser 1171902100]

In 1945, Y-W Electric Association was founded to fulfill a vital need in our community that would not have otherwise been met. Concerned local leaders came together to build this co-op and bring electricity where there was none.

At that time, members of the community understood we were different because they likely knew someone who helped to create Y-W Electric Association. For most people, our founding and its circumstances are long forgotten. Over time, folks in the community may have come to think of us as simply another energy provider. But we are not. We are a co-op that is constantly evolving to meet the needs of the communities we serve, and we can do this because of consumer-members like you.

We strive to find new ways to help you use energy more efficiently. We're always looking to explore more options that will help you manage your energy use, such as energy efficiency audits, appliance rebates and budget billing programs. In short, we are always seeking to keep pace with the changing energy environment, evolving technology and shifting consumer expectations. [Rick Conner 2053001007]

Y-W Electric Association members help guide important co-op decisions that improve and enrich the community. We value the perspective of our board members, who are members of the co-op and community — just like you.

As a local business, we have a stake in the community. That's why we support local chambers of commerce, fire departments and youth groups. When we support these efforts, we support the community and make it a better place for everyone.

While the times have changed, our mission and outlook have not. We view our role as a catalyst for good. Working together, we can accomplish great things for our community now and in the future.



BILLING CORNER

SIGNING UP FOR SERVICE

When a new consumer comes into our office or calls to connect an account to his/her name, the information given at that time is 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. For instance, here 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 and 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. [Frank DeShane Jr 3026005007]
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.
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 more than one party.
4. Irrigation accounts are always connected into the landowner's name. The responsibility of payment for electric usage on the service is ultimately the landowners; however, bills can be mailed to one or both parties.

These are just a few 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. [Michael Penn 2501005031]

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



Congratulations to the winners claiming \$20 from the November 2022 issue:

Jerry Martinez & Kimberly Seybels
Stacy Imhof
Kristy K. McNulty

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Do you have a home office? Set equipment like printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use. In addition to saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life.

Another way to save in the home office is to use energy efficient lamps for task lighting. Small lamps use less energy than whole-room lighting.



2023 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

EV Chargers

Rebates up-to \$500 for level 2

Induction Cooktops

\$100 replacing electric cooktop or range

\$350 New Construction or replacing Gas

Electric Outdoor Power Equipment

Mowers, Snow Blowers, Bicycles, Chainsaws, Trimmers, Pruners, Leaf Blowers and Pressure Washers. **Contact Member Services for details**

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



KNOWING THE RIGHT THING TO DO Around Power Lines Can Save Your Life

Stay in the car or cab and call 9-1-1

Seventeen-year-old Mary Gehrig was driving home from a friend's house on a stormy June night in North Dakota. Although some cars had pulled over to wait out the rain and wind, Mary was close to home and thought she could make it.



MARY GEHRIG

Around 25 minutes into her 30-minute drive, Mary turned onto the county road that would take her home. Although there was near-zero visibility due to the storm, which had become much more severe than originally forecast, she noticed two white lines in the distance. As she got closer, she realized those lines were across the road, in her path, and they were anything but small.

"I realized I was not going to (be able to) drive over it," Gehrig recalls. She slammed on the brakes and her car struck the first of the objects lying across the road, one of two high-voltage transmission power lines. The massive cable stopped Mary's car in its tracks. The car's electrical system was immediately damaged, and she was stuck there alone during the storm.

The next thing Mary did was pick up her phone to call her parents. When her dad heard there was a downed power line involved, he told her to stay where she was, remain in the car, and call 911.

Fire Chief Rich Schock, who was part of the team at the scene that night, said, "Those are large transmission lines with a lot of volts in them," adding that the outcome could have been fatal had Mary gotten out. "Mary did everything right," he said.

When there is an accident involving downed power lines, a pad-mount transformer, or other related equipment, drivers should remember these safety tips:

- Do not get out of the vehicle until electric utility workers say it is safe to exit. [Gregory Terrell 981104700]
- Warn those involved in the accident to stay put and alert others who might approach to stay back.
- Call 911 and report that a downed line or other electrical equipment is involved.

Exiting the vehicle is the last resort and should be attempted only if the car is on fire or giving off smoke. If this is the case, exit the vehicle by crossing your arms and jumping from the vehicle without touching it. Then, hop with both feet together as far as you can.



To watch Mary's full story or to learn more, visit bit.ly/3j5WmGX.

POWER LINES THAT GALLOP COULD MEAN AN OUTAGE

Galloping power lines may sound ridiculous, but they really do occur and can be dangerous. These lines can bounce and buck enough to hit another line, damage themselves enough to cause a power outage, or even fall to the ground.

"The most common cause of galloping lines is ice that builds up on one side of a power line as a result of strong winds," explains Erin Hollinshead, executive director of the Energy Education Council's Safe Electricity program. "This buildup creates an airfoil, which changes the flow of air around the normally round line. This change in air flow can cause the power line to start to bounce."

Once galloping starts, there is not much a power company can do to alleviate it until winds die down. This is why many power lines have objects such as twisted wire or round or angular pieces of metal attached to the line. These are devices placed on power lines to help reduce the galloping of lines and prevent potential danger.

If you encounter galloping lines, stay away, warn others to stay away, and contact your utility. In addition to the possibility of power outages, there is a danger of the lines or other electrical equipment breaking loose and falling, and of ice being dislodged from the lines and falling to the ground.

Hollinshead adds, "Galloping lines aren't the only danger that windstorms bring. Strong winds can knock down power lines and blow trees and limbs onto power lines, which can also cause power outages."

Storms at any time of the year can pack damaging winds. The Safe Electricity program and Y-W Electric urge you to pay attention to and be aware of weather forecasts so that you can be prepared and not get caught off guard by a wind or ice storm.