

HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

The Beacon

MAY 2023



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Our mission is to provide our members with reliable, high-quality electricity and other needed services, which will improve their economic and social well-being and provide significant long-range benefits for our communities, our state and our nation.



HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION
IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER



Touchstone Energy®

SUMMER HOURS

HEA's Sterling and Holyoke offices will be open Monday – Thursday 7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. from May 1 – September 29.

MAY IS MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

BY DENNIS HERMAN GENERAL MANAGER



DENNIS HERMAN

Service. Mission. Country. You likely identified immediately (and correctly) that these three words describe our nation's veterans. They also succinctly describe a core co-op ethos.

While veterans are innately motivated to serve, in a similar vein, electric co-ops are guided by foundational principles that put their community first. After all, electric co-ops were founded to bring electricity to rural areas where there was none. In doing so, they powered local economies and helped them thrive. I believe this close connection to an essential mission is why there are so many veterans in the utility industry and why they are such a great fit for electric co-ops.

Today's veterans are highly skilled because everyone who joins the military is either trained in a tech career field or exposed to advanced technology during their years of service. Many veterans have skills in advanced disciplines such as engineering, electronics or mechanics, which are all beneficial for the utility industry. Highline Electric is proud to employ three veterans, and we're especially grateful for their contributions to the co-op and our community.

LEADERSHIP AND TEAM-BUILDING SKILLS

Our veteran colleagues joined the co-op equipped with training in leadership and teamwork. That's because while on active duty within their units, military personnel work closely together because they know their lives depend on each other's actions. This fosters a high level of self-discipline, sense of personal responsibility and passion for excellence.

The utility industry is increasingly complex and undergoing profound transformation. While there is the traditional engineering and vegetation management aspect of the utility industry, it now also encompasses technology, cybersecurity and the electrification of the

transportation sector and other areas of the economy. Veterans are adept at responding to changing conditions and learning and adapting to new technologies, which is essential in our evolving industry.

MISSION-ORIENTED OUTLOOK

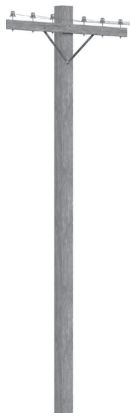
Working for an electric co-op is more than a job. There is a clear mission in the work: to help our consumer-members and the community. When you work so closely with the community, you can't help but feel a sense of commitment and responsibility to our members. It's similar to the sense of duty and responsibility that veterans experience in the military. They feel deep, personal responsibility and commitment to their co-op team members and the members we serve. Veterans are trustworthy, goal oriented and want to do right for their co-op and community.

May is Military Appreciation Month and at HEA, we are grateful to have veterans within our ranks and are proud to serve them and their families within our community. But beyond our gratitude, we demonstrate our deep appreciation through our actions and ongoing commitment to veterans and their families.

At the national level, electric co-ops support the "Vets Power Us" program, which is aimed at employing and honoring veterans and their families. This effort involves partnering with other electric co-ops across the country, along with the Department of Labor, the Department of Defense, the Veterans Administration and others to hire veterans in the energy industry.

May is Military Appreciation Month, and I hope you'll join me in recognizing the sacrifices veterans have made to our great country — and the many contributions they continue to make to our wonderful community. Veterans, we salute you!

POWER POLE TESTING BEGINS



Highline Electric works to provide safe, reliable electricity to its members. Part of that work includes testing power poles. Pole testers will be working throughout the service territory over the next few months. This includes areas in Wages, Wauneta, Alvin and Amitie.

As part of this process, people on ATVs will be around power poles. Please do not be alarmed — they're contracted by Highline Electric to test the condition and quality of our power poles.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact 970-854-2236 and ask to speak to the operations department regarding pole testing.

Attention Load Control Participants

Irrigators: If you signed up for load control for 2023, it begins this month. Please be aware of which option you signed up for. Control dates for options 1, 1A, 2 and 2A include May 12–31, June 21–30 and September 1–10. If you chose either the 1A or 2A options, you could also be controlled one day per week in July and August. If you chose option 3, you may only be controlled one day per week in July and August.

PESTICIDE SAFETY

Please protect our employees



Our employees face serious health risks when they unknowingly enter a field that was sprayed with any chemical. Just as you would not subject your family or employees to risk, we do not want to subject our employees to risk. Please consider the following:

If you used any chemicals on a field, please notify Highline. You may call the office or you can place a flag at the entrance to the field. Please note the day when it is safe to enter the field and what chemical was used.

Notification signs or flags are available free of charge at any Highline office.

If calling in during an outage, please notify Highline if the field was sprayed.

The initial and long-term effects of absorbing chemicals in the body are extremely hazardous to one's health. Please don't subject our employees to these dangers.

Employee Anniversaries

Congratulations to the following Highline Electric employees who observe an employment anniversary in May:



- James Ziebarth, 21 years**
- Jason Doleshall, 13 years**
- Tammy Kroeger, 11 years**
- Landon Shaffer, 10 years**
- Jace Rhodes, 7 years**
- Remington Hielscher, 2 years**
- Tyler Hase, 1 year**



Highline Electric Association 2023 Scholarship Winners

\$1,000 Basin Electric – Member Cooperative Consumer

Amber Lambert — Sterling High School

\$1,000 Highline Electric Scholarship Renewable for Four Years

Ethan Schneller — Holyoke High School
Jack Willeke — Otis High School

\$1,000 Highline Electric Scholarship Four-Year College or University

Nolan Japp — Fleming High School
Kally Kirkwood — Fleming High School
Elise Krogmeier — Holyoke High School
Seth Marick — Caliche High School

\$1,000 Highline Electric Scholarship Two-Year or Technical School

Monte Cook — Merino High School
Kyra Hernandez — Caliche High School
Ana Lockard — Lone Star High School
Alex (Lexi) Schafer — Fleming High School

\$500 Tri-State G & T/Highline Electric

Tanner Gerk — Caliche High School
Alyssa Lock — Haxtun High School





▲ (left to right) Haxtun Hospital District's CEO Dewane Pace and CFO Joleen Stroyek with HEA's Member Services Manager Tad Huser.



▲ Diana Baeza



▲ Sarah Dille

HEA Welcomes Two New Employees

Please help HEA welcome two new employees to the co-op team: Diana Baeza as the payroll clerk in our Holyoke office and Sarah Dille as the member services representative in our Ovid office. Both look forward to serving members. If you see them in the office, extend a warm welcome.

\$1.8 Million Loan Awarded to Haxtun's Downtown Clinic

Highline Electric Association is proud to present Haxtun Hospital District with a \$1.8 million loan for its downtown clinic. HEA and Haxtun Hospital were selected as the recipient of the USDA's Rural Economic Development loan funds.



2022 Property Taxes Paid by Counties Served

Nebraska

County	Amount
Chase	\$ 45,132.18
Deuel	\$ 1,957.14
Dundy	\$ 158.78
Perkins	\$ 3,531.96
Total	\$ 50,780.06

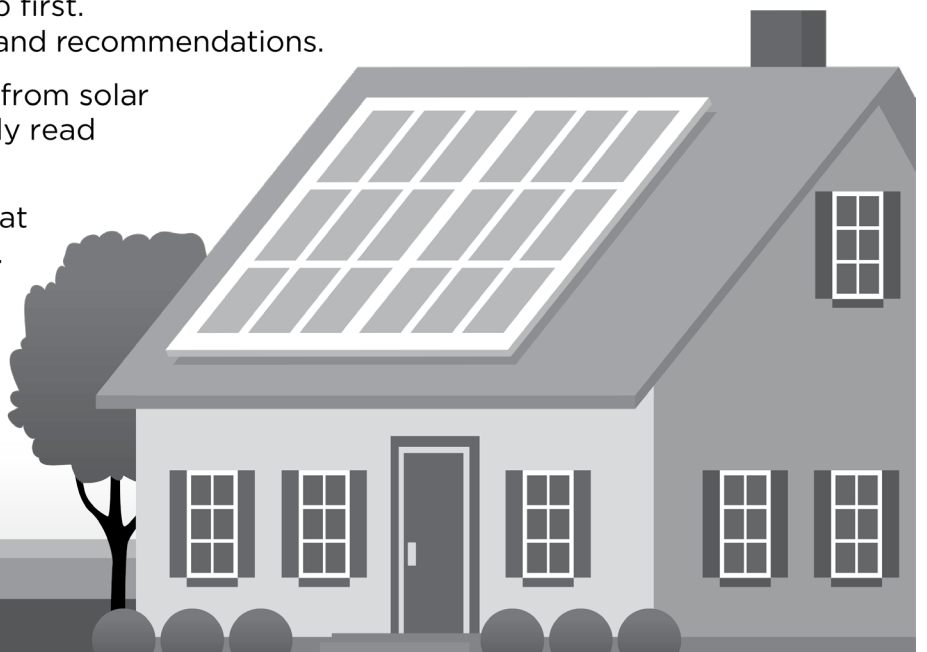
Colorado

County	Amount
Logan	\$ 166,459.00
Morgan	\$ 1,151.88
Phillips	\$ 161,578.84
Sedgwick	\$ 70,335.48
Washington	\$ 10,274.70
Weld	\$ 193.64
Yuma	\$ 59,544.48
Total	\$ 469,538.02

TIPS FOR AVOIDING SOLAR SCAMS

As the popularity of rooftop solar panels increases, so do solar scams. Here are a few tips to consider before you install a solar PV system for your home.

- Talk to your electric co-op first. They can offer guidance and recommendations.
- Get at least three quotes from solar companies and thoroughly read their reviews.
- Avoid solar companies that use high-pressure tactics.
- Don't believe unrealistic promises.
- Only sign clear, easy-to-understand contracts.



2023 HEA ANNUAL MEETING

Highline Electric thanks everyone who attended the 85th Annual Meeting at the Phillips County Event Center in Holyoke. We had approximately 400 members and guests in attendance the evening of March 28. Attendees enjoyed checking out Highline's new Ford F-150 Lightning, winning prizes and eating a brisket meal catered by Happy Jack's located in Holyoke. We're excited for another great year at Highline Electric. Watch your CCL for next year's annual meeting date.



Highline Electric General Manager Dennis Herman speaks to members at the annual meeting.



HEA Chief Financial Officer Jim Jackson delivers co-op financial status and information to the membership.



HEA members enjoy a barbecue meal catered by Happy Jack's, Holyoke



HEA Board President Mike Bennett addresses the co-op membership at the annual meeting.



Tad Huser (left), HEA manager of member services, presents the electric blower prize to Larry & Susan Walters.



HEA member Mary Fulscher wins a 65-inch television at the annual meeting.



HEA employees pass out gifts at the annual meeting.

Thank you!
We hope to see you again next year!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

The location of your thermostat can impact your HVAC system's ability to maintain an ideal indoor temperature. For maximum accuracy, thermostats should be placed in the center of the home, away from air vents, plumbing pipes and exterior doors. Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your thermostat, which can cause the HVAC to run longer than necessary. Avoid installing thermostats in rooms that tend to feel warmer or colder than the rest of the home. Do not place furniture in front of the thermostat, which can block air flow and result in inaccurate readings.

