

HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

The Beacon

MARCH 2024



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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®

A BALANCED TEAM FOR RELIABILITY

BY DENNIS HERMAN GENERAL MANAGER



DENNIS HERMAN

The winningest basketball teams in history are ones that are consistent and have players with varying abilities. Some are better at shooting three-pointers, some are best at defense. Having a balanced mix of skills makes the team a powerhouse on the court. The way to keep electricity reliable is a bit like that, too.

The power team first requires a foundation of consistent sources that can be put in the game any time they're needed. Having enough "always available" fuel sources such as natural gas and coal can ensure consistent power generation.

A team needs different players for different situations, and our power grid requires multiple sources to keep the grid running. Relying solely on one player to win every game is not an effective strategy — if that one player gets injured, the team will likely lose. Similarly, using a single fuel source for electricity generation poses a significant risk to energy reliability. Natural disasters, geopolitical tensions, or unforeseen disruptions can severely impact the supply chain of a particular fuel. A diverse mix of energy sources acts as a safeguard, ensuring that the grid remains operational even in the face of unexpected challenges.

A diverse energy mix also enhances grid flexibility by accommodating the intermittent nature of renewable energy sources such as solar and wind. Think of solar power like a team's inconsistent three-point shooter. It's awesome when the sun is shining bright, but what if it's nighttime or a cloudy day? That's where the other players — wind, hydro, nuclear, natural gas, and coal — can step up and keep the team scoring.

Diverse fuel sources contribute to the stability and reliability of the electric grid. The different sources have varying characteristics, including generation patterns, responsiveness, and storage capabilities. This diversity allows for a more balanced and resilient energy system that can adapt to fluctuating demand and unforeseen circumstances. Having a mix of these energy sources is like having a team made of players who have different skills to handle various situations and scenarios.

A diverse set of energy sources is essential, but that's not the only thing we need to have reliable electricity — or a winning team. Basketball teams are always trying out new plays or training rookies to create a versatile lineup. Similarly, electric cooperatives are constantly innovating to maintain reliability for tomorrow. Creating new ways to make our power sources more efficient and reliable takes time, money, and advances in technology that aren't necessarily ready yet.

As we continue to work on the innovations of tomorrow, the key to keeping our electricity reliable right now is ensuring a diverse "team" of fuels. Each one brings something special to the "court," and together, they make sure we have the power we need, whenever we need it.

Highline Electric
Association offices
are closed March 29 for
Good Friday.



More than 5,000 books distributed to kids across Phillips County is a reason to celebrate. Front row left to right: Lisset Camacho and children, Matias and Lia Santana Camacho, Sandra Rios and daughter Fernanda Duran. Standing: Linda Kurtzer, PCFES staff, Linda Jelden, PCFES Executive Director, Dennis Herman, Highline Electric Association General Manager and Judith Garcia.

Phillips County Imagination Library Celebrates Milestone with 5,000 Books Distributed

BY JESSIE HEATH MEMBER SERVICES SPECIALIST

In a heartwarming achievement, the Phillips County Imagination Library is thrilled to announce the distribution of more than 5,000 books to the community. Spearheaded by the dedicated efforts of Phillips County Family Education Services Inc., this remarkable accomplishment reflects a commitment to nurturing the love of reading among local children.

Established in 2020, the Phillips County Imagination Library has rapidly become

a beacon of literary enrichment in the community. The program — affiliated with the national Dolly Parton Imagination Library initiative — aims to provide children with the gift of books, fostering a passion for reading from an early age.

The driving force behind this success is PCFES, a local champion that has tirelessly worked to ensure the program's growth and impact. Its dedication to promoting literacy and education has manifested in

tangible results, as evidenced by the distribution of 5,000 books. Linda Jelden, PCFES Executive Director says, "Reading books to our children enhances language and progress in school and we are proud to be part of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program. Reading daily to babies and children enhances language and school success."

This significant milestone not only highlights the success of the program but also underscores the positive influence it has on the lives of local children. A total of 152 children have been covered by this affiliate, receiving access to a diverse range of age-appropriate books each month that spark imagination and curiosity.

The Phillips County Imagination Library recognizes the vital role played by its partners, volunteers, and the community at large in achieving this commendable feat. By collaborating with local organizations and supporters — including Highline Electric Association — the program continues to make strides in expanding its reach and impact, ensuring that even more children have the opportunity to explore the wonders of literature.

The Phillips County Imagination Library looks forward to building on this success and continuing its mission to create a community where every child has the chance to develop a lifelong love of reading. The dedication of the PCFES and the collective efforts of the community serve as a testament to the transformative power of literature in shaping the future generations of Phillips County.

YOU'RE INVITED!

YOU ARE INVITED TO HIGHLINE ELECTRIC'S ANNUAL MEETING

Highline Electric Association's 2024 Annual Meeting is fast approaching. The meeting will be Tuesday, March 26, in the Phillips County Event Center at the fairgrounds in Holyoke. Members will receive a direct mailing notice this month with the most up-to-date information regarding the meeting. You can also view a livestream of the meeting — details can be found on www.hea.coop. We hope you'll join us to celebrate Highline Electric's 86th anniversary.

LIVE FREE FOR A MONTH

High Plains Radio is giving one lucky listener the opportunity to live for FREE for an entire month. They'll take care of the rent or mortgage, utilities, and even your groceries.

Visit Highline's office in Holyoke, Ovid, or Sterling to register. The winner will be announced April 1 on KICX, the Hawk, KBRL and KFNF.

LIVE FREE RULES

- No Purchase Necessary.
- Must be at least 18 years of age to win.
- Winner must report/claim all bills no later than April 30, 2024

PAYOUT LIMITS

- Mortgage/Rent \$500; Utilities \$350; Groceries \$300
- Winner will be drawn from all entries received at all sponsors.
- Only one winner will be drawn.
- Winner must show ID and proof of expenses at the address registered.
- One qualifier per household.

NOTICE

Highline Electric's ACH bank draft withdrawal payment date is changing from the 10th of every month to the 15th of every month.



ANNUAL MEETING OFFICE CLOSURES

On Tuesday, March 26, Highline's offices will close early for the annual meeting. Ovid will close at 3 p.m., and Sterling at 3:30 p.m. The Holyoke office will close at 4 p.m.

- 1 Flashes of lightning between a thunderstorm and the earth are called "cloud to ground."
- 2 There is roughly 5 to 10 times more cloud-to-cloud lightning than cloud-to-ground lightning.
- 3 The vertical extent of cloud-to-ground lightning averages 3 to 4 miles.
- 4 Lightning often strikes up to 10 miles away from rainfall.
- 5 Lightning can occur in winter during heavy snowfalls.
- 6 Lightning can strike in the same place twice.
- 7 Lightning has 100 million to 1 billion volts and contains billions of watts.



**SPRING FORWARD
MARCH 10 FOR
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME**



Attention Irrigators

April 15 is the deadline to retire an irrigation service and avoid paying the annual minimum.



CONTROLLED BURN SAFETY

It's called a controlled burn for a reason. If you don't plan your controlled burn in advance and fail to keep it under check, it can quickly spread too far and wide.

Even with the best laid plans, a utility pole could catch fire during a burn. Planning can decrease the chances. Fire damage to a power pole is usually evident by blackening and scorch marks, but even slight discoloration can cause serious problems. Sometimes the poles burn from the inside out, and the damage is not immediately apparent.

To inquire about controlled burns near power lines and poles, call Highline Electric Association at 970-854-2236.

THE FOLLOWING HIGHLINE EMPLOYEES OBSERVE AN EMPLOYMENT ANNIVERSARY IN MARCH:

Deon Skomp.....	31 years
Robie Adams.....	20 years
Ryan Bingham.....	8 years
Tracy Simpson.....	8 years
Diana Baeza.....	1 year

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

It's Easy! It's Free!

Planning a digging project in your yard or on your property? If you dig without knowing what is located below, you could damage an underground line.

Not only could you become seriously injured, but you will be responsible for the cost of repairs. To avoid hassles and fines, call 811, the Call Before You Dig number, at

least two business days prior to breaking ground. (811 locators do not mark privately owned underground lines or pipes, such as service to outbuildings, sprinkler systems or invisible fences.)

An uneventful digging project is the best kind to have.

