

K.C. ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2024

K.C. ELECTRIC STAFF

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Our mission is to provide our members with safe, reliable service at the lowest cost, while maintaining an environmentally responsible, accountable and sustainable operation now and in the future.

LINEMAN APPRECIATION MONTH

BY DAVID CHURCHWELL GENERAL MANAGER



DAVID CHURCHWELL

Linemen are superheroes in the electric industry. Whether they are the ones going out and restoring power after a tornado in the heat of the summer or after an ice storm or blizzard in the bitter cold, they regularly put their lives on the line to ensure the lights and heat stay on.

April is the month that has been designated nationally to recognize linemen for the hard work they put forth every day, and the vital role they play in providing our members with safe, reliable, and affordable electricity.

The state of Colorado has designated April 18 as Colorado Electrical Lineworker Appreciation Day. The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association has designated the second Monday of each April as National Lineman Appreciation Day. But here at K.C. Electric Association, we like to show appreciation to our linemen every day.

Being a lineman is not a glamorous or easy job and it takes years of specialized training, ongoing education, and equally important, a sense of service and commitment. How else can you explain the willingness to leave the comfort of your home to tackle a challenging job in difficult conditions, when most are sheltering comfortably at home? This dedication and sense of service to you is truly what sets them apart.


The dedication of K.C.'s linemen was very evident in January when temperatures

in our service territory dipped to 30 degrees below zero, not taking into account the wind chill. During this arctic blast, our electrical system didn't sustain any significant damage, but there were a few outages that required our linemen to venture out in the middle of the night to restore power. Extreme weather like this can be dangerous for our linemen and tough on our electrical equipment and fleet.

Despite many challenges, K.C.'s linemen are committed to powering our local communities. During severe weather events, fires, and vehicle accidents, linemen are among the first ones called. They must be ready to leave their families and the comfort of their homes at a moment's notice, and they don't return home until the job is complete. That is why the lineman's family is also dedicated to service. They understand the importance of the job to the community.

Next time you see one of our linemen, please thank them for the work they do to keep the electricity flowing, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. After all, linemen are the power behind your power.



(left) K.C. Electric linemen restore power during January's arctic blast. 



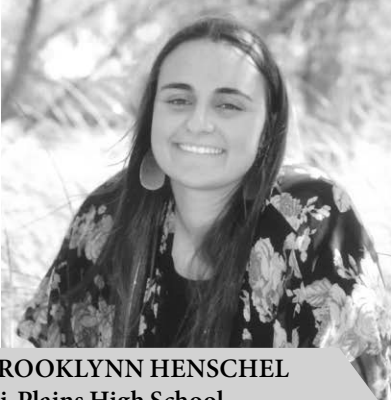
(right) A distribution pole is damaged by severe weather.



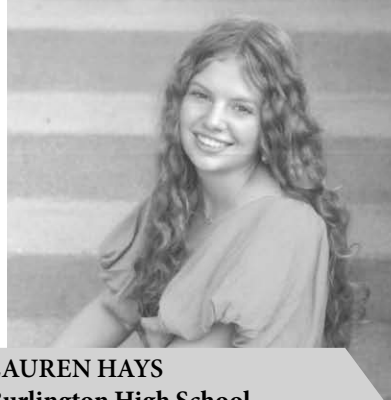
SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED

K.C. Electric is pleased to announce the nine 2024 scholarship winners from its service territory. K.C. Electric awards two \$2,000 scholarships and four \$1,000.00 scholarships. The co-op is the administrator for three other scholarships awarded by related electric utility member organizations.

This individual has been submitted to compete at Basin Electric Power for its \$1,000 employee dependent scholarship.



BROOKLYNN HENSCHEL
Hi-Plains High School
K.C. Electric Association • \$2,000



LAUREN HAYS
Burlington High School
K.C. Electric Association • \$2,000



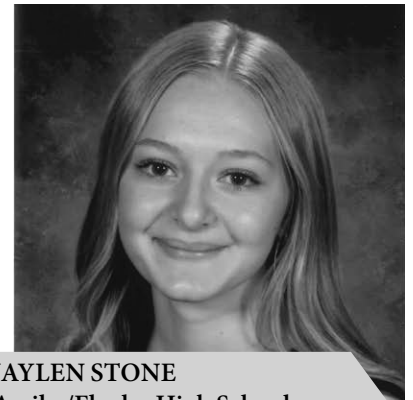
KALI FOX
Stratton High School
K.C. Electric Association • \$1,000
Basin Electric Employee finalist



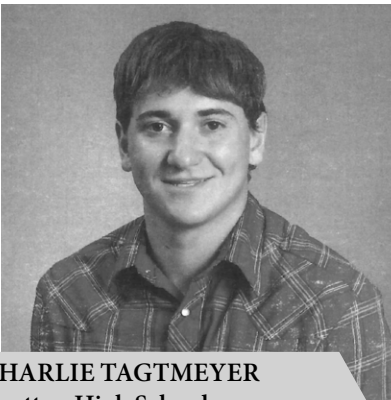
KACEE SAFFER
Arriba/Flagler High School
K.C. Electric Association • \$1,000



SEDONIA ISENBART
Stratton High School
K.C. Electric Association • \$1,000



JAYLEN STONE
Arriba/Flagler High School
K.C. Electric Association • \$1,000



CHARLIE TAGTMEYER
Stratton High School
Basin Electric Power
Consumer • \$1,000



SHAYLEE SCHELER
Scheler Academy
Tri-State Generation and
Transmission • \$500



JESSICA BRANDON
Stratton High School
Tri-State Generation and
Transmission • \$500

Scholarship presentations will be made at the K.C. Electric Association Annual Meeting on June 6 at Cheyenne Wells High School in Cheyenne Wells. Congratulations to these deserving students. We at K.C. Electric wish you the best in your next academic endeavors.

2024 K.C. ELECTRIC BOARD NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING NOMINATIONS ARE DUE SOON

Three directors will be elected to K.C. Electric’s Board of Directors this year: One from Cheyenne County and two from Kit Carson County. Directors’ terms expiring are Jerry Allen from Cheyenne County, Terry Tagtmeyer from Kit Carson County, and Jim Michal from Kit Carson County.

To be nominated, a person must be a member of K.C. Electric and a bona fide resident within the director’s district for which he/she is nominated.

These individuals are your 2024 election committee:

Archie Cloud	Troy McCue	Tim Pautler	George Ehlers	Jeff Cure
P.O. Box 51	221 Pine.	20587 CR 33	PO Box 815	PO Box 370
Kit Carson, CO 80825	Arriba, CO 80804	Stratton, CO. 80836	Hugo, CO 80821	Burlington, CO 80807
719-349-0212	719-768-3493	Cell 719-349-1424	Cell 719-740-5002	719-346-7080

THE TIMETABLE FOR NOMINATIONS.

Official nominating petitions shall be issued by the Association not earlier than 90 days prior to the meeting at which the election is to be held. Petitions must be signed by at least 15 members, not more than one member in a joint membership, of the Association and returned to the Association for filing with the Board no less than 60 days prior to the election. Qualified candidates can pick up official nominating petitions at the Hugo or Stratton office. Official nominating petitions were issued on March 8 and must arrive at the Hugo or Stratton office by April 7.

Circulators of the petition should attempt to verify accuracy of the name and address of each signer and must require that the signature take place in the presence of the circulator. The circulator should sign the affidavit at the bottom of the petition and have the affidavit notarized before submitting the petition to K.C. Electric. Please print the name as it appears on the electric bill. If you are a spouse of a member and not listed on the electric bill, please indicate by printing your name as well as signing the petition. If your listing is a business and the name on the bill is a business, please print

the name of the business, then print your name and sign the petition.

Candidates should turn in a short biography with their signed petition. Deliver or mail to K.C. Electric Member Services Manager George Ehlers at the co-op’s Hugo office no later than April 7, 2024.

Directors will be elected at the Annual Meeting, June 6, 2024, in Cheyenne Wells.



Claim Your Savings

Each month, members have a chance to claim a \$20 credit on their next electric bill. All you must do is find your account number, call the Hugo office at 719-743-2431, and ask for your credit. The account numbers are listed below. How simple is that?

You must claim your credit during the month in which your name appears in the magazine (check the date on the front cover).

Ben Vander Werf, Arriba — 2873xxxxx

John Hickey, Stratton— 1118xxxxxx

C&C James Ranch Inc., Burlington — 1109xxxxxx

John DeWitt, Hugo — 6105xxxxx

In February, three members called to claim their savings: Gayla Connelly, Kit Carson; Rick Trahern, Burlington; and Lori D. Walsh, Hugo.



WORK ZONE AWARENESS WEEK IS APRIL 15

National Work Zone Awareness Week, April 15-19, is a good time to learn more about work zone safety; however, work zone safety should be observed 365 days a year to save lives.

Cars or trucks that speed through a work zone do not just endanger workers on the ground. Driving too fast or too close to a work truck can also put an elevated worker in danger by causing their raised bucket to move or sway.

Streets and highways are lined with power poles and electrical equipment, and narrow roadways often require crews like ours to place their equipment in or near traffic lanes. Be alert to utility and other work zone crews for their safety and yours. Besides our crews, you might encounter road workers, other utility crews, tree trimmers or first responders working in or on the side of the road.

Colorado's Slow Down, Move Over law requires drivers to change lanes away from stopped vehicles, including emergency responders, utility trucks, highway maintenance vehicles, and construction vehicles. By doing your part to keep both yourself and workers protected on the road, the Colorado Department of Transportation can continue to serve you and keep highways and crews safe.

Data from the National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse shows that 874 fatal crashes and 956 deaths occurred in work zone crashes in 2021. Many other work zone crashes result in injuries. In 2021, more than 105,000 work zone crashes occurred across the United States.

TO HELP KEEP ROADSIDE CREWS SAFE:

- Keep a safe distance between your vehicle and traffic barriers, trucks, construction equipment and workers.
- Be patient. Traffic delays are sometimes unavoidable, so allow time for unexpected setbacks.
- Obey all signs and road crew flag instructions.
- Merge early and be courteous to other drivers.
- Use your headlights at dusk and during inclement weather.
- Minimize distractions. Avoid activities such as texting, operating a radio, applying makeup or eating while behind the wheel.

Remember: Work Zones are temporary. Actions behind the wheel can last forever. Slow down when approaching a work zone and move over for first responders and work crews. Do your part to help everyone return home safely at the end of the day.



LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY April 18

