



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections

NEWS

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2020

Manager's Message

Dear Members: _____ *by Marlene Morss*



Inside:

- 2020 Annual Meeting 2
- Scholarship Information . 3
- Be Ready!..... 4

2020 Annual Meeting will be held at the Fremont Center Building at the Riverton Fairgrounds on Saturday, March 21, 2020.

The advanced metering infrastructure project is still proceeding in a positive direction. We have been very pleased with the information we have obtained thus far. We have received real time meter readings and have gotten information when an outage occurs. We can see (real-time) which meters are out of power and are able to respond in a timelier manner. I have mentioned the benefits before, but we are experiencing it first hand as more and more meters are installed. One of the biggest benefits is the cost savings for you as a member. Remote meter reading generates more timely, accurate bills and eliminates the need for manual truck rolls and labor to read meters. Also, connections and disconnections can be accomplished remotely. We have also been able to detect meter tampering or theft from the system. We have completed the Medicine Bow, Thermopolis, Worland, Riverton, Pavillion, Ft. Washakie and Ethete areas. We have a little over 200 meters to install in the Dubois area and in February we will be moving to the Alcova and Frenchie Draw areas. Putting it into perspective we are about 88% complete of the AMI project.

Tri-State Generation and Transmission - which sells power to High Plains Power and 42 other cooperatives in Wyoming, Colorado, Nebraska and New Mexico - has announced that they will be retiring all their coal generation in Colorado and New Mexico. This is part of Tri-State's Responsible Energy Plan which was developed in July 2019 and one detail of that plan is to reduce emissions with the closure of all coal plants operated by Tri-State and committing not to develop additional coal facilities.

These closures will result in 100% reduction of coal emissions in Colorado and New Mexico. The closure of the Escalante Station in New Mexico will be the end of 2020 and the closure of the Craig Station and the Colowyo Mine will close by 2030. This will impact about 600 Tri-State employees who will be losing their jobs. Tri-State will be working with state and local officials to support affected employees and their communities during the transition.

Tri-State Board President, Rick Gordon says, "Throughout the decade we've seen significant changes, including renewable energy becoming a more affordable option, new players and new dynamics in energy markets,

continued on page 3



The POWER of Co-op Membership

Annual Meeting
Mark Your Calendars.



2020 Annual Meeting

The 22nd Annual Meeting of High Plains Power will be held Saturday, March 21, 2020, at the **Fremont Center** building at the Fairgrounds in Riverton, Wyoming. Important business to be conducted includes the election of four members to the Cooperative's Board of Directors. In addition, members will hear reports from the President of the Board, the Treasurer, the Chief Executive Officer and a representative of Tri-State Generation & Transmission regarding the Cooperative's business.

Annual Meeting Notice

An annual meeting notice will be mailed out to all members in early March. A proxy card will be included with the meeting notice. If you are unable to attend the annual meeting, please complete and send your proxy to our Riverton office. **If you are planning on attending the meeting, please do not use the proxy card.**

Why should I attend?

Your annual meeting is a good opportunity to visit with friends, enjoy a meal, vote for director representation and get informed about the business of **your** electric cooperative. You could even win one of many valuable door prizes awarded during the business meeting.

Nominating Committee Members

- District 1 - Rebecca Gullion
- District 2 - Fred Tammany
- District 3 - Marty Meeks
- District 4 - James Woodward
- District 5 - Justin Helton
- District 6 - Nick Anderson
- District 7 - John Sharp
- District 8 - Bruce Westlake
- District 9 - Josh Longwell
- District 10 - Dan Weber
- District 11 - Randy Marton
- District 12 - Sue Cowdin

Election of Directors

Elections for four director districts will be held at the annual meeting. Elections will be held for:

District 4 - Rural Riverton areas

District 5 - North of Riverton and Midvale area

District 9 - Lysite, Lost Cabin, Moneta, Grass Creek, and Hamilton Dome areas

District 10 - Worland area

Board of Director Nominations Being Sought

In accordance with the cooperative bylaws, one member from each district has been selected to serve on a nominating committee. If you are a member of High Plains Power and reside in Districts 4, 5, 9 or 10 and would like to be a candidate for the Board of Directors, contact one of the members of the committee (see Nominating Committee Members List).

Qualifications to be Director

A nominee or candidate for the director of High Plains must be a member receiving electric service and be a bona fide resident in the district that will be up for election. The candidate may not be employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or business selling electric energy or supplies to High Plains Power.

2020 Scholarship Program

High Plains Power in partnership with Tri-State Generation and Basin Electric Power Cooperative will be awarding \$1000 college scholarships this spring. These scholarships are intended to encourage the continued higher education of the youth of your cooperative.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Applicants must be current members of High Plains Power or the dependents of current members, or the dependents of persons receiving electricity from High Plains Power to their primary residence through a current membership in another name. Applicants must be graduating high school seniors planning to enroll as full-time students in the 2020 fall semester at any university, college or certified vocational/technical school. Applicants must be U.S. Citizens and have a high school grade point average or equivalent of 2.5 or higher. Applicants

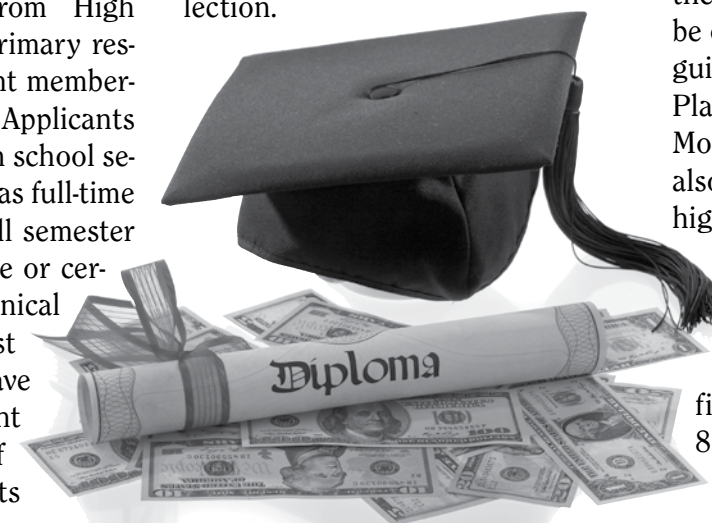
must submit the required information and completed application form no later than **March 6, 2020.**

HOW ARE RECIPIENTS SELECTED?

Award of scholarship is based on the following criteria:

- grade point average
- work experiences
- activities
- educational and career goals
- written recommendations

A High Plains Power selection committee will make the final selection.



WHAT ARE THE RECIPIENTS' OBLIGATIONS?

Scholarship recipients must remain as full-time students during the semesters for which the scholarships are awarded. Other than payment of the scholarships, High Plains Power, Tri-State Generation and Basin Electric Power assume no obligations or liabilities.

HOW CAN I APPLY?

To apply applicants must meet the required criteria and complete the application forms, which can be obtained from their high school guidance office, or from High Plains Power located at 1775 E Monroe, Riverton WY. You may also go to our website at www.highplainspower.org to download and print the application.

Completed applications must be received at High Plains Power's Riverton office, PO Box 713, Riverton, WY 82501, no later than **March 6, 2020.**

Manager's Message

continued from page 1

and shifts in public opinion, politics, and consumer attitudes.

We're now at the point where we're poised to become a new Tri-State. It's not always easy, as evidenced by last week's difficult announcements of the retirements of the Colowyo Mine and our Escalante and Craig Generating Stations. But the board has the obligation to all members to develop a comprehensive path forward to not only ensure that we can continue to operate today, but

that we can keep providing reliable, affordable and responsible power to our members and communities for many years to come."

I hope to see you all at our 22nd Annual Meeting. It will be at the Riverton Armory on March 21st. The format will be a bit different this year. We will have registration earlier and begin with the business meeting and then serve lunch. Come and listen to reports of how your cooperative is operating. It is also a time to participate in your right to vote for board members. Perhaps you may feel that you

have nothing to add to the Annual Meeting so there is no need to attend. However, every energy bill that you pay as a member helps the cooperative to ensure better service and reliability for the High Plains Power community. Your dollars are reinvested locally into improvements that impact the reliability and affordability of your energy. If you've never attended our Annual Meeting, or it's been awhile, please plan to join us. Our cooperative family looks forward to visiting with you! We'll have lunch and door prizes.

Be Ready! Winter Weather

Weatherproof your home to protect against the cold.

- Install a smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector in your home.
- Have your chimney or flue inspected every year.
- Make sure the batteries are working!
- Insulate walls and attic.
- Caulk and weather-strip doors and windows.

Check out more tips on winter weather indoor safety.

Never leave lit candles or other flames unattended.

Bring your pets indoors as temperatures drop!

Prepare yourself for exposure to winter weather.

- Dress warmly and limit exposure to the cold to prevent frostbite.
- Avoid getting wet to prevent hypothermia.

If power lines are down, call your local utility and emergency services.

Make sure your car is ready for winter travel.

- Check antifreeze level and have radiator system serviced.
- Replace worn tires and check tire air pressure.
- Keep gas tank full to avoid ice in tank and fuel lines.
- Make a winter emergency kit to keep in your car.

If power lines fall on your car, warn people not to touch the car or power lines.

www.cdc.gov/phpr/infographics.htm

IS IT A COLD OR FLU?

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS	COLD	FLU
Symptom onset	Gradual	Abrupt
Fever	Rare	Usual
Aches	Slight	Usual
Chills	Uncommon	Fairly common
Fatigue, weakness	Sometimes	Usual
Sneezing	Common	Sometimes
Chest discomfort, cough	Mild to moderate	Common
Stuffy nose	Common	Sometimes
Sore throat	Common	Sometimes
Headache	Rare	Common

#FIGHT FLU

COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE #2

Cooperatives are a democratic organization controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

High Plains Power

NEWS

is an official publication of High Plains Power, Inc., PO Box 713, Riverton, WY 82501.

Phone 307-856-9426
1-800-445-0613
www.highplainspower.org

General Manager
Marlene Morss

This is a monthly publication made available by High Plains Power, Inc., with the Wyoming Rural Electric News. Ideas, questions and comments are welcome.

Board of Directors

Mark Park - President
Bret Gardner - Vice-Pres.
Beckie Darnell - Secretary
Gary Gordon - Asst. Sec.
Jim Miller - Treasurer
Matt Brown
Robert Cooper
Hearley Dockham
Matthew Frericks
Jesse Hankins
Richard Haun
Lee Shaffer