



Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative
The power of human connections

NEWS

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2020

Manager's Message

Dear Members:

by Marlene Morss



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From all of us at High Plains Power, Happy Holidays and we wish you a safe and happy New Year!

High Plains Power offices will be closed December 25th as well as January 1st.

This is the final issue of HPP News for 2020. There will be no edition in January but we'll be back in February.

2021 Budget

Staff has completed the proposed 2021 budget. It will be presented to the board of directors for approval at the November board meeting. (Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, this newsletter deadline was pushed up, so this article was written before the board meeting.) As mentioned in a previous article this budget preparation was like no other due to COVID. There are still many uncertainties, but we use the budget as a guideline. We will remain flexible and diligent as we go forward into 2021 using the guideline we have established. Staff will be making the recommendation to the board of no rate increase for 2021. This will mean that your cooperative has not had a rate increase in the last five (5) years.

2020 Capital Credit Retirements

Cooperative members share in the ownership, construction, maintenance and prosperity of High Plains Power. When financial conditions allow, members receive patronage dividends. This year the board of directors voted to retire \$1,087,962 back to the members. If you were a member in 2006 or 2007, and your refund amount is over \$10 you should be receiving a capital credit refund check in December. Your portion of the \$1,087,962 refunded is based on the amount of electricity you purchased in 2006 or 2007.

An important reminder, if you move, please be sure to leave your new address with us so we can continue to refund patronage dividends you are eligible to receive in the future.

Farewell

This is my final newsletter article as I will be retiring the end of 2020. In 2015, I was asked by the board to lead this wonderful organization. It was incredibly humbling to know they had confidence in me to be the leader. I promised the board I would give them 5 years and then I would follow through with my retirement plans. This was not just my job, but it has been my passion. I hope you all know that I gave the best that I could give. I have been asked, "What were your accomplishments during your tenure at High Plains Power?" This led me to think - no leader accomplishes anything alone - it is the employees, board members, colleagues, peers, and members that help you attain those achievements. So, the accomplishments made were not mine, but ours.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to the board of directors, employees and members for allowing me to serve you. It has been an honor and a privilege to work for you. God bless you this holiday season.

Season's Greetings



Farewell

Section 5 – Employment status

Full time employment Part time employment Self employed

Unemployed Student Retired

Occupation: **ENJOYING LIFE!**

Your total annual income
(Includes annual salary, pension, maintenance payments, rental income and any other regular income you receive.)

Section 6 – Residential status

Living



“You have been an inspiration to me and my family. You were truly the best option to help lead High Plains Power. Your commitment to the cooperative model is something that I strive for every single day. You have shown me that a balance between home and work can be achieved, without sacrifices. I wish words alone could explain your impact on me, my wife, my kids, and the cooperative. You are simply amazing and a wonderful human.” - Jon, Alison, Mackenzie & Kayson

“Thank you for all you have contributed to the success of High Plains Power. It has been a privilege to watch you take the reins and create such a healthy and productive environment. God bless you lady. Stay young.” - Hearley & Joyce

“We could not ask for a better boss. She always has our backs and really cares about us. It was a pleasure working with her and she will be missed. It will not be the same without her for a very long time. We wish her all the happiness that she can handle in her future.” – JD, Trapper, Kyle, Calon

“Thank you, Marlene, for giving me the opportunity to work for an amazing company and thank you for giving me the chance to meet great people like you. Not only were you my boss but you were a great mentor and inspiration. Now your real work begins, enjoy your retirement!” – Joe

“Thank you for being such a great leader! It’s a tough job to balance what’s best for HPP, it’s employees and it’s members and you did a great job! Enjoy your retirement!” – Angie

“You are a class act and it has been a pleasure being on the board and getting to know you. Enjoy your grandchildren!” - Jim

“Best wishes for a happy retirement. Thank you for everything you have done for me over the last 23 years. I appreciate it very much! Your contribution to RVEA and HPP will never be forgotten. Enjoy your retirement.” - Debbie

“The Operations Department would like to thank Marlene for her professionalism and dedication to High Plains Power, all the employees of High Plains Power and the members of High Plains Power. We will miss the clip clop down the halls.” – CJ, Eric, Ted, Corey, Josh, Kevin, John, Bobby, Gary, Devin, Ramsey, Tyler, Kaden H., Robert, Doug, Dean, Trent, Eon, Nick, Kaden S., Brian, Zach, Wyatt, Andy

“Thank you very much for doing an outstanding job for the cooperative. It has been an absolute pleasure working with you over the past years! We wish you the very best with your retirement.” Lee & Patty

“Anyone can be a boss but it takes someone special to be a leader. Thank you for inspiring and supporting us. Best wishes for an enjoyable retirement.” – Chris

“Marlene is one of the key people that made this become one REA and not 2 merged REA’s. She treats everyone like we are all equal and we will miss her leadership dearly.” – Gabe, Nate, Ross, Scott, Jasper, Bert

“When I first started coming to High Plains Power was as Hub Thompson’s nominating committee person and Marlene was the Human Resources person. Marlene was always very helpful to everyone. She would go the extra mile for you. Marlene kept things running smoothly as she is organized and very good at whatever the task/job entailed. When she was selected for the CEO position we were all very happy. Marlene went to trainings, asks questions, searches out the answers and has been a knowledgeable and a great leader for High Plains Power. Marlene has given the staff the opportunity to become more involved in the operations of the company and not just a job. She has made sure that people are cross trained and able to step in to certain “jobs” if needed. She has “Promoted Teamwork”. I’m sad to see her go but retirement is the fun step with spending more time with family and friends.” - Beckie

“You always have an upbeat attitude and a smile. You make us feel welcome and happy here. It’s been a pleasure to work for you and we will miss you! WE HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR RETIREMENT!!” – Sandy, Jenna, Trina, Emily, Zareesha

“It’s been wonderful working with you the last 25 years. I can’t believe it’s been 25 years! You are a gift to High Plains and will be missed. Enjoy your retirement to the fullest!”- Bob“

“The accomplishments of Marlene are too numerous to list here but she has had a tremendous impact on HPP during her tenure. She will be sorely missed by the employees, staff and board. I will definitely miss her, both the friendship and working well together at HPP.” - Mark



“Marlene graduated from Morton School. After working for Parnell Taylor in his dental office she went to work for Riverton Valley Electric on May 26, 1987. After the merger with Hot Springs REA, which became High Plains Power, Marlene continued to work her way up doing almost all of the jobs except mechanic and lineman and becoming General Manager. May God bless you in your retirement. You will be greatly missed.” Richard & Janice

High School Seniors

High School Seniors—Applications for the 2021 scholarship program will be sent to schools in January 2021 and completed applications must be received by Plains Power Riverton office no later than March 5, 2021. Applications will be available on our website at www.highplainspower.org in January.

If you have any questions about our scholarship program contact Angie Wallace at Awallace@highplainspower.org or call 307-856-9426 or 1-800-445-0613.



22nd Annual Meeting of High Plains Power

Saturday, March 20th at the Fremont Center in Riverton.

There will be director elections and a review of what High Plains Power has been working on. There will be a free lunch, an energy credit to all members who register, guest speakers and door prizes. Come enjoy lunch and meet your board of directors!



District 1
Rebecca Darnell



District 2
Lee Shaffer



District 3
Matt Frericks



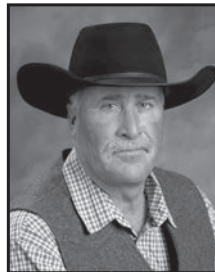
District 4
Richard Haun



District 5
Bret Gardner



District 6
Gary Gordon



District 7
Jesse B. Hankins



District 8
Hearley Dockham



District 9
Matt Brown



District 10
Jim Miller



District 11
Mark Park



District 12
Todd Heward

High Plains Power

NEWS

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

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

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