



Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative  
The power of human connections

# RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2021

## Manager's Message

*Cooperative Principles- Our Reason Why- Part II* — by Darick Eisenbraun



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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 24th and 31st.

This is the final issue of HPP News for 2021. There will be no edition in January but we'll be back in February.



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For me, this is a time of year for reflection, and topping my list of things I'm grateful for is our wonderful community. I know I speak for all High Plains Power employees when I say that we are thankful to be in such an incredible place. We are fortunate to live in the same place where we work, which makes our ties to this community that much stronger.

You may recall that last month, my column touched on the first three Cooperative Principles, so this month, I'd like to tell you about the remaining four principles. The Cooperative Principles are essential to the co-op business model and benefit all members of the co-op.

#### **Autonomy and Independence**

The fourth principal, Autonomy and Independence, means that the co-op operates in an autonomous way that is solely directed and guided by its members, reflecting the values and needs of our local community. This means the co-op is not being influenced by leaders or shareholders several states away. Instead, the co-op is led by the local members it serves.

#### **Education and Training**

The fifth principle, Education and Training, focuses on enhancing the knowledge of co-op employees and board members, which enables them to contribute to the development of the co-op.

By investing in continuous learning for our employees and board members, our co-op is making a commitment not just to individual professional and personal growth, but to the future

of the co-op and the high quality of service our members expect and deserve. It's a win-win situation.

We also strive to inform our members (that's you!) and the public about the mission and operations of the co-op. In fact, that's why you receive this magazine every month, so we can share the latest co-op news and updates, as well as energy efficiency and safety tips.

#### **Cooperation Among Cooperatives**

Cooperation among cooperatives is the sixth principle and fosters the way that co-ops work together to address bigger challenges. While this principle applies to all types of cooperatives, it is especially relevant in the energy industry. In our case, we put this principle in action after major storms and disasters that cause widespread power outages. When this happens, we call on nearby co-ops to come to our aid and assist with restoration efforts--and we of course extend the same help to them when they need us. I can't think of a better example of cooperation among cooperatives.

In addition, because we are part of the national electric co-op network, we can connect and collaborate with other electric co-ops to tackle industry-related challenges, like cybersecurity and an everchanging energy landscape.

#### **Concern for Community**

The seventh principle, Concern for Community, is essential to who we are as cooperatives. We serve our community not only by being an essential service, but by helping to

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# 2021 Hunting with Heroes

## Ben Harris "AKA Dirty"

A special thanks to High Plains Power.

My name is Benjamin Harris. I am a retired Army Staff Sergeant. I served 17 years in the Army and held several different jobs. I was 11B/11C infantry mortarman, 19K Tank Gunner/Commander/Instructor and 19D Cavalry Scout. I had one deployment to Bosnia and two tours in Iraq.

This year I was given the opportunity of a lifetime to hunt elk through Hunting with Heroes. The hunt was sponsored by Shawn Steffen and his compa-



Frank Grillo and Ben Harris

ny Non-Typical Services & Logistics, LLC. It was guided by Trapper Bradshaw and he was assisted by Calon Cuttlers from High Plains Power.

The dedication, compassion and general love of the hunt expressed by these three outstanding gentlemen is unsurpassed by any other people I have ever met and it made this the hunt of a lifetime. Their knowledge of the area and their ability to get disabled vets into sometimes very difficult locations made this a successful hunt.

I hope the future holds many more guided hunts with these outstanding gentlemen so other veterans can share the experience I was blessed with.

In the words of Trapper Bradshaw, "Smoked him!". Thank you so very much.



## Gary L. Griggs

My name is Gary Griggs. I served in the U.S. Army from 1968 to 1970. After my training, I was sent to Vietnam where I served with the 1st Infantry Division also known as the Big Red One. I was a combat soldier and drove an armored personnel carrier (APC) for most of my time in country. Some of the notable conflicts in which I fought included the Battle of Loc Ninh, the Tet Offensive of 1968 and numerous specialized military ground operations. I received the Bronze Star medal for missions against hostile forces.

Recently, I was blessed to be chosen to participate in a Wyoming elk and antelope hunt provided by Hunting with Heroes. This organization and the people who make it possible are truly amazing and I cannot say enough good things about them. I instantly felt at home with everyone I came in contact with from this organization. Many of the individuals in this organization are also veterans who volunteer their time, expertise and knowledge to give disabled veterans a chance to hunt this incredible part of the country. My hunting guide, Trapper, and the other participating guides bent over backwards to make my hunt



Ben Harris, Gary Griggs, Ron Leu, Calon Cuttlers, Jordan Brentlinger

## Local contributors and Guides:

Trapper Bradshaw and Calon Cuttlers, High Plains Power  
 Frank Grillo, Hunting with Heroes  
 Brian Tucker, Hi Mountain Seasonings  
 Sean Steffen, Non-Typical Oil Field Service  
 A Special thanks to Cameron and Jaci Cuttlers for donating the use of their side-by-side!

## Jordan Brentlinger

My name is Petty Officer Second Class Jordan Brentlinger, United States Navy Veteran. I served 5 years from 2010-2015 in various overseas commands involving physical security and protection of assets vital to national security. Early in my career, I was on a security detachment for multiple installations overseas. I was also an armorer, firearms instructor, and a training officer. Later on, I was involved with Personal Protection to high ranking government officials and diplomats, including Secretary of Defense. Currently, I am a Gunsmith at Colorado School of Trades, I am a certified NRA firearms instructor in multiple disciplines, and an avid hunter for all games.

I was offered an incredible opportunity from Hunting with Heroes to attend my first elk hunt with Sean Stefan, Trapper Bradshaw, Calon Cuttlers, and Brian Tucker. These guides were extremely knowledgeable and experienced, far exceeding my expectations. As a first time elk hunter, their patience and instructions were invaluable in harvesting the animal. With Trappers guidance and spotting, I was able to get into position and smoke em' at 550 yards to harvest an impressive bull elk. He took the time



Gary Griggs, Trapper Bradshaw, Ben Harris, Jordan Brentlinger

to make sure I was comfortable with the shot and gave confidence in my ability to take it. Hunting with the other Veterans in my group was another invaluable experience. I was able to get to know three of the most honorable men that I have had the pleasure of meeting. Sharing stories and telling jokes of our history and experiences gave us the ability to bond and build a camaraderie only a fellow Veteran would understand. From the first warm welcoming at Shoshoni High School making us honorary captains for their football team, to harvesting an Elk on a Wyoming mountainside with a great group of men, words can only begin to describe my gratitude for a memory I will never forget.

## Ron Leu

I wanted to thank you for everything you all put together and did for us. The trip was amazing and I had the time of my life.

Trapper, Collin, Brian and Shawn made the trip. The went out of their way, above and beyond, to make things happen for us. I think Trapper tried everything to figure out a way for me to see an elk. He did everything but go get it and bring it to me.

I went into the Navy in 1964, coming out of boot camp as a Seabee. I went in for Avionics but came out a Seabee. Went directly into Marine survival training and many other courses. I went to Vietnam from 1964-68. Went over as a 2nd Class Lineman. We did more than line work, building bases and helipads. Home base was in Phu Bai. I was at Marine bases, Army bases, Navy Seal bases and corrupted DMZ zones. We put up the first high voltage lines in the area which the real point of them were to have steady electricity for the coolers holding the bodies waiting for return to the US, running power to all of the bases around us. I did a lot of other things that are still locked up in my head.

This trip eased my mind where it is unexplainable that



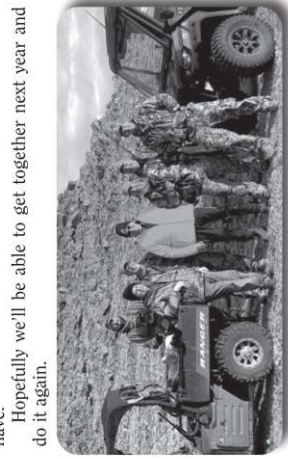
Trapper, Shawn, Brian and Collin put me at ease and allowed me to enjoy myself. I would hang with those gentlemen anytime.

There's no words to explain how it made me feel up there. I will take this experience to the grave with me. I have a lot of stories to tell about our trip. I might make them look a little better for myself, trying not to lie, but trying to make myself look good.

Thank you for giving them the time off to spend with us. They were some of the best therapy a veteran could have.

Hopefully we'll be able to get together next year and do it again.

Trapper Bradshaw, Terry Leu, Gary Griggs, Ron Leu, Ben Harris, Sean Steffen, Jordan Brentlinger



We honor our Veterans and their sacrifices this Veteran's Day and everyday.



"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." -- John F. Kennedy



## Manager's Message

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power our local economy. Whether through economic development, volunteerism, or donations to local causes, we invest in this community because it's our home too.

I think you'll find that most cooperatives bring good people together to make good things happen in the community. We hope you feel that way about us, your local electric co-op.

On behalf of everyone at High Plains Power, we're thankful for your membership, and we hope you have a wonderful Christmas, and a blessed New Year!



High Plains Power

# NEWS

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**General Manager**  
Darick Eisenbraun

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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