



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative   
The power of human connections

# RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2022

## Manager's Message

*Evolution of Power Supply for High Plains Power* — by Darick Eisenbraun



### Inside:

- Administrative Professionals' Appreciation Day ..... 2
- Special Olympics ..... 3
- Jackalope Jump ..... 4
- Employee Spotlight ..... 4
- Smarthub ..... 4

Administrative Professionals' Appreciation Day, April 27th

Mother's Day, May 8th



FOLLOW US ON  
**facebook**

Evolution in life and business is inevitable and is sometimes necessary. As the world around us evolves and changes, from how we interact with one another, to how we conduct business, your electric cooperative evolve to help our members flourish.

High Plains Power has an all-requirements power contract to purchase our whole-sale power from Tri-State Generation and Transmission, a power producing cooperative headquartered in Westminster, Colorado. High Plains Power has a long track record of success in partnering with Tri-State to help bring reliable, safe and affordable power to our members. However, changes happening at both the state and federal levels is requiring us to look at our options to ensure we are doing what's best for you, our members.

My goal for this article is to highlight major changes before us and then take a deeper dive into each area in future articles.

### **Transition to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and Rate Regulation**

In September of 2019, Tri-State finalized the process to become rate jurisdictional under the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) moving out of governance by the Colorado Public Utility Commission. The move to FERC governance was a step taken by the Tri-State Board of Directors to allow

a more open and transparent rate regulatory process. While FERC regulation has been an ever-moving target since the process has begun, having an unbiased regulator should prove to be beneficial for Tri-State and its membership as we move through this energy transition. Unbiased oversight and regulatory consistency is important to you as a member of High Plains Power, because roughly 80 cents of every dollar we collect from our membership is paid directly to Tri-State for power production and transmission costs.

### **Colorado Public Utility Commission (CO PUC) and Resource Regulation**

Also in 2019, the Colorado legislature passed House Bill 19-1261 which set forth mandates that would require Tri-State to lower its greenhouse gas emissions from power production by 80% as compared to a 2005 baseline. This bill was historic in that it would not only dictate how Colorado residents receive their power—but would also impact others purchasing power from Tri-State.

You may be asking yourself why Colorado regulations matter to you as a member of High Plains Power. The reason the regulation matters is because High Plains Power is contractually required to purchase 100% of our power from Tri-State. As a result, the Colorado regulations

continued on page 4

# Administration Professionals' Appreciation Day April 27, 2022



Customer Service Representatives Zareesha Norman/Leier and Trina Holguin



Customer Service Representatives Emily Crook

*Thank You!!* 😊

Accounts Payable Clerk Colleen Durtsche



Dubois Customer Service Representative Janna Finley



Work Order Clerk Debbie Watson



Customer Service Supervisor Sandy Watkins



System IT/Administrator Joe Whiteplume presents a \$500 donation to Jenni Wildcat for the Riverton Special Olympics. Jenni is a coach for team Wyoming's softball team and also participated in the Riverton Jackalope Jump.



This year's Special Olympics Jackalope Jump raised over \$7000 and some of its participants were dressed as WWE Wrestlers. The fundraiser was held in Riverton on March 17th and had friends, family, and Special Olympics athletes "Freezin' for a Reason."



### DON'T FORGET!

Budget Billing open enrollment is 1 April - 31 May!

Enrollment in Budget will be available remotely, on SmartHub starting on 1 April and will remain open for enrollment through 31 May. Applications will also be available through the office.



### FAVORITES

**Movie:** Hope Floats

**Band:** Lumineers - Nobody Knows

**Vacation Spot:** Any Beach

**TV Show:** Outlanders

### FINISH THIS SENTENCE

**Life would be boring without. . .**

A. Family

**Wouldn't it be cool if I. . .**

A. Cured cancer - balanced the National Debt



### RANDOM QUESTIONS

**Q. If you could buy anything, what would it be?**

A. A mountain home big enough for all of my family.

**Q. What is your motto?**

A. Be someones hero.

**Q. If you could have a conversation with anyone, who would it be?**

A. My dad.

**Q. If a genie gave you 3 wishes, what would you wish for?**

A. Health - Happiness - Family Close.

## Manager's Message

continued from page 1

impacting Tri-State will likely have a direct impact on High Plains Power in terms of energy costs and energy reliability.

### What we are doing for our Members

The Board of Directors for High Plains Power is committed to serving our members with safe, reliable, and affordable power today and into the future. High Plains Power along with seven other electric cooperatives in Wyoming have banded together to intervene at the FERC and the CO PUC to ensure our voices are heard. We may be evolving as an industry, but know that the Board of Directors and staff of High Plains Power are working to ensure Colorado policy changes will not affect how we deliver reliable, safe and affordable power to our members.

**If you aren't enrolled in Smarthub yet,** take a look at everything that will be available to you through this portal.



You can access Smarthub via computer OR by downloading the Smarthub app to your phone.

### Some of the benefits of Smarthub are:

- View and pay your bill via Smarthub
- Send in service requests for things like security lights or tree trimming
- Set up autopay or payment information
- Set bill date reminders
- See your energy consumption at a daily or hourly level

**Coming Soon:** Receive Outage notifications and restoration notifications by phone, in the coming months!

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**  
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.

### Board of Directors

Jim Miller - President  
Bret Gardner - Vice President  
Beckie Darnell - Secretary  
Matt Brown - Treasurer  
Todd Heward - Asst. Sec.

Jesse Hankins  
Lee Shafer  
Jeff Milton  
John Paul Stoll