



Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative  
The power of human connections

# RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2022

## Manager's Message *Celebrating Membership*

*by Darick Eisenbraun*



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Cooperative month has been celebrated annually in October across the US for more than half a century. It is a time for cooperative businesses to reflect on their shared principles and to educate others about the value of belonging to a cooperative.

Fall is a busy time, and October is a particularly eventful month with school, community, and sports activities in full swing. It's also when all cooperatives celebrate National Co-op Month.

When I say High Plains Power celebrates Co-op Month, it really means we are celebrating you! After all, our co-op wouldn't exist without you, our members.

Our core business purpose is to serve as your electricity provider, but the larger mission of the co-op is to help make our corner of the world a better place. "Concern for community" is one of seven guiding principles that all co-ops share.

Similar to how our wires run through our service territory, our concern for community flows through all of our decisions--because being a co-op means being a responsible partner and good neighbor.

High Plains Power works to help our community thrive through initiatives led by our employees and local board that's comprised of neighbors who live right here in our community. Because we're local, we understand our community's unique needs and strive to help meet them.

We're proud to support local youth through our Youth Tour and scholarship programs. With your help, we offer Operation Roundup to aid our community's most vulnerable. We partner with our employees and support area

charitable organizations such as Riverton Special Olympics, Fremont County Search and Rescue, Shoshoni FFA, Fremont County 4H, Dubois Boys and Girls Club, and the Dubois Volunteer Fire Department to name a few.

The word "cooperative" is close to "cooperation," meaning people working together towards a common goal--mutually benefitting one another and the larger community. That's the essence of the cooperative spirit. Our employees and member-elected board members are invested in the community in which live and serve.

Above all, as a co-op we put our members' priorities first. As your trusted energy partner, we know that saving energy and money is important to you.

We want to empower you to manage energy use at home. If you haven't already, I encourage you take a moment and download our app, SmartHub. Through the app, you can conveniently monitor and manage your energy use. And we're of course here to help, so give us a call if you have questions about your energy bills.

High Plains Power is continuously examining ways to operate more efficiently while continuing to provide the highest level of friendly, reliable service you expect and deserve. After all, we're your local co-op. We were built by the members we serve.





## 2022 COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP

**Mabel Kleven** and **Marcelina Jimenez** attended the 45th annual Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp (CYLC) from July 15-21, 2022. The leadership camp was held near Steamboat Springs, Colorado, and hosted 62 student leaders from Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, and Wyoming. These high schoolers were sponsored by a total of 32 participating co-operatives across the four states.

Marcelina and Mabel were selected by High Plains Power based on the leadership skills, academic achievements, extra-curricular activities, and character demonstrated in their applications.

During the camp, Mabel and Marcelina learned how an electric cooperative is organized and operated by developing a model-cooperative with their fellow students, empowering the campers to elect a Board of Directors, appoint a General Manager, establish committees, and attend daily membership meetings. Camp participants also attended educational seminars on leadership, online reputation management, conflict management, and co-op careers, in addition to presentations on high voltage electricity, raptors and avian protection with HawkQuest, and a tour of the Yampa Valley Electric community solar array.

Along with its professional development programs, CYLC included a visit to Mount Werner and downtown Steamboat Springs, white water rafting on the Colorado River, and other fun activities such as a volleyball tournament, swimming, talent show, and a dance.

The campers raised \$190 and decided to donate \$95 to the CEEI Burn Fund that provides financial assistance to lineworkers that have a contact with energized lines and \$95 to the CEEI International Program that is buying backpacks filled with supplies for the school children living in the Guatemalan village of La Montanita de la Virgen and water filters for clean drinking water for the villagers.

At the conclusion of the leadership camp, **Hunter Molt**, Y-W Electric Association; **Grazia Novak**, Poudre Valley REA; and **Diya Suri**, Mountain View Electric Association; were elected by a student vote as camp ambassadors, awarding them the opportunity to return to represent this



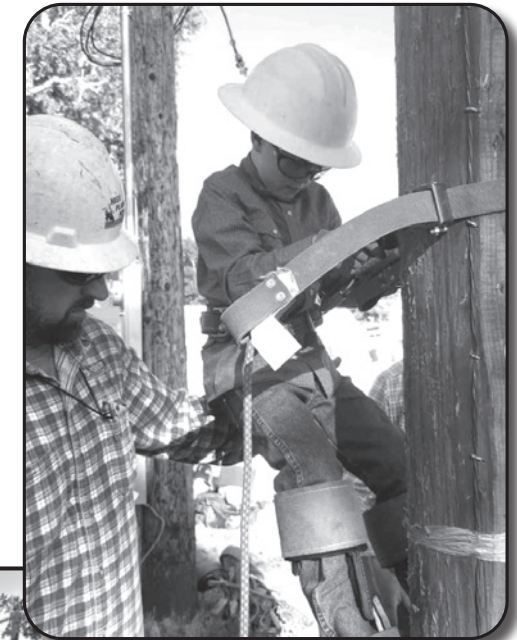
year's campers at CYLC in 2023.

High Plains Power is proud to continue our sponsorship of our co-op's student leaders at the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp," said Darick Eisenbraun, CEO. "It is an honor to help provide students opportunities to grow in their leadership potential and develop the knowledge to further engage in our cooperative community."

High Plains Power sponsors the trip of 1-2 students each year. For more information on how to attend/send students to camp, contact Angie Wallace.



Trapper Bradshaw and Trina Holguin represented High Plains Power at the Wyoming State Fair in Douglas. Each year co-ops from around the state participate in the State Fair in Douglas. It is a great opportunity for the cooperatives to educate people about the "cooperative difference", explain the member's relationship with their cooperative, conduct electric safety classes, give pole climbing demonstrations, and assist individuals in climbing the pole.



## Cooperative Principle #5 – Education, Training and Information

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.



# Fremont County DOT employees attend electric safety training and demonstration presented by Safety & Risk Manager Brian Heiner and Line Superintendent CJ Caress.



## REMINDER



As we head into Fall, and the weather starts to cool, it's a good time to think about preventive maintenance.

You can schedule to have someone check your furnace, or clean out your chimney, making sure that key appliances are ready for winter.

It can also help you keep your costs down if everything is working efficiently.



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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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