




Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative   
The power of human connections

# NEWS

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2019

## Manager's Message

Dear Members:

by Marlene Morss



### Advanced Metering

High Plains Power has been busy this summer installing the Landis and Gyr advanced metering infrastructure (AMI). We are very confident that we will meet our goal of being fully deployed by 2020. The read rate percentage on July 18th was 99.91%. This has reduced the cost of meter reading, collections, disconnect/connects because we are now able to do these functions remotely. It has also helped us determine where outages are occurring. We can identify which substation and circuit(s) that are affected by an outage.

The crews have also been busy with underground cable replacements. Much of the cable being replaced is 30+ plus years old. We also have been plagued with lightning which has caused several outages. Please "like" us on Facebook as we often keep you updated with outage information.

High Plains Power's power provider, Tri-State Generation and Transmission, took action that will result in becoming wholesale rate regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Since Tri-State operates in four

states (Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico and Wyoming), providing wholesale electric and transmission to 43 members in those states, it was becoming more difficult to apply consistent rates for all four states. Historically, those states did not exercise rate regulation over Tri-State's wholesale power rates and during that time the Tri-State Board of Directors set rates. (This is how it is presently done for High Plains Power, the Board of Directors set the rates for your cooperative.) However, in recent years, Colorado and New Mexico have exercised individual rate jurisdiction, which resulted in increased costs and inconsistent rates to the 43 Tri-State members. If a wholesale power provider operating in interstate commerce is to be regulated, it made sense to Tri-State to be regulated by a single regulatory body such as FERC. FERC will be the single decision-maker with respect to rates and would apply consistent rates to Tri-State's members in each of the four states.

Why is this decision so important to High Plains Power? Because 85% of our expenses is for purchased

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#### Summer Safety Tips:

**Stay Hydrated**

**Keep sunscreen nearby and use it**

**Check the forecast beforehand**

**Don't stay in the sun too long**

**Keep covered up**

**Beware of heat-related illnesses**



# 2019 Riverton Rendezvous Balloon Rally July 19-21



High Plains Power CEO Marlene Morss and her husband Brett



Kimberly Crook

Touchstone Energy's balloon pilot, Cheri White



## Manager's Message

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power. So, for every dollar that High Plains Power brings in, 85¢ goes to Tri-State and we operate on the other 15¢. Remember we are a non-profit cooperative – our main and most important goal is to serve the members. Each member is responsible for paying their own fair share for services. If they don't, then the other members end up subsidizing their costs.

I can't believe the summer season is almost over. Soon area schools will be bustling with activity. Please keep our children safe-- slow down and pay attention because our kids matter!

## TIPS FROM THE NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL

### Sharing the Road with School Buses

If you're driving behind a bus, allow a greater following distance than if you were driving behind a car. It will give you more time to stop once the yellow lights start flashing. It is illegal in all 50 states to pass a school bus that is stopped to load or unload children.

- Never pass a bus from behind – or from either direction if you're on an undivided road – if it is stopped to load or unload children
- If the yellow or red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended, traffic must stop
- The area 10 feet around a school bus is the most dangerous for children; stop far enough back to allow them space to safely enter and exit the bus

### Sharing the Road with Young Pedestrians

According to research by the National Safety Council, most of the children who lose their lives in bus-related incidents are 4 to 7 years old, and they're walking. They are hit by the bus, or by a motorist illegally passing a stopped bus. A few precautions go a long way toward keeping children safe:

- Don't block the crosswalk when stopped at a red light or waiting to make a turn, forcing pedestrians to go around you; this could put them in the path of moving traffic
- In a school zone when flashers are blinking, stop and yield to pedestrians crossing the crosswalk or intersection
- Always stop for a school patrol officer or crossing guard holding up a stop sign
- Take extra care to look out for children in

school zones, near playgrounds and parks, and in all residential areas

- Don't honk or rev your engine to scare a pedestrian, even if you have the right of way
- Never pass a vehicle stopped for pedestrians
- Always use extreme caution to avoid striking pedestrians wherever they may be, no matter who has the right of way

### Sharing the Road with Bicyclists

On most roads, bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as vehicles, but bikes can be hard to see. Children riding bikes create special problems for drivers because usually they are not able to properly determine traffic conditions. The most common cause of collision is a driver turning left in front of a bicyclist.

- When passing a bicyclist, proceed in the same direction slowly, and leave 3 feet between your car and the cyclist
- When turning left and a bicyclist is approaching in the opposite direction, wait for the rider to pass
- If you're turning right and a bicyclist is approaching from behind on the right, let the rider go through the intersection first, and always use your turn signals
- Watch for bike riders turning out in front of you without looking or signaling; children especially have a tendency to do this
- Be extra vigilant in school zones and residential neighborhoods
- Watch for bikes coming from driveways or behind parked cars
- Check side mirrors before opening your door

High Plains Power

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