




Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections

NEWS

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2019

Manager's Message

Dear Members:

by Marlene Morss



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ANNUAL MEETING



There is a lot going on behind the scenes when you flip on the light switch in your home or business. The electricity you need to power that light bulb is there in an instant, if it doesn't come on then you should be calling High Plains Power! Just the right amount of power is flowing into your home to run your refrigerator, freezer, clothes washer and dryer, dishwasher, electronics etc.

Imagine a major freeway with vehicles all going one way. It's rush hour - rows of impatient cars try to merge, pushing to reach a final destination. (I just drove in Denver during the 5:00 rush hour so this is not hard to imagine!) Different exits appear, and a steady stream of cars spread into the different streets and roads.

Electricity today travels across the nation in much the same way - moving from power plants along major transmission arteries until off-ramps deliver it to a local utility and, finally, your home.

The power grid, which can be described as the largest, most complex machine ever built, involves an intricate network of power lines crossing neighborhoods and open country, over mountains and through cities and towns, which has evolved over the last century to supply consumers/members with safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

Literally millions of miles of power lines span the United States in a complex series of "highways". These mil-

lions of power lines can be broken into two main categories: transmission, the high-voltage "interstates" supported by steel towers and other similar structures that move electricity over vast distances; and distribution, the "local roads" that run through small towns and neighborhoods and into homes and businesses. The tricky thing about electricity is that it must be used, or moved to where it can be used, the second it's produced.

What's more, the demand for electricity fluctuates throughout the day based on member's needs. The more electricity used by everyone the more electricity is demanded in an instant. For High Plains Power, typically the highest demand for electricity hits in the evening around 6:00 PM; everyone is getting home from work, cooking dinner, running the dishwasher, doing laundry and many other activities that use electricity.

High Plains has its own sizeable distribution system to maintain: our lineworkers stay busy keeping almost 5,000 miles (300 miles of transmission lines and about 4700 miles of distribution lines) of line up and running, 24/7 over 12,500 square miles of territory. That's no easy task!

We take a lot for granted when we flip that light switch on. The electric grid is complex, and electricity is such a powerful tool. It's our job to provide that reliable, affordable and safe electricity whenever you need it.

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The POWER of Co-op Membership

2019 Annual Meeting

Join us for our 21st High Plains Power Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 16th at the Thermopolis Middle School, Thermopolis, Wyoming. Doors open at 11am, registration begins at 11am, lunch will be served from 11-12:45 and the business meeting will begin at 1pm.

For some, the High Plains Power annual meeting is an anticipated event throughout the cooperative community. It's neighbors meeting neighbors - who are able to enjoy lunch and learn about their member-owned electric cooperative. They are also able to be part of the voting process to elect candidates to serve on the Board of Directors.

It is imperative to have a quorum at the annual meeting so that business and the election process can take place. According to the High Plains Power By-Laws, 100 members must be present, in person, to constitute a quorum.

By now you have received your proposed By-Law amendments booklet in the mail. Please review the proposed amendments as they will be brought before the membership at the annual meeting to be voted on.

Swim tickets will be distributed so you can enjoy yourself at either the Star Plunge or TePee pools. Come make a day of it in Thermopolis-have lunch, stay for the meeting and then end the afternoon at one of the swimming pools.

2019 DIRECTOR CANDIDATES



BECKIE DARNELL - DISTRICT 1

DISTRICT 1

Beckie Darnell

Beckie Darnell is seeking re-election for Board of Directors for District 1. She and her family have lived in Jeffrey City for more than 20 years.

Ms. Darnell states, "I want to continue to work for our members, employees, and Board of Directors in keeping our electricity safe, reliable and the most reasonable rates possible. I would like to see High Plains Power continue with the education of its member/owners on new technologies. I would also like to see HPP continue to pay members back with capital credits. Thank you for your continued support."

In 2016 Beckie retired from nursing but stays busy with the VFW Auxiliary, the Jeffrey City Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary, as well as

serving on the Jeffrey City Water and Sewer District Board. She enjoys spending time with her family and 9 grandchildren.



MATTHEW FRERICKS - DISTRICT 3

DISTRICT 3

Matthew Frericks

Matthew Frericks is the incumbent director seeking re-election for District 3.

Mr. Frericks states, that he looks forward to the chance to continue to serve the member/owners and employees of High Plains Power. He will strive to improve his education and continue to make the right decisions to protect and preserve the Co-op and it's members.

Matthew is a Dubois Wyoming native of 35 years, a business owner, and a member of the volunteer fire de-

YOU'RE A MEMBER YOUR VOTE COUNTS

**Remember...
If you are planning on attending the meeting, please do not mail in your proxy card.**

partment. In his spare time he enjoys everything outdoors including hunting, fishing, riding horses and roping.



GARY GORDON - DISTRICT 6

DISTRICT 6

Gary Gordon

Gary Gordon is the incumbent director seeking re-election for District 6.

Mr. Gordon wants to maintain High Plains Power's reliability to all the member/owners. He wants the Cooperative to continue providing safe, reliable electricity while keeping the rates stable.

Gary is a retired electrician living in Riverton with his wife Mary. He has served on many High Plains Power committees, been a member of Riverton Valley Electric/High Plains Power for over 49 years and served as a director since 1997.

rie, are life-long ranchers in the Crowheart / Burris area. Lyle has family ties to this co-op, as his grandfather, Joe, retired from RVEA in the early 70's.

Mr. Alexander enjoys being involved in his community and home state of Wyoming. He served as the president for the Crowheart Bench Water Users, was a board member of the Dubois-Crowheart Conservation District, and is currently the president of the A-Canal Water Users.

Lyle is interested in learning how a co-op works and is willing to put in the time and effort to learn all the aspects about High Plains Power and is interested in many upcoming projects. Lyle supports fair and equitable outcomes, and projects that will create jobs for Fremont County residents.



JESSE B. HANKINS - DISTRICT 7

DISTRICT 7

Jesse B. Hankins

Jesse B. Hankins is seeking election for District 7. Jesse has been in the ranching business his whole life and in his spare time he enjoys spending time with his family and hunting. He and his wife Kelly have been married for 34 years and have 3 children and 5 grandchildren. Along with ranching they also own and operate an outfitting business with their sons, providing hunting and fishing trips in the Wind River Mountains.

Mr. Hankins is seeking election to the High Plains Power Board of Directors because he would like to help keep the rates down and to have local representation that helps main-

tain the co-op and make sure there is good service provided to the members. Jesse states, "My dad Jess Hankins has served on the Board of Directors for 46 years. I would like the opportunity to follow in his footsteps and continue to maintain good, dependable service and reasonable rates. I look forward to working with the directors and management, looking out for the members' best interests, and being sensitive to their needs. Thank you for your support."

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ADVANCED METERING INFRASTRUCTURE

The advanced metering infrastructure deployment is going very well. Crews have begun installing meters fed off the Medow, Spiker and Pavilion substations. The installation in the Thermopolis and Worland areas is complete. We are about 25% complete of the total project. I know I have mentioned the benefits, but I will highlight them again:

Automated readings - we will no longer have to manually read your meters on a monthly basis

High bills - we can help analyze hourly and daily meter readings to help you understand your usage

Faster restoration - we will be able to pinpoint areas affected by outages, so we can respond more quickly

Remotely connect and disconnect service - requests can be accomplished in hours instead of days

Power theft - the system detects meter tampering and reduces the potential for costly and dangerous power theft

ANNUAL MEETING

I hope to see you at the 21st Annual Meeting in Thermopolis. Come and learn about your cooperative, eat lunch with us and don't forget your swimming suits! You can enjoy a swim at either TePee or Star Plunge pools.

No matter how long the winter, spring is sure to follow! Thank you to all the member/owners of High Plains Power!

Accident Causes Power Outage

This accident occurred north of Worland and was caused by slick roads, leaving 90 mem-

bers without power for approximately 4 hours.



Power Line Hazards And Cars

If a power line falls on a car, you should stay inside the vehicle. This is the safest place to stay. Warn people not to touch the car or the line. Call or ask someone to call the local cooperative and emergency services.

The only circumstance in which you should consider leaving a car that is in contact with a down power line is if the vehicle catches on fire. Open the door. Do not step out of the car. You may receive a shock. Instead, jump free of the car so that your body clears the vehicle before touching the ground. Once you clear the car, shuffle at least 50 feet away, with both feet on the ground.

As in all power line related emergencies, call for help immediately by dialing 911 or call your electric utility company's Service Center/Dispatch Office.

Do not try to help someone else from the car while you are standing on the ground.



Vehicle Winter Safety Kit

For Wyoming Road Conditions Call: 

Carry the following items in your vehicle:

- Cell phone, charger, batteries
- Blankets, sleeping bags
- Extra clothing to keep dry
- High-calorie, non-perishable food
- Bottled water
- Essential medicines
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Knife
- Shovel
- Sack of sand or cat litter for traction
- Windshield scraper and brush
- Tool kit with emergency flares
- Tow rope or chain
- Battery booster cables
- **Keep your gas tank near full.**
- **Avoid traveling alone.**
- **Let someone know of you intended travel route and arrival time.**
- **If stranded, remain in your vehicle.**



@NWSRiverton weather.gov/riverton Riverton Weather f

Just a reminder that sign up for Budget Billing is in April and May. Applications can be found on our website at HighPlainsPower.org or you can pick one up from our Riverton office. For more information or if you have any questions please call the Riverton office at 307-856-9426 or 1-800-445-0613.

High Plains Power

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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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