




Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative   
The power of human connections

# NEWS

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

February 2019

## Manager's Message

Dear Members: \_\_\_\_\_ *by Marlene Morss*



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2019 Annual Meeting will be held at the Thermopolis Middle School on Saturday, March 16, 2019.

The proposed By-law amendments booklet was mailed to all members on January 24th, so you should have received it by now. An extensive amount of work was done on these amendments. A By-law committee comprised of 6 board members, legal counsel and I had monthly meetings since April to review and revise the By-laws. The regulations have not been examined in a material way since 1997, when Riverton Valley Electric and Hot Springs Rural Electric merged. Please review the proposed amendments as they will be brought before the membership at the 2019 Annual meeting to be voted on. If you have questions or concerns, contact us so they can be addressed.

Speaking of Annual Meeting - I hope to see you all there. It will be at the Thermopolis Middle School on March 16th. I know we all lead busy lives but come listen and partake in YOUR annual meeting. Listen to reports of how your cooperative is operating. It is also a time to participate in your right to vote for board members and as I mentioned above the proposed By-law amendments. Perhaps you may feel that you have nothing to add to the Annual Meeting so there is no need to attend. However, every energy bill that you pay as a member helps the cooperative to ensure better service and reliability for the High Plains Power community. Your dollars are reinvested locally into improvements that impact the reliability and affordability of your energy and we want to hear from you to

better inform our discussions as we plan for the future. If you've never attended our Annual Meeting, or it's been awhile, please plan to join us. Our cooperative family looks forward to visiting with you! We'll have lunch, door prizes and free swim tickets will be given out to swim at either Star Plunge or Tepee Pools so bring your swim suits!

The advanced metering infrastructure project is still proceeding in a positive direction. We have been very pleased with the outcome of the information we have received for the installation thus far. We have been getting real time meter readings and have been getting information when an outage occurs. We can see (real-time) which meters are out of power and are able to respond in a timelier manner. I have mentioned the benefits before, but we are experiencing it first hand as more and more meters are installed. One of the biggest benefits is the cost savings for you as a member. Remote meter reading generates more timely, accurate bills and eliminates the need for manual truck rolls and labor to read meters. Also, connections and disconnections can be accomplished remotely. We have also been able to detect meter tampering or theft from the system. In the Riverton area, we are going to start with those services being fed from Meadow Substation. We should be receiving equipment in February.

A little late for a 2019 greeting, but I wish you good health, happiness and success this coming year.





# The POWER of Co-op Membership

Annual Meeting  
Mark Your Calendars.

## 2019 Annual Meeting

The 21st Annual Meeting of High Plains Power will be held Saturday, March 16, 2019, at the **Thermopolis Middle School** in Thermopolis, Wyoming. Important business to be conducted includes the election of four members to the Cooperative's Board of Directors. In addition, members will hear reports from the President of the Board, the Treasurer, the Chief Executive Officer and a representative of Tri-State Generation & Transmission regarding the Cooperative's business.

### Annual Meeting Notice

An annual meeting notice will be mailed out to all members in early March. A proxy card will be included with the meeting notice. If you are unable to attend the annual meeting, please complete and send your proxy to our Riverton office. **If you are planning on attending the meeting, please do not use the proxy card.**

### Why should I attend?

Your annual meeting is a good opportunity to visit with friends, enjoy a meal, vote for director representation and get informed about the business of **your** electric cooperative. You could even win one of many valuable door prizes awarded during the business meeting.

### Election of Directors

Elections for four director districts will be held at the annual meeting. Elections will be held for:

- District 1 - Jeffrey City, Gas Hills, Hudson areas
- District 3 - Dubois area
- District 6 - Arapahoe and River-view areas
- District 7 - Crowheart area

### Board of Director Nominations Being Sought

In accordance with the cooperative bylaws, one member from each district has been selected to serve on a nominating committee. If you are a member of High Plains Power and reside in Districts 1, 3, 6, or 7 and would like to be a candidate for the Board of Directors, contact one of the members of the committee (see Nominating Committee Members List).

### Qualifications to be Director

A nominee or candidate for the director of High Plains must be a member receiving electric service and be a bona fide resident in the district that will be up for election. The candidate may not be employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or business selling electric energy or supplies to High Plains Power.



### Nominating Committee Members

- District 1 - Rebecca Gullion
- District 2 - Fred Tammany
- District 3 - Marty Meeks
- District 4 - Jim Woodward
- District 5 - Ron Blumenshine
- District 6 - Nick Anderson
- District 7 - John Sharp
- District 8 - Bruce Westlake
- District 9 - Josh Longwell
- District 10 - Dan Weber
- District 11 - Randy Marton
- District 12 - Sue Cowdin

## 2019 Scholarship Program

High Plains Power in partnership with Tri-State Generation and Basin Electric Power Cooperative will be awarding \$1000 college scholarships this spring. These scholarships are intended to encourage the continued higher education of the youth of your cooperative.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Applicants must be current members of High Plains Power or the dependents of current members, or the dependents of persons receiving electricity from High Plains Power to their primary residence through a current membership in another name. Applicants must be graduating high school seniors planning to enroll as full-time students in the 2019 fall semester at any university, college or certified vocational/technical school. Applicants must be U.S. Citizens and have a high school grade point average or equivalent of 2.5 or

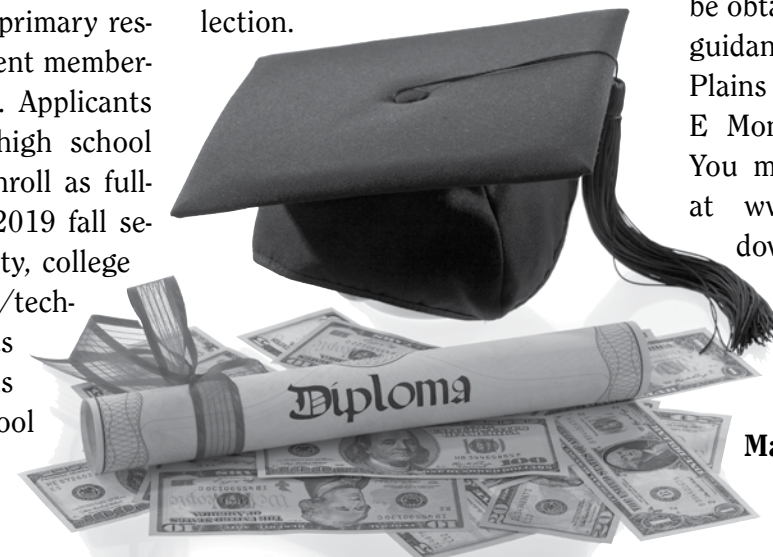
higher. Applicants must submit the required information and completed application form no later than **March 8, 2019.**

### HOW ARE RECIPIENTS SELECTED?

Award of scholarship is based on the following criteria:

- grade point average
- work experiences
- activities
- educational and career goals
- written recommendations

A High Plains Power selection committee will make the final selection.



### WHAT ARE THE RECIPIENTS' OBLIGATIONS?

Scholarship recipients must remain as full-time students during the semesters for which the scholarships are awarded. Other than payment of the scholarships, High Plains Power, Tri-State Generation and Basin Electric Power assume no obligations or liabilities.

### HOW CAN I APPLY?

To apply applicants must meet the required criteria and complete the application forms, which can be obtained from their high school guidance office, or from High Plains Power, PO Box 713, 1775 E Monroe, Riverton WY 82501. You may also go to our website at [www.highplainspower.org](http://www.highplainspower.org) to download and print the application. Completed applications must be received at High Plains Power's Riverton office no later than **March 8, 2019.**



Photo by 30 Below Photography





## Equip in Advance of Emergencies

Be prepared for weather-related emergencies, including power outages.

- Keep an up-to-date emergency kit, including:
  - Battery-operated devices, such as a flashlight, weather radio and lamps
  - Extra batteries
  - First-aid kit and extra medicine
  - Baby items
  - Cat litter or sand for icy walkways
- Stock food that needs no cooking or refrigeration and water stored in clean containers
- Ensure your cell phone is fully charged

## Take These Steps for Your Home

- Winterize your home
  - Install weather stripping, insulation, and storm windows.
  - Insulate water lines that run along exterior walls.
  - Clean out gutters and repair roof leak
- Check your heating systems
  - Have your heating system serviced professionally to make sure that it is clean, working properly, and ventilated to the outside.
  - Inspect and clean fireplaces and chimneys.
  - Install a smoke detector. Test batteries monthly and replace them twice a year.
  - Have a safe alternate heating source and alternate fuels available.
  - Prevent carbon monoxide (CO) emergencies
    - Install a CO detector to alert you of



the presence of the deadly, odorless, colorless gas. Check batteries when you change your clocks in the fall and spring.

- Keep grills, camp stoves, and generators out of the house, basement and garage.
- Keep generators at least 20 feet from the house.
- Leave your home immediately if the CO detector sounds, and call 911.
- Learn symptoms of CO poisoning: headache, dizziness, weakness, upset stomach, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion.

## Do This When You Plan to Travel

When planning travel, be aware of current and forecast weather conditions.

- Avoid traveling when the weather service has issued advisories.
- If you must travel, inform a friend or relative of your proposed route and expected time of arrival.
- Follow these safety rules if you become stranded in your car.
  - Make your car visible to rescuers. Tie a brightly colored cloth to the antenna, raise the hood of the car (if it is not snowing), and turn on the inside overhead lights (when your engine is running).
  - Move anything you need from the trunk

into the passenger area. Stay you're your car unless safety is no more than 100 yards away.

- Keep your body warm. Wrap your entire body, including your head, in extra clothing, blankets, or newspapers. Huddle with other people if you can.
- Stay awake and stay moving. You will be less vulnerable to cold-related health problems. As you sit, keep moving your arms and legs to improve circulation and stay warmer.
- Run the motor (and heater) for about 10 minutes per hour, opening one window slightly to let in air. Make sure that snow is not blocking the exhaust pipe – this will reduce the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.

**Above all, be ready to check on family and neighbors who are especially at risk from cold weather hazards: young children, older adults, and the chronically ill. If you have pets, bring them inside. If you cannot bring them inside, provide adequate, warm shelter and unfrozen water to drink. No one can stop the onset of winter. However, if you follow these suggestions, you will be ready.**

High Plains Power

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Marlene Morss

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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