

# UNITED NEWSLINE

Information for the members of United Power, Inc.

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## IMPORTANT DATES

- DEC. 23, 26 **Christmas Holiday**  
Offices Closed
- DEC. 30, JAN. 1 **New Year's Holiday**  
Offices Closed
- JAN. 27, 2023 **Scholarship Apps Due**  
Details on pg. 6
- APRIL 12, 2023 **Annual Meeting & Director Election**



## What is Demand?

### Understanding United Power's Rate Structure

## Demand Rate Addresses How Members Use the System in Different Ways

It has been nearly four years since United Power adopted its current rate structure that includes an energy and demand charge. Separating demand from energy charges was implemented as a way to more fairly charge members for their electric usage and impact on the cooperative's system. While more electric utilities are making the transition to a demand rate, United Power was among the first to introduce a demand charge across its membership. To help our members learn more about demand, we have produced numerous resources dedicated to educating members so they may make the most of the rate.

### What is Demand?

Demand refers simply to the maximum electricity needed at a given time and its impact on the system. The demand charge is the total wattage of all the power being used at that highest interval and is billed as kilowatts (kW). As the cooperative gained new insights about how each meter impacts the system differently, the decision was made to utilize demand as a measurement that helps the cooperative more fairly bill members for their usage. Since some members use electricity in ways that make them more expensive to serve, demand helps to make sure everyone is paying their fair share. When the demand charge was first introduced, the majority of our members saw very little change. Most members saw only a \$1-2 increase or decrease in their bill monthly.

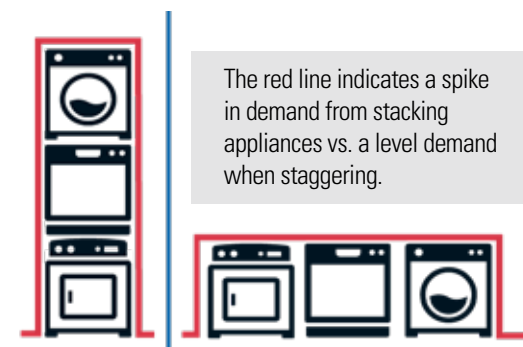
### Is Demand an Added Charge?

No. The demand charge on your monthly bill was separated from the energy charge, essentially "unbundling" the details of your energy use. A traditional "blended" energy rate combines energy usage and demand into a single charge for all members. The blended rate placed an equal burden on all members for system maintenance

costs despite differences in how they use energy. Under the old, blended rate some members were paying more than they should while others were not paying enough. United Power's current rates separate demand – billed as the highest 15-minute interval of energy usage during each billing cycle – from the energy charge so members are now more fairly billed for both their usage and impact on the system.

### How To Reduce My Demand

Now that you can see the impact of both the total energy you use and your highest usage intervals, you have more control over your total bill. By reducing overall energy use with simple tips like turning off devices that aren't in use



[www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com)

Report an Outage 303-637-1350  
Customer Service 303-637-1300

# Along These Lines

## A Message from United Power's President & CEO



**Mark A. Gabriel**

President & Chief Executive Officer

### Have Feedback For Us?

Submit your questions, comments, concerns, or general feedback at [www.unitedpower.com/CEO](http://www.unitedpower.com/CEO).

### Our Cooperative Roadmap

Our Cooperative Roadmap contains the cooperative's long-term action plan and key priorities to maintain its strength and competitiveness in the evolving electric industry.

Read Our Cooperative Roadmap at [www.unitedpower.com/roadmap](http://www.unitedpower.com/roadmap).

One of the newest buzz phrases in the energy industry is the "shared energy economy." In this economy, all the resources necessary for keeping the lights on, keeping our homes and businesses running, and keeping society humming are jointly managed for the benefit of all.

The cooperative business model was founded on this very principle more than 80 years ago, with communities coming together and bringing light where there was darkness.

The Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), an independent nonprofit energy research, development, and deployment organization, has a fancy definition of this shared energy economy:

"Technical, business, regulatory, and policy conditions that allow customer-owned resources to supplement utility operations in providing value to consumers while also providing value to the asset owner."

Today we have advanced technologies that are creating an energy web, linking centralized resources and member-owned resources, such as electric vehicles (EVs), solar panels, and home battery storage in new and exciting ways. The coming of a power market in the next two years will allow United Power – on your behalf – to manage a variety of electric inputs that will help lower bills and make better use of the electricity we buy.

Taking advantage of the shared energy economy is one of the many reasons we are working to find new, more forward-leaning power suppliers, as our current arrangement limits the flexibility we can provide our members and

the choices that are available. We have outlined this future in Our Cooperative Roadmap that envisions a day in the not-to-distant future when we are no longer penalized for being efficient, having large scale batteries, or working with our members to serve their needs in a mutually beneficial manner.

There are more than 9,200 members with solar rooftops, 150 with batteries, and many thousands buying EVs in our service territory. Combining those with load management programs for water heating, air conditioning, and on-site generation will allow United Power to bring value and share the economic benefit of those investments.

These changes will help many of our industrial and commercial members meet their Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) goals, while also achieving Colorado's planned reduction in emissions. It is important to recognize how the economics are driving these changes for United Power first and foremost. We can get the dual benefit of meeting goals and lowering costs.

The shared energy economy has been a cornerstone of the cooperative business model, and this continued evolution fits well into United Power's history as an energy leader on your behalf and recognizes the future opportunities for our communities.

As always, I welcome your comments and insights, as well opportunities to meet with our members anytime. Please feel free to reach out to me or any member of our executive team with questions or concerns.

### Recent Legal Notices:

*Legal notice introducing a new rate tariff schedule for electric vehicle charges to become effective Jan. 1, 2023 was posted in the Denver Post. A legal notice announcing a public hearing regarding demand response practices and electric vehicle charging programs was also posted on the United Power website. Both can be read at [www.unitedpower.com/legal](http://www.unitedpower.com/legal).*

## Understanding United Power's Rate Structure

and using a programmable thermostat, you can affect your energy charge. To lower your demand charge, avoid using multiple appliances at once. Set the delay feature on your dishwasher so it runs after all the lights are off and avoid doing laundry while the air conditioner is running.

### What is the Fixed Charge?

The "fixed charge" is a line item on your monthly billing statement that all members pay regardless of how much energy they use. The fixed charge is a standard amount and covers a portion of the costs for billing, collections, member services, and metering. These services are required whether you use a lot of energy, or none at all, and all residential members pay the same amount.

You can learn more about the fixed charge and other elements of your billing statement at [www.unitedpower.com/your-bill](http://www.unitedpower.com/your-bill).

### Member Rate Options

United Power introduced demand with a corresponding reduction in its energy charge and most members did not experience significant changes to their monthly bills. However, you may still benefit by switching to a different rate.

The cooperative offers a variety of rate options for residential members to fit the many ways members use electricity. To ask our trusted advisors if a new rate plan is right for you, schedule a phone assessment at [www.unitedpower.com/energy-advisor](http://www.unitedpower.com/energy-advisor).

Members can find more information about United Power's demand charge — including steps you can take to control your demand and a calculator to help understand how appliances may contribute to demand — at [www.unitedpower.com/demand](http://www.unitedpower.com/demand).

## Annual Director Election Four Board Seats Up for Election

Four positions on United Power's eleven-member board are up for election at **the 2023 Annual Meeting which is scheduled for Wednesday, April 12, 2023**. The cooperative plans to host a hybrid event, available for members to attend either in-person or view online. One seat in the East, West, South, and Mountain districts will be up for three-year terms.

To be eligible to become or remain a director, a person must be a United Power member for at least two years immediately before becoming a director and receive electric service from United Power at the member's primary residence in the district he or she represents. United Power's bylaws (available at [www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com), any of our offices, or through mail) provide in-depth

information on director districts, qualifications, terms, elections, meetings, and officers.

Each member's district is printed on their United Power statement. Nominations by written petition must state nominee's name and district, be signed by 15 or more United Power members, and be filed with the Board no less than 60 days prior to the Annual Meeting.

**The deadline for nominations by petition is 4 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 10, 2023.** Petitions are available at United Power's headquarters office in Brighton at 500 Cooperative Way. Additional information can be obtained by calling United Power's executive department at 303-659-0551 or by visiting our website at [www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com).

## Meet the Candidate Forums

**MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2023 | 6:30 p.m.**

Riverdale Regional Park  
Rendezvous Room, Waymire Dome  
9755 Henderson Road, Brighton 80601

**View Livestream** at [www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com)

**TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2023 | 7:30 a.m.**

Coal Creek Canyon Community Center  
31528 Highway 72, Golden 80403

**THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2023 | 6:30 p.m.**

United Power Carbon Valley Service Center  
9586 E I-5 Frontage Road, Longmont 80504

**FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2023 | 7:30 a.m.**

Fort Lupton Recreation Center  
Multi-purpose Room 3  
203 S. Harrison, Fort Lupton 80621

*Meet the Candidate Forums subject to change or cancellation.*

# 2023

## ANNUAL MEETING & DIRECTOR ELECTION

### WEDNESDAY APRIL 12, 2023

The 2023 Annual Meeting will be held as a hybrid event. Members may view the meeting online or attend in-person.

#### MEETING LIVESTREAM

[www.unitedpower.com/annual-meeting](http://www.unitedpower.com/annual-meeting)

#### IN-PERSON MEETING

##### Riverdale Regional Park & Fairgrounds

9755 Henderson Road, Brighton, CO 80601

**4:30 p.m.** In-person Registration, Balloting, & Dinner

**6:30 p.m.** Online & In-person Meeting Begins

### BALLOTING DEADLINES

**Balloting in the 2023 Director Election will be conducted by both electronic & paper balloting.**

**FEB. 10, 2023**

Director nominations by petition deadline at 4 p.m.

**MARCH 13, 2023**

Electronic balloting opens & paper ballots are mailed to members.

**APRIL 11, 2023**

Mail-in ballots must arrive at the P.O. Box by 11:59 a.m. Electronic balloting closes at 11:59 a.m.

**APRIL 12, 2023**

In-person voting open from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

### CANDIDATE FORUMS

Every March, the cooperative holds candidate forums in each of its four director districts for members to meet candidates vying to serve on the Board of Directors, hear their vision for the cooperative, and ask questions.

Meet the Candidate events are free to members and RSVPs are not required. Light refreshments will be served.

**Times and dates of Meet the Candidate Forums are located in the article to the left.**

# Decking the Halls Safely

The holiday season is quickly approaching, and with it the time to put up festive lights, both indoors and outdoors.

According to Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI), nearly 90% of Americans decorate their homes as part of winter holidays. While holiday lighting does contribute to the joy, appeal, and splendor of the season, using them without following important safety precautions can increase the risk of fires and electrical injuries.

ESFI recommends the following holiday safety steps to ensure you and your family are able to enjoy the season comfortably and worry-free:

- The best decorations are safe decorations, so when you are decorating, make sure not to run cords under rugs or furniture.
- Always turn off your decorations when you leave your home and when you are sleeping.
- Do not overload outlets or extensions cords. If you are using extension cords or adapters that add receptacles, consider having a qualified electrician add more outlets to your home.
- Only use electronics in dry areas. As tempting as it is, you just can't decorate your aquarium with icicle lights.
- Every home needs a working smoke alarm in each bedroom, outside sleeping areas, and on every level, including the basement.
- Inspect your decorations and discard any that are damaged or worn out. Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, loose connections, or frayed or bare wires. Plug light strings together as you inspect them but before hanging.
- ESFI recommends buying your family arc-fault circuit interrupter (AFCI) breakers or outlets. Many electrical fires that occur every year could be prevented by AFCIs.

## READER REWARDS

EARLY WINTER  
2022



Three Winners Every Month!

1<sup>st</sup> place: \$100 Bill Credit

2<sup>nd</sup> place: \$50 Bill Credit (two winners)

### Submit Reader Rewards Online

[www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com)



Visit [www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com) and click on 'News & Community' to enter Reader Rewards online. Answer the question below with your online entry:

### How much did United Power employees raise for Allegiance Ranch?

By submitting this entry, I agree to allow United Power to publish my name in subsequent issues of *United Newline* if I am selected as a winner. For complete contest rules, visit [www.unitedpower.com/newline](http://www.unitedpower.com/newline).

Members may also enter by mailing the following entry form to:

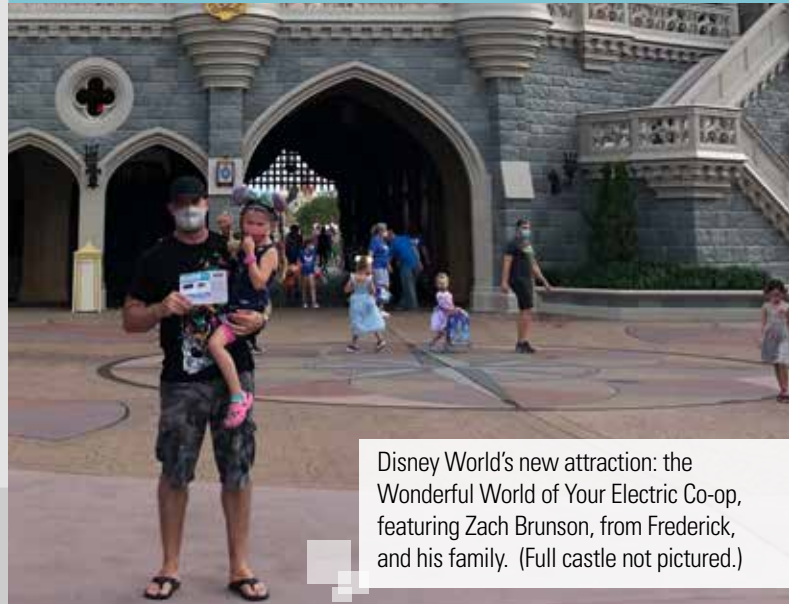
United Power • Reader Rewards • 500 Cooperative Way • Brighton, CO 80603

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## UNITED POWER PRIDE



Disney World's new attraction: the Wonderful World of Your Electric Co-op, featuring Zach Brunson, from Frederick, and his family. (Full castle not pictured.)

### United Power Pride Photos

Snap a photo with the *United Newline* and you'll receive a \$100 bill credit if we print it. Submit your photo along with your name, address, email, and a description of the photo online at [www.unitedpower.com/unitedpowerpride](http://www.unitedpower.com/unitedpowerpride).

## RECIPES



## Our Salute to Veterans

### Co-op Employees Raise More Than \$5,000 to Support Veterans Through Allegiance Ranch

Cooperatives are driven by a spirit of service and the desire to give back to the communities that built and shaped us, the same motivating factors that inspire our military heroes. United Power is proud to celebrate veterans working in our offices, living in our communities, and throughout the country. Veterans Day allows us to take a moment to appreciate and thank our military veterans. The cooperative is honored to power those who have bravely served our country.

Many United Power employees have felt the impact of a family member who answered the call to protect our country. Some fought in the most important conflicts in world history. Some employees have known this call firsthand from enlisting in one of our military branches themselves. The cooperative wants to recognize these employees not only for their service to the country, but also their commitment to the cooperative values and principles that drive us to serve members better every day.

“Please join me in extending a special thank you to all United Power employees who are veterans and all our members who served our country both in peace and conflict,” said United Power President and Chief Executive Officer Mark A. Gabriel. “Thank you for your patriotism, love of country, and willingness to sacrifice for the common good.”

As part of United Power’s recognition of Veterans Day in November, co-op employees

led an effort to raise funds for Allegiance Ranch and Equine Rescue in Erie. Allegiance Ranch is a nonprofit that provides a safe and welcoming place for veterans, active-duty military, first responders, and their families. It provides services free of charge thanks to the support of community members and donors.

Employees raised more than \$5,000 for Allegiance Ranch in less than 48 hours through an online auction featuring themed baskets donated by each United Power department. Many departments and several United Power employees also donated additional items for the auction. Allegiance Ranch will use the funds to complete projects that allow them to better support veterans. To learn more about Allegiance Ranch, go to [www.allegianceranch.org](http://www.allegianceranch.org).

Thank you again to all our military veterans. You inspire us each day to do our best to serve our members and our communities with pride and commitment. Thank you for your service.



### Rolled Sugar Cookies

1 1/2 cups butter, softened  
2 cups granulated sugar  
4 eggs  
1 tsp vanilla extract  
5 cups all-purpose flour  
2 tsp baking powder  
1 tsp salt

Cream together butter and sugar in large bowl with an electric mixer until smooth. Beat in eggs and vanilla. Stir in flour, baking powder, and salt. Cover and chill dough for at least one hour or overnight.

Preheat oven to 400°. Lightly dust work surface with flour. Roll out dough to 1/4 to 1/2 inch thickness. Cut into shapes with your favorite Christmas cookie cutters. Place cookies one inch apart on ungreased baking sheets. Bake in preheated oven until cookies are lightly browned, 6-8 minutes. Let cool completely before decorating.

**For icing:** Whisk 1 1/2 cups powdered sugar with 1/4 tsp vanilla, 1 tsp corn syrup, and 2 Tbsp water in a bowl until combined. Separate and dye with food coloring as desired.

*Source: All Recipes*

### Share Your Recipes

Earn a free gift if we publish your recipe.

ONLINE: [www.unitedpower.com/newline](http://www.unitedpower.com/newline)

MAIL: United Power Recipes  
500 Cooperative Way  
Brighton, CO 80603

## 2023 Youth Trips & Scholarships



### Youth Tour

Students explore Washington, D.C. with peers from across the country and learn about American history and the cooperative business model while developing leadership skills. Each day is packed with memorable moments.

**Application Deadline:**  
**Jan. 18, 2023**

### Youth Camp

Campers spend a week near Steamboat Springs establishing and managing their own cooperative. In between days filled with cooperative-focused activities, leadership training seminars, and collaborative group projects, campers enjoy fun activities like rafting down the Colorado River or exploring Fish Creek Falls.

**Application Deadline:**  
**Jan. 18, 2023**

### Scholarships

United Power awards more than \$20,000 in scholarships to outstanding students served by the cooperative. Scholarships include awards for students attending an accredited university or college in Colorado or pursuing a specific degree program, as well as 11 book scholarships.

**Application Deadline:**  
**Jan. 27, 2023**

Applications and more information for United Power's youth opportunities are available under the **'News and Community'** tab at [www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com) or call Julie Stewart, Community Outreach Specialist, at 303-637-1334.



## Whitmore Receives RMEL's Industry Leadership Award

Troy Whitmore, Vice President & Public Affairs Officer at United Power, received a 2022 RMEL Industry Leadership Award during its annual fall convention in October. RMEL was formerly known as the Rocky Mountain Electrical League.

The Industry Leadership Award recognizes individuals whose leadership contributions have made an impact within their organization. Recipients usually have more than 10 years of experience in the industry. These individuals are often active in various industry affiliations, associations, and/or organizations that serve the electric industry.

Whitmore's long tenure at United Power and in the electric industry has allowed him to be a real force in helping to guide not only co-op programs and offerings, but legislative initiatives that affect our industry. An active voice at the state capitol, Whitmore has worked with legislators on issues ranging from election transparency for cooperatives, to helping to incorporate renewable energy guidelines for utilities. He is an engaged and active voice for the members of United Power and for other electric consumers across Colorado.

During his 36 years at United Power, Whitmore has served in functions including communications, marketing, customer service, and governmental affairs. In his current position, he oversees governmental affairs, community relations, key accounts, and economic development functions. His work has always balanced where the industry

can move realistically with the needs and wants of United Power's members. Much of his work has allowed United Power to become a leader in innovation among cooperatives. He remains active in his community and serves as board chair of the Colorado Advocates for Rural Electrification (CARE), which is Colorado's electric cooperatives' political action committee, and is a board member of Energy Outreach Colorado (EOC), which is Colorado's premier energy assistance foundation.

RMEL also conferred the Distinguished Leadership Award to Mike Hummel, General Manager & Chief Executive Officer, SRP. RMEL's Honorary Life Member Award recipients are Paul Barham, retired, CPS Energy; Joel Bladow, retired, Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association; Kevin Howard, retired, Western Area Power Administration; Pat Pope, retired, Nebraska Public Power District; and Stuart Wevik, retired, Black Hills Energy. Also receiving the Industry Leadership Award are Tony Eddleman, Director of NERC Reliability Compliance, Nebraska Public Power District; Mike Jones, Senior Director of Strategic Risk Management, SRP; Keith Nix, Vice President of Operations, Texas-New Mexico Power; and Jim Trask, Department Manager - Energy Group, Burns & McDonnell.

Congratulations to all 2022 RMEL award winners. For more information on RMEL, visit their website at [www.RMEL.org](http://www.RMEL.org).

# Our Cooperative Roadmap

## Achieve Business Agility and Resilience Through IT/OT Strategy

Our Cooperative Roadmap (Roadmap) is United Power's functional plan for the future, and focuses on four specific pillars the cooperative views as essential to strengthening its position as a leader in the electric industry. In previous newsletters, we have highlighted our commitment to pursuing affordable and sustainable power, optimizing our distribution system, and our commitment to member and community engagement. The final Roadmap pillar focuses on our information technology (IT) and operational technology (OT) systems strategies, which allow us to be efficient and functional in maintaining our distribution system.

Advancing technologies play a critical role in how United Power responds to and prevents outages. Without the insight computerized systems provide, the cooperative would not be able to see in-depth information about grid performance and conduct targeted maintenance. In a way, this pillar is foundational for meeting the requirements of grid optimization.

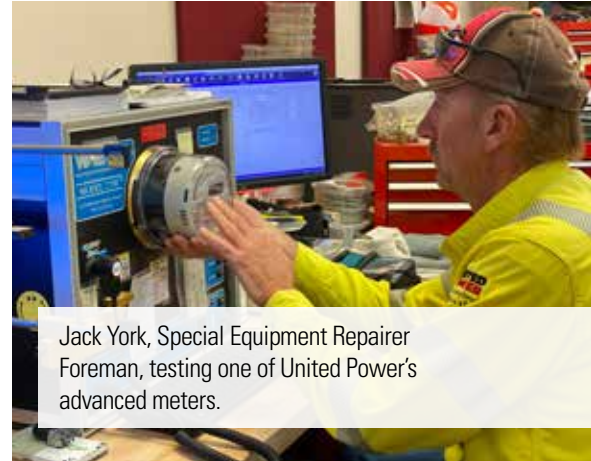
"United Power has taken an approach of embracing IT," said Rex Webster, an infrastructure engineer at the cooperative. "It's where they integrate us into decision making that allows us to shape and guide workflows, processes, and systems."

United Power's Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) is a computerized system that provides the cooperative with information about energy usage. It helps guide grid construction and improvements and ensure sufficient power is delivered where members need it. In many cases, we can use this system to identify and respond to outages before members may even be aware. It is the availability of this infrastructure that also allows us to offer Power Portal to our members, where you can view energy usage in 15-minute segments and make energy-saving habit changes.

The implementation of informational technology strategies would not be complete without factoring in the ever-increasing threat to cybersecurity.

"We've implemented many state-of-the-art cybersecurity tools and monitoring services on both our field devices and our corporate networks," Webster said.

Technology is advancing rapidly, and new technology may be on the horizon that offers even greater insight into our distribution system. While we have no way of knowing what may be available tomorrow, our systems are built to adapt as changes take place. We are constantly looking for



Jack York, Special Equipment Repairer Foreman, testing one of United Power's advanced meters.

advantageous options that enable us to better serve our members.

"Our Cooperative Roadmap is looking ahead over the next 10 years as we become a more fully functional distribution system operator," said Reliability Engineer Tyler Bain. "But in reality, we're already down that path, and we're already deploying and utilizing the systems that are going to make some of those futuristic thoughts possible today."

# Operation Round Up Gives Big in 2022

## Member-Funded Foundation has Distributed Nearly \$170,000 This Year

Operation Round Up is poised to have one of its biggest giving years on record since the foundation's inception more than 25 years ago. With another month remaining to consider grant requests, the foundation has already distributed nearly \$170,000 to nonprofit organizations serving United Power members across the cooperative's service territory. The foundation's board will meet to review grant requests again in December.

Members who enroll in Round Up will have their monthly billing statements rounded up to the next whole dollar, which averages about \$.50 per statement – or just \$6 per year. Participation is voluntary and can be ended at any time. Donated funds are distributed to four partner nonprofit organizations representing members in each of the cooperative's districts, as well



as other organizations that submit grant requests. The board, made up of fellow United Power members, meets five times throughout the year to review requests.

As a voluntary foundation, members form the backbone of Round Up. Because the growing number of people in need is stretching local nonprofits beyond their

means, United Power is making a call to its membership to consider enrolling. Your contribution will go further than you imagine and could mean another family has food on their table, clothes on their back, a warm place to sleep, or any other number of needs met. More than 20,000 members are currently enrolled in the program.

"We participate in Round Up," said one Commerce City member when asked about the program. "To us, it is just a monthly reminder, however small, that everyone who benefits is part of one big family."

Members who are interested in enrolling in Round Up or increasing their contribution can go to [www.unitedpower.com/round-up](http://www.unitedpower.com/round-up) or call Member Services at 303-637-1300.

# Inside This Issue

EARLY WINTER  
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## Salute to Veterans

Employees raise \$5,000 to support veterans during November fundraiser.

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## Youth Trips & Scholarships

Applications for youth trips and scholarships are now open.

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## RMEL Honors Whitmore

Troy Whitmore receives Industry Leadership Award for co-op contributions.

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## Our Cooperative Roadmap

How technology plays a role in an efficient distribution system.

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## STAY CONNECTED WITH YOUR CO-OP

**email**.....UnitedNewsline@UnitedPower.com  
**online**.....www.unitedpower.com  
**f**.....facebook.com/UnitedPower  
**t**.....twitter.com/UnitedPowerCoop

**Member Services**..... 303-637-1300  
**Outage Line**..... 303-637-1350

## CONGRATS READER REWARDS WINNERS

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place:** Debby Rodgers, Boulder
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Amanda Harnden, Ft. Lupton  
Ralph Dotterer, Firestone

See your name? Call 303-637-1325 within two (2) months of the issue date to claim your Reader Rewards.

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 Elizabeth "Beth" A. Martin  
 Elizabeth "Beth" A. Martin  
 Mark A. Gabriel  
**EVP & Chief Operating Officer**  
 James Vigesaa  
 James Vigesaa  
 Vice-Chairman  
 Tim Erickson  
**EVP & Chief Financial Officer**  
 Laurie Burkhardt  
 Laurie Burkhardt  
**SVP & Chief Energy Resource Officer**  
 Keith Alquist  
 Keith Alquist  
**Treasurer**  
 Tamra Waltemath  
 Tamra Waltemath  
**Ast. Sect./Treasurer**  
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UNITED  
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