

UNITED NEWSLINE

Information for the members of United Power, Inc.

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Co-op Membership Pays

Co-op Announces \$4.5 Million Capital Credit Retirement

IMPORTANT DATES

MAY	National Electrical Safety Month
MAY 29	Memorial Day Offices Closed
JULY 4	Independence Day Offices Closed

Retirement of \$4.5 Million on its way to Members Beginning in Late May

United Power is more than your local electric utility and you are more than a consumer. You have probably heard there are benefits to cooperative membership. The decisions we make are not to satisfy investors or generate profits, but to serve our members and our communities, ensuring our system is well maintained and delivers reliable power. It is just part of what makes cooperative membership different.

Another member benefit that sets us apart is the retirement of capital credits. This year, our members will be part of United Power’s 17th consecutive retirement. If you are unfamiliar

with this process, capital credits represent your investment in the co-op.

Becoming a Member

The moment you start receiving electric service from United Power, you become a member and an owner of the cooperative. As a member, you have unique privileges, one of which is economic participation. A portion of each electric bill you pay goes toward the cooperative’s operation and infrastructure, which represents your ownership stake.

Members may also vote annually in the Director Elections or run for a seat on the Board to make their voices heard. By actively engaging and participating with the cooperative, you will always have a voice in our operation. (Learn more about our 2023 Annual Meeting of Members on pg. 10.)

Allocation of Capital Credits

Every spring, United Power looks at the prior year and any funds remaining after all expenses have been paid are allocated to members based on the prior year’s electric consumption – generally the more power you use, the larger your allocation will be.

The allocation is not a check, but a bookkeeping of your ownership in the cooperative, i.e., the amount of money you invested into the electric system based on your electric consumption the past year. The funds are tracked, but not accessible in the form of cash until they are retired. You are notified of your allocation amount on your bill in May or June each year.

Retirement of Capital Credits

Annually, the Board of Directors assesses the financial condition of the cooperative and determines what amount of capital credits are eligible for retirement. If the Board decides a retirement is feasible, the money is paid out, or “retired,” from each member’s account. The Board approved a \$4.5 million retirement this year. Those retirements will be distributed beginning in late May.

Anyone who had service in 2021 or earlier will be eligible to receive a refund. Refunds more than \$50 will arrive as a check, and members who receive a refund less than \$50 will see it reflected on their billing statement as a credit. Look for this credit on your bill in May or June.



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.

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.

My old boss used to have a saying, "Predicting rain is one thing, building the ark is another." I am proud to say that your cooperative, with support from the Board of Directors, developed and is following Our Cooperative Roadmap — the ark for success now and into the future. This journey will continue the evolution of the electric business as we work to meet the needs of you, our members, wherever you are.

There continues to be a lot of talk about the energy transition — how the future will look, the challenges of changing power suppliers, and the issues with more people and businesses seeking alternative generation sources. Many of these conversations in the industry revolve around concerns for reliability, resilience, and of course affordability, three watchwords for all of us operating your cooperative.

A distribution cooperative like United Power stands at the crossroads of a changing energy industry. It needs to transition from a simple distribution operator to managing a system that is agnostic to inputs and flexible enough to handle both centralized power and local generation. Very few central power stations are being built today, more fossil fuel generation facilities are closing, and transmission projects lag needs. A distribution system operator (DSO) will be counted on to manage a more complex, yet interlocked, system. This will empower you as members and monetize investments in a shared energy economy.

We are focused on staying closely tied to the economic drivers of the communities we serve to bring tax dollars, revenue, and well-paying job opportunities. We must be good stewards of our resources and build on the solid partnerships with our local businesses. I am proud to say that these partnerships are the cornerstone of the cooperative business model.

Providing high quality and reliable service is crucial because businesses matter. We are restructuring some staff to focus on business and community partnerships — our key accounts. This will allow us to be more responsive, anticipate

needs in areas such as power quality, and leverage available grant dollars and tax incentives. Another benefit in controlling our power supply will allow us to craft rates that work for these members.

As a member-owned cooperative, the concept of "meeting you where you are," aligns with our goal of delivering mutual value. It has the added benefit of keeping investments in the communities we serve while ensuring the reliability and resiliency required in today's environment. The quiet transition to localized grids, combined with the advancements in management tools and software, returns to continue the electricity enterprises' original intent of bringing light, motive power, and comfort to the communities being served.

Our Cooperative Roadmap makes sure we are invested in the technological changes our members are navigating in our industry. More members want to self-generate or make energy efficient upgrades to their homes. Others are investing in technologies that will change the way we interface with members. United Power must continue supporting technologies that reduce costs for all members. Programs such as United EV, Smart Rewards for thermostats, energy efficiency rebates, and solar interconnections give members control over how they use power. We are here to support members who want to produce their own power and provide financial incentives that align with our goals of affordability and system control. These programs are aimed at sharing savings with our members when they participate in programs that can reduce our costs.

What does this mean in practice? United Power provides the people and tools to help members make decisions about their own energy use, power generation, use of technologies, and safe integration of batteries and solar panels. It means we are continuously scanning the horizon to make sure our distribution system is ready for tomorrow and safe for today.

We are not just predicting the rain of change but building the ark to ensure we sail into this bright new future.

Capital Credit Retirement is a Shared Member Benefit

CURRENT BILLING DETAIL		
Energy On Peak	308 KWH @ 0.154	47.43
Energy Off Peak	508 KWH @ 0.0525	26.67
Demand Charge	6.560 KW @ 1.50	9.84
Fixed Charge		19.00
Franchise Fee		3.09
Sales Tax		4.78
Capital Credit Refund		-13.53
Current Month		97.28

Above: If your capital credit retirement is less than \$50, it will appear as a credit on your statement.

“There isn’t a more tangible benefit of cooperative membership than receiving money back on your investment in the utility itself,” said Mark A. Gabriel, United Power’s President and Chief Executive Officer. “Your investment not only makes you an owner, but helps ensure the resiliency of our system, the reliability of your power, and the affordability of our rates. It is a tangible representation of your value as both a member and an owner.”

Capital credit retirements have returned a steady stream of money back to members in recent years. During the last 17 years, the cooperative has been able to retire millions of dollars back to its members.

Want to learn more about capital credits? Frequently asked questions can be found at www.unitedpower.com or you can call a member services representative at 303-637-1300.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- If you move, please be sure to leave your new address with us so we can continue to refund any capital credits you are eligible to receive in the future.
- Upon death, the deceased member’s capital credit account is available for estate retirement. The representative of the estate should contact United Power to settle the capital credit account.

Director Earns Certification Morgan Renews NRECA Director Gold

United Power Director Ursula J. Morgan earlier this year completed the renewal of her Director Gold certification from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). The cooperative’s directors are committed to continuing education opportunities through the national association that enable them to govern effectively and stay informed about industry changes.

Directors are eligible to earn Director Gold certification through the NRECA’s Director Education Program upon completion of the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) and Board Leadership Certification (BLC). The three-step program prepares directors for their governing responsibility through educational courses that teach essential skills and knowledge, including their fiduciary duty as elected officials on behalf of their membership. Directors must complete at least three credits from approved continuing education courses within a two-year period to maintain their Director Gold certification.

United Power’s directors are committed to achieving the highest levels of certification



United Power Board Chairman, Beth Martin, presenting Ursula J. Morgan with her Director Gold certificate.

and professional training for the benefit of the cooperative and the members they represent. Ten directors have earned at least their CCD certification and nine have received Director Gold.

RECIPES



Peanut Butter, Oat, & Jam Bars

- 6 Tbps unsalted butter, softened
- 1/2 cup creamy peanut butter
- 1/2 cup sugar, preferably caster
- 1 1/3 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1 1/4 cup sour jam of your preference

Topping:

- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup rolled oats
- 1/3 cup brown sugar
- 1/3 cup shredded coconut
- 1/2 cup mixed nuts, chopped
- 5 Tbps coconut oil or unsalted butter

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease 9” square pan and line with parchment paper.

Mix butter and peanut butter in stand mixer and beat on high until pale and fluffy. Reduce speed to low and add sugar until combined. Combine flour, baking powder, and 1/2 tsp salt and add to butter mixture. Transfer to pan and spread evenly. Prick with fork and bake for 10 minutes.

For cumble topping, combine ingredients. Mix with fingers until sandy. Spread jam over base and sprinkle cumble over top. Continue baking for 25 minutes. Remove and allow to cool.

Source: *Delicious.*

Share Your Recipes

Earn a free gift if we publish your recipe.

- ONLINE: www.unitedpower.com
- MAIL: United Power Recipes
500 Cooperative Way
Brighton, CO 80603

Connected to Safety

May is National Electrical Safety Month

If you have purchased any major electronics over the past few years, you have experienced firsthand the rapid advancement of technology. Smart technology has evolved beyond our phone and thermostat to incorporate practically every aspect of our daily lives. From entertainment to fitness, technology powers our lives. Safely managing these tools may not frequently cross our minds, but improperly managing electronics can be dangerous. Staying aware of simple things can keep you and your family safe from electrical hazards.

May is **National Electrical Safety Month**, and United Power is joining with Electrical Safety Foundation International to raise awareness about potential electrical hazards and the importance of electrical safety in our homes and businesses.



United Power offers the following tips and suggestions to help identify and eliminate hazards to protect you, your family, and your home:

- Overloaded electrical circuits are a major cause of residential fires. Avoid “daisy chaining” electrical cords to prevent overloading your home’s electrical system and lower your risk of electrical fires. Daisy chaining is connecting a series of devices, such as power strips, using a single wall outlet or other connection point.
- Light bulbs come in a variety of wattages, and lamps work with specific watts. Do not use bulbs that exceed the maximum wattage listed on your lamp or fixture. Exceeding the wattage limit can cause overheating and create potential fire hazards. Consider investing in LEDs, which use fewer watts while producing the same amount of light and cost less to operate.
- Extension cords are not a permanent solution. If you need additional outlets around your home, a licensed electrician can install outlets where you need them most.
- Never use electrical cords that feel warm to the touch or are damaged or frayed in any way.
- Frequently tripped circuit breakers and blown fuses are a clear warning sign of faulty electrical wiring. Contact a licensed electrician for an inspection.
- Be prepared, just in case. Smoke alarms should be installed in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of your home. Remember to test them at least once a month.

READER REWARDS

ISSUE 4
2023



Three Winners Every Month!

1st place: \$100 Bill Credit

2nd place: \$50 Bill Credit (two winners)

Submit Reader Rewards Online

www.unitedpower.com



Visit www.unitedpower.com and click on ‘News & Community’ to enter Reader Rewards online. Answer the question below with your online entry:

How many scholarships did the co-op award in 2023?

By submitting this entry, I agree to allow United Power to publish my name in subsequent issues of *United Newslines* if I am selected as a winner. For complete contest rules, visit www.unitedpower.com/newslines.

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



Judy and Jeff Trzeciak vacationed at Miramar Beach in Florida to celebrate both their 50th wedding anniversary and beating cancer. The Commerce City couple enjoyed the warm weather on the beach and visiting local historic sites.

Congratulations, Judy and Jeff!

United Power Pride Photos

Snap a photo with the *United Newslines* 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.



2022 Financial Report

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Returned more than \$4.7 million in Capital Credits to members in 2022.



Serving 106,943 meters across six Colorado counties, and growing.



Powering 15 members per mile of line.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Comparative Balance Sheet

6

	2022	2021
ASSETS		
Utility Plant		
Electric plant	\$ 530,666,941	\$ 482,720,881
Less: depreciation	(120,026,785)	(109,229,619)
Depreciated value	<u>410,640,156</u>	<u>373,491,262</u>
Investments & Other Property	149,084,196	147,101,490
Current Assets		
Cash & cash equivalents	3,379,790	6,869,156
Receivables	8,181,602	7,400,126
Materials	12,277,293	10,113,567
Prepayments & other current assets	27,353,732	25,086,138
Total	<u>51,191,417</u>	<u>49,468,987</u>
Deferred Debits	38,507,562	26,235,641
Total Assets	\$ 649,423,331	\$ 596,297,380

LIABILITIES & CAPITAL

Capital Equities		
Patronage capital	\$ 245,667,597	\$ 238,250,702
Other capital	597,069	(1,531,399)
Total	<u>246,264,666</u>	<u>236,719,303</u>
Long-Term Debt	319,839,067	265,271,649
Current Liabilities		
Current maturities of long-term debt	10,460,940	9,155,161
Notes payable	16,100,000	38,700,000
Accounts payable	26,409,475	21,252,569
Accrued expenses	14,036,313	10,380,023
Accrued taxes	8,478,824	7,617,445
Customer deposits	2,204,572	2,145,476
Total	<u>77,690,124</u>	<u>89,250,674</u>
Deferred Credits	5,629,473	5,055,754
Total Liabilities & Capital	\$ 649,423,331	\$ 596,297,380

TOTAL REVENUE

(THOUSANDS)



2018	\$255,683
2019	\$285,599
2020	\$300,271
2021	\$303,309
2022	\$314,576

TOTAL ASSETS

(THOUSANDS)



2018	\$453,329
2019	\$510,498
2020	\$549,851
2021	\$596,297
2022	\$649,423

ENERGY SALES - KWH

(THOUSANDS)



2018	2,447,189
2019	2,739,378
2020	2,871,674
2021	2,902,460
2022	2,993,636

Statement of Operations & Patronage Capital

OPERATING REVENUE

Operating Revenue	2022	2021
	\$ 314,575,926	\$ 303,309,436

OPERATING EXPENSES

Cost of purchased power	229,750,040	221,902,232
Operating expenses - distribution	7,923,196	7,929,963
Maintenance of distribution plant	8,589,866	7,966,695
Consumer accounting & collection expenses	6,062,385	4,464,218
Other customer expenses	3,265,762	2,703,521
Administrative & general expense	15,000,373	15,430,096
Directors fees & expense	480,292	421,647
Depreciation	15,323,400	14,317,068
Property taxes	8,470,698	7,222,789
Other expenses	491,608	438,437
Total Operating Expenses	295,357,620	282,796,666
Operating Margins Before Interest Expense	19,218,306	20,512,770
Interest Expense		
Interest on long-term debt	11,830,654	10,683,044
Interest charged to construction (credit)	(691,240)	(564,901)
Other interest expense	264,113	458,173
Total Interest Expense	11,403,527	10,576,316
Operating Margins Before Capital Credits	7,814,779	9,936,454
G&T & other capital credits	3,727,958	8,299,911
Operating Margins	11,542,737	18,236,365
Interest revenue	324,701	184,426
Allowance for funds used during construction (equity)	416,378	56,869
Other revenue (expense)	1,240,150	345,349
Nonoperating Margin	1,981,229	586,644
Net Margins	\$ 13,523,966	\$ 18,823,009

PATRONAGE CAPITAL & OTHER EQUITY

Net Margins	2022	2021
	\$ 13,523,966	\$ 18,823,009
Patronage Capital & Other Equities, Beginning of Year	236,719,303	224,477,002
Subtotal	250,243,269	243,300,011
Retirement of Patronage Capital & Other Contributions (net)	(3,978,603)	(6,580,708)
Patronage Capital & Other Equities, End of Year	\$ 246,264,666	\$ 236,719,303

TOTAL PLANT INVESTMENT

(THOUSANDS)



2018	\$347,985
2019	\$399,341
2020	\$450,148
2021	\$482,721
2022	\$530,667

MILES OF LINE



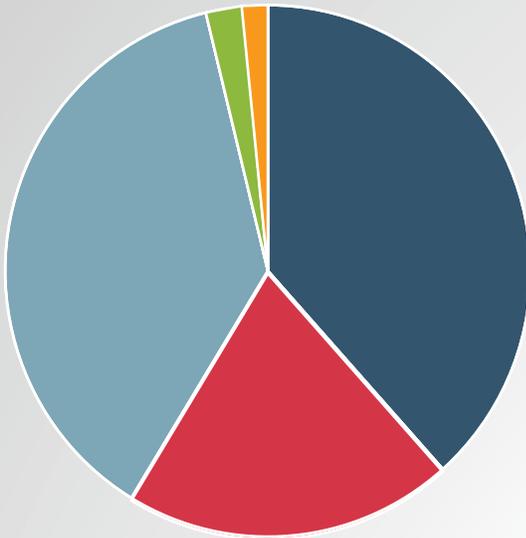
2018	5,941
2019	6,205
2020	6,384
2021	6,551
2022	6,790

NUMBER OF METERS SERVED



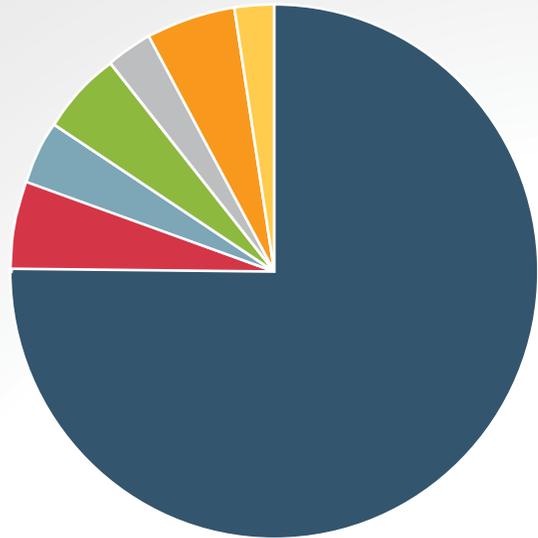
2018	87,528
2019	93,527
2020	97,704
2021	102,305
2022	106,943

Financials at a Glance



SOURCES OF INCOME

Residential	\$126,699,088	39.6%
Small Commercial	\$65,819,688	20.6%
Large Commercial	\$117,711,785	36.8%
Other Operating Revenues	\$5,910,215	1.8%
Tri-State Allocations (non-cash)	\$ -	0.0%
Other Allocations & Income (non-cash)	\$3,727,958	1.2%



STATEMENT OF EXPENSES

Cost of Power	\$229,750,040	74.9%
Depreciation (non-cash)	\$15,323,400	5.0%
Interest	\$11,403,527	3.7%
Operations & Maintenance	\$16,513,062	5.4%
Consumer Accounts & Info	\$9,328,147	3.0%
Admin, Gen'l & Other	\$15,972,273	5.2%
Taxes	\$8,470,698	2.8%

Your Energy Dollar

For every dollar you spend on electricity, three-quarters goes toward the cost of wholesale power.

73¢

Cost of Wholesale Power

27¢

Depreciation (5¢), Interest (3¢), Operating Expense (13¢), Taxes (3¢), Operating Margins (3¢)



2023 Scholarship Recipients

United Power proudly announces the 2023 scholarship recipients. Twenty scholarships were granted to students, totaling more than \$20,000. United Power awards scholarships each year to outstanding students served by the cooperative. The United Power Scholarship Committee gives these awards based on grades, test scores, extracurricular participation, community involvement, and an essay. Applications are made available at the end of each year. **Visit www.unitedpower.com for more information.**



Kaden Rademacher
United Power Colorado College Scholar, \$2,000

Mead High School senior Kaden Rademacher wants to promote change in the world through a career in engineering. He'll study mechanical engineering and computer science at Colorado School of Mines and hopes to use his experience to help solve complex issues facing the world. Kaden participates in Mead's marching band, baseball team, National Honor Society, and more.



Gavin Walker
United Power Colorado College Scholar, \$2,000

Prairie View High School senior Gavin Walker has a passion for technology. He will begin studying computer science at CU Boulder in the fall and pursue a career in cybersecurity upon graduation. Gavin has been active on Prairie View's cross country, basketball, and track teams. He has served on the school's student council and is a member of National Honor Society.

Lauren Brown
United Power Youth Leadership, \$1,500



The forensic sciences are a fascinating field of study for Frederick High School senior Lauren Brown, who will major in biology with a specialization in cells at either Suffolk or Boston University in the fall. She would like to direct forensic science documentaries after obtaining her master's degree and produce young adult novels. Lauren plays on the Frederick High School tennis team and is involved in the school's leadership program, Link Crew, National Honor Society, and Quill and Scroll.

Haley Howell
Basin Electric Power Cooperative, \$1,000



Frederick High School senior Haley Howell will attend Hastings College in Nebraska in the fall where she will major in radiography while also playing for the softball team. Her academic path will earn her a health systems degree and an associate in applied sciences, which will help her continue to serve others in her community. Haley is a four-year letter in softball at Frederick High School and a member of National Honor Society and Key Club.

Gwendolyn Hanks
Tri-State G&T Association, \$1,000



Gwendolyn Hanks will study nursing at the University of Alabama or Colorado State University after graduating from Frederick High School in May. She plans to become a nurse practitioner after completing her master's or doctoral education. As a student at Frederick, Gwendolyn tutored elementary students and counseled basketball camps while lettering for the school's basketball team and running cross country. She's a member of Link Crew and National Honor Society.

Otis Kindvall
Lois Lesser Education, \$1,000



Frederick High School senior Otis Kindvall will study psychology at Colorado State University or the University of Northern Colorado in the fall. After graduating, he plans to pursue a master's in school psychology so he can help kids who struggle with mental health and disabilities. He feels every child should have access to tools and support to be successful. Otis has been active in his local church throughout high school and serves as the Weld County 4-H president.

Dylan Leonard
Bill Berens Memorial, \$1,000



Dylan Leonard, a senior at Brighton High School, will attend Colorado School of Mines to study engineering physics. His career plan is to obtain his doctorate and open a lab where he can create technology that will help the general public on both an individual and societal scale. Dylan is active in several local bands and orchestras, including the Brighton High School jazz and pep bands and the 27J Orchestra Academy. He has received academic awards in math, science, and more.

Jolene Her
United Power Community College, \$1,000



Prairie View High School senior Jolene Her will begin her postsecondary education at Front Range Community College in Westminster before going on to pursue a bachelor's in biology and exploring her career options within the field. Jolene is active within the community, including volunteering with Project Angel Heart and her church's vacation bible school.

United Power Book Scholarships - \$1,000

Brooklyn Yates, Brighton High School



Brooklyn has planned out an adventurous medical career. She will study nursing at the University of Portland and explore travel nursing to gain experience and try new things. She then plans to return to school and study dermatology.

Gabriel Pemberton, Mead High School



Gabriel has always enjoyed math, science, and chemistry. He will study engineering at Front Range Community College in the fall and plans to enroll in a four-year college after completing his associate degree.

Grace Finnegan, At-Large Selection



Grace, a senior at Holy Family High School, will study computer science and engineering in college. For her career, she wants to lead a team that designs computing devices for clients.

Megan Derby, Eagle Ridge Academy



Megan is eyeing a career in STEM as an electrical engineer. She will begin her studies at Nebraska Community College, where she will also play on the school soccer team. After that, she will finish her studies at a four-year college.

Margaret Anne McEldowney, Prairie View High



Margaret will enroll in the College of Theatre and Dance at the University of Northern Colorado and pursue a career in professional stage acting. She wants to stay in Colorado and give back to the community.

Andrew Sawyer, At-Large Selection



Andrew will study mechanical engineering at Montana State after graduating from Stargate Academy. Although uncertain of his career path, he knows this field will allow him to design products that help improve human lives.

Cullen Aasmund-Williams, Frederick High School



Cullen will study computer engineering at Colorado State University in the fall. He wants to work at the forefront of global developments within computer integration and help achieve innovative and environmental advancements.

Jaden Atencio, Riverdale Ridge High School



Jaden is ready to jump into life after high school when she starts college in the fall. She will study psychology with an emphasis in criminology at either Colorado State University or Front Range Community College.

Austin Hane, At-Large Selection



Austin, a senior at Northglenn High School, plans to study mechanical engineering and computer science and pursue a career that allows him to utilize both. He will enroll at either Colorado School of Mines or CU Boulder.

Trisha Hammen, Fort Lupton High School



Trisha wants to help develop computer technology that is affordable and accessible to those who are financially limited. She will study computer engineering at either Colorado State University or Colorado School of Mines.

Zayne Blair, Mountain Territory



Zayne is already working as a computer numerical control machinist apprentice at Lockheed Martin with plans to work in the STEM field after college. He will study mechanical engineering at CU Boulder.

Bailey Chess, At-Large Selection



Bailey will graduate high school with an associate degree and enroll at Colorado State University to study hospitality management. After an early college graduation, she wants to attend the police academy to become an officer.

2023 Director Election Results

United Power members cast nearly 7,000 ballots in this year's Director Election, and the following results were certified by the Election and Credentials Committee at the 2023 Annual Meeting.

Mountain District

Tamra "Tami" Waltemath..... 5,918

South District

James Vigesaa 1,960

Ken Kreutzer 1,876

Katherine "Kathy" Mills 1,455

Jamie Klein 1,271

West District

Virginia "Ginny" A. Buczek.... 4,003

Thomas "Tom" Hogan 2,510

East District

Steven "Steve" Douglas..... 3,614

Robert "Rob" Masden 2,994



ENERGY SAVERS

Change your HVAC filter regularly.

Change your filter every three months, at minimum. A dirty filter will slow air flow and make the system work harder to keep you warm or cool. A clean filter will prevent dust and dirt buildup, which can cause early system failure.

United Power Hosted 2023 Annual Meeting in April

Douglas Seated in East; Three Incumbents Re-elected

United Power hosted its 2023 Annual Meeting on April 12. Members were invited to attend the meeting in person at Riverdale Regional Park in Brighton or watch live on the cooperative's website. Approximately 500 members and guests participated in this year's meeting.

Voting in the Director Election was conducted via mail-in and electronic balloting. Electronic balloting was introduced in 2022 to provide members with a fast, secure, and convenient way to submit ballots and avoid mail delays. Nearly 7,000 member ballots were cast in the election. **(Results can be found to the left.)**

The meeting featured a video presentation from United Power Board Chairman Beth Martin and Mark A. Gabriel, the cooperative's President and CEO, summarizing the previous year's accomplishments and highlights. Last year, the co-op reaffirmed its decision to exit its wholesale power contract and pursue a more flexible, affordable, and reliable power supply. It also achieved record-breaking reliability and continued to communicate the initiatives in Our Cooperative Roadmap, an action plan for maintaining the co-op's competitive advantage in a rapidly changing electric industry.

"No matter what the future holds, providing reliable electric service will always be at the core of our business," said Martin. "We made great strides in 2022 — strengthening our system, improving reliability, and protecting our communities."

United Power takes wildfire mitigation seriously, and continually updates its plan to protect members and communities. In 2022, the cooperative removed vegetation encroaching on approximately 40 miles of line; applied fire retardant to more than 400 poles; and added red flag warning procedures, which are activated when conditions are optimal for wildfires.

United Power also continued to evaluate opportunities to expand its electric vehicle (EV) offerings for members in 2022. The cooperative energized its third fast charger, rolled out its United EV pilot program, and launched its EV wiring rebate.

Member Choice grants, which allow members to nominate local nonprofits to



Local fair royalty pose for a photo with United Power's safety demo team at the 2023 Annual Meeting.

receive grant dollars from the cooperative, were renewed for a third year in 2022. Six organizations were selected from dozens of nominations to receive a total of \$12,000 through the program.

"Underlying all of these accomplishments is a dedicated team of United Power employees working to ensure they meet your needs," said Gabriel. "Over 180 cooperative employees show up every day ready to put you first. They keep our systems secure and strong, take pride in working safely, and make sure that our members' needs are met."

Gabriel concluded the business meeting with a presentation about the future of the electric industry. He highlighted the many ways the cooperative has already begun to proactively address the changing utility environment — from driving economic prosperity for its communities through tax revenue and job creation to how it is meeting the crucial needs of large business members. He also discussed local generation and self-generation as well as the technologies that work in conjunction with a robust electrical system that benefit the cooperative, its communities, and the members.

"A distribution utility like United Power stands at the crossroads of a changing energy industry and needs to transition from a simple distribution operator to managing a system that is agnostic to inputs and flexible enough to handle both centralized power and local generation," he said.

Videos and information presented at the 2023 Annual Meeting, including the cooperative's 2022 Annual Report, are available at www.unitedpower.com.

Save Smart with Smart Rewards This Summer

United Power members with a qualifying Honeywell or Nest smart thermostat can earn money this summer by enrolling in Smart Rewards. Through Smart Rewards, your thermostat will automatically shift energy use to help us reduce load on high consumption days. When you help us save, we will share those savings with you at the end of each cooling season. For every summer you remain enrolled, United Power will credit you \$25.



Here's How to Get Started:

Any qualifying smart thermostat can be enrolled in Smart Rewards through your thermostat's app or online. United Power provides enrollment links and a list of qualifying device models on its website at www.unitedpower.com/smart-rewards.

Members enrolled in Smart Rewards will receive notifications of peak events through their mobile app or thermostat. Peak events will only occur on weekdays between 12 p.m. and 9 p.m., last no more than four hours, and there will never be more than three

events in a week. During a peak event, your thermostat will automatically make a slight adjustment to your settings to reduce demand on the grid, and then return to normal at the end of the event. Members will see their credits on billing statements at the end of each cooling season, typically in October.

Smart Thermostat Rebates

Members are eligible to receive exclusive rebates on qualifying Honeywell and Nest smart thermostats. Enrollment in Smart Rewards is required to qualify for this rebate opportunity. Information about rebates, eligibility, and qualifying devices is available at www.unitedpower.com/thermostat.

Grants Renewed in 2023

Member Choice Grant Nominations Now Open

Member Choice Grants, a program that allows United Power members to nominate local nonprofits for cooperative grants, has been renewed for 2023. Nominations for this year's recipients opened in April.

Nominating a local nonprofit that is meeting the needs of individuals and families in the cooperative's service territory is a way for members to let United Power know which causes they care about. The process is quick and simple. Learn more about Member Choice Grants at www.unitedpower.com/memberchoice.

Since the program's launch in 2020, United Power members have helped the cooperative recognize nearly 20 nonprofit organizations and distribute nearly \$25,000 in grant funds. Nominations for 2023 Member Choice Grants will be accepted through Sept. 29 and announced in the December newsletter.



Nominate A Nonprofit!

www.unitedpower.com/memberchoice



Summer Event Calendar

Saturday, May 13

Erie Town Fair

Historic Old Town Erie
(Balloon Launch, June 9-11)

Saturday, June 3

Brighton Summerfest

Carmichael Park
650 E Southern St., Brighton

Saturday, June 3

Johnstown BBQ Day

Historic Downtown Johnstown

June 23-25

Frederick in Flight

Centennial Park
630 Eighth St., Frederick

Saturday, July 1

Independence Day Celebration

Community Center Park
201 S. Rollie Ave., Fort Lupton

Monday, July 3

Stars & Stripes

Riverdale Regional Park
9755 Henderson Road, Brighton

Tuesday, July 4

4th at Firestone

Miners Park
150 Grant Ave., Firestone

July 14-16

Gilpin County Fair

Gilpin County Fairgrounds
230 Norton Drive, Black Hawk

July 19-22

Chainsaws & Chuckwagons

Centennial Park
630 Eighth St., Frederick

