

APRIL  
2018

# UNITED NEWSLINE

Information for the members of United Power, Inc.

## IN THIS ISSUE

- NEW Outage Map ..... 2
- Linemen By the Numbers ..... 3
- Safe Generator Use ..... 4
- Energy Efficiency ..... 6
- Youth Opportunities ..... 7

Journeyman Linemen Luis Rodriguez and Vayo Rodriguez



## Our Superheroes

## IMPORTANT DATES

<b>APRIL</b> 9-13	<b>National Work Zone Awareness Week</b> Page 6
<b>APRIL</b> 18	<b>Annual Meeting &amp; Director Election</b> Page 3
<b>MAY</b> 28	<b>Memorial Day</b> Offices Closed

When darkness befalls a city, superheroes lace up their boots, throw on their capes and race into danger without a moment's hesitation. Everyone knows the classic Spider-Man quote, "With great power comes great responsibility." Every day heroes may not wear capes and fly around the city, but they know when the going gets tough, it's time for them to get going.

The Denver area is synonymous with winter storms, and when the metro last experienced the most trying pitfalls of living at the base of the Rocky Mountains in October 2009, United Power linemen were prepped and ready to go as snow

blanketed the metro area. Schools and businesses took preemptive action, closing before the storm hit. By the time the last snowflake nestled in with its brethren, snow had been falling for more than 24 hours.

While area youth enjoyed a day away from the classroom, a different picture unfolded in the Front Range. Coal Creek Canyon, a community within United Power's mountain service area, had accumulated nearly four feet of snow.

To put that number into perspective, Chicago's average annual snowfall is around three feet.

Calm winds allowed the snow to gingerly build on tree branches, poles, yard ornaments and fences, bringing with it a massive burden. Each new snowflake resting precariously on unsuspecting surfaces brought weight inching toward disaster, like the dastardly plan of a supervillain. Before the storm faded, thousands of Coal Creek residents were without power as tree branches, cross

arms and power lines succumbed to the weight of the snow.

Within moments of the outage, United Power had begun mobilizing crews to diagnose the situation and restore power. Operations Superintendent Mike Lanckriet, a lineman of 32 years, and his crew were among the first to respond.

"We took careful steps to monitor the storm as it moved into our territory, but we never expected the amount of snow we got," Lanckriet said. "At times the snow was deeper than our linemen were tall. But we didn't think of it in terms of challenges. When we arrived, our first focus was what needed to be done to get the power back on."



United Power linemen wouldn't let the enormity of the task ahead deter them from accomplishing their goal. They laced up their boots, threw on their tools and raced headfirst into our worst winter storm in more than 12 years.

continued on Page 3



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

Main Switchboard 303-659-0551  
 Report an Outage 303-637-1350  
 Customer Service 303-637-1300

# NEW Outage Map Launched

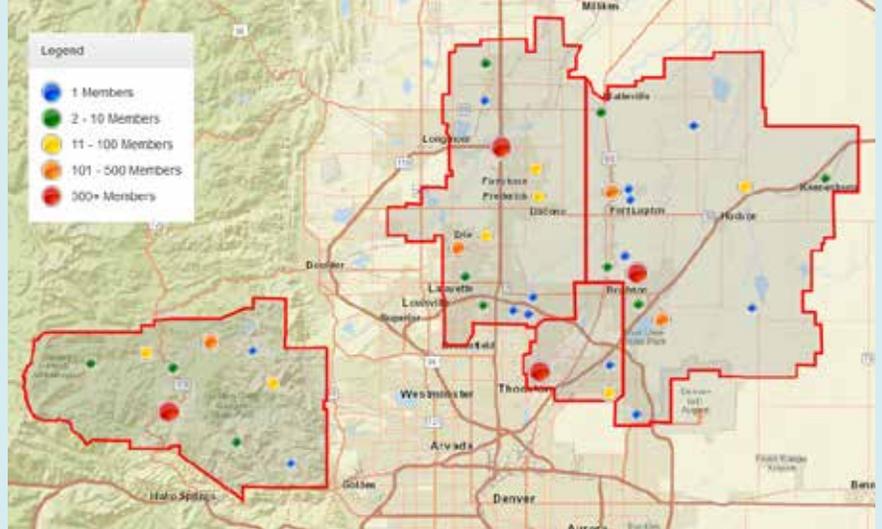
If you've visited our website recently, you may have noticed our live outage map has been "under construction." Our team was busy working behind the scenes to test and implement updates and improvements, resulting in a more usable map for our members. In March, we rolled out the new and improved outage map. Here's a brief snapshot of some of the exciting new benefits the map provides for our members:

## More detailed information

Our previous map displayed outages impacting a large number of members. The new map displays information for outages ranging in impact from a single member to more than 500 members using color-coded icons to indicate range of members affected. The new map is easier to read, updates more quickly and scales better for mobile devices.

## Know what caused your outage

Has your power ever gone out without warning? You don't have to live in the dark. Using a variety of cause-specific codes, you can learn if your outage was planned, equipment failure, weather related or a number of other causes. Once our linemen have



determined a cause, it will be updated live on our outage map.

## Keeps your privacy in check

Everyone values their privacy and knowing their information is secure. So security is a priority within the new outage map. Before launch, our design team ensured the map would pass the most stringent security tests for our member's safety. When an outage impacts a single member, you can also rest assured knowing the map won't provide specific address information or indicate the exact house the outage has impacted.

## More features coming soon

Our team's work is never done, and they're constantly looking for new ways to improve our monitoring system

to keep our members informed about outages in their area. Check the map periodically to see if updates have been added, or follow us on social media.

If you haven't had an opportunity to view our new outage map, you can access it at [www.unitedpower.com/outage-map](http://www.unitedpower.com/outage-map). From the website, the map is the second option under the "Outage Center" drop down menu.

\*Outage Map graphic above displays test data only and does not reflect actual outages



## ENERGY SAVERS

### Don't forget the filters

Clean or change filters regularly. A dirty furnace or A/C filter will slow down air flow and make the system work harder to keep you warm or cold.

# 2018

## ANNUAL MEETING & DIRECTOR ELECTION

Wednesday | April 18 | 4:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Adams County Fairgrounds

9755 Henderson Road, Brighton, CO 80601

Enter at Exhibit Hall for registration & dinner

## Linemen Face the Unpredictable Every Day

Crews spent nearly a week battling dense snow, bitter cold and physical and mental fatigue while alternating 14 hour shifts to restore power to Coal Creek. Final repairs, however, took more than two weeks to complete.

“You try to be as prepared as possible before a large storm, but there’s always a level of unpredictability,” said Kurt Eisenbarth, another United Power superintendent and former lineman. “It takes a different mentality to thrive on that in the most critical situations.”

Living along the Front Range means each winter brings the possibility of another debilitating winter storm, but in reality critical situations come few and far between. Most of the time, linemen are working when the weather’s calm and the sun is shining. It’s easy to forget the service they provide when the situation isn’t seen as “critical,” easy to divorce their role from the danger linemen face each day.

“It doesn’t take lightning or snow for our job to be dangerous,” said Operations Manager Brent Sydow. “The most routine task requires a high level of care and safety.”

Being a lineman requires hard work, dedication and commitment – to their crew and their work – to doing dangerous work, knowing the fruits of their labor are often misunderstood or unrecognized.

Residents in a comic book rest easy knowing a superhero is there to save the day when danger rears its head, much like we confidently trust in the unimpeded flow of electricity to power our lives. But when the power fails, our linemen spring into action.

We invite our members to join us in celebrating **National Lineman Appreciation Day on April 18<sup>th</sup>**. Use #ThankALineman on social media to show your support, or take a moment to drop a kind note in the mail.

Outages can come without warning, from a variety of different situations, but one thing you can count on: when the power goes out, a United Power line crew is already on its way.

“When the power goes out, it’s about a brotherhood coming together to accomplish a goal, working shoulder to shoulder through blood, sweat and tears,” Eisenbarth said. “At night, they get to be the superheroes.”



**UNITED POWER  
THANK A LINEMAN  
PO BOX 929  
BRIGHTON CO 80601**

**Facebook.com/UnitedPower  
Twitter.com/UnitedPowerCoop**

## RECIPES



### Thai Chicken Soup

- 2 Tbs Red Curry Paste
- 3 Cups Coconut Milk
- 2 Cups Chicken Stock
- 2 Tbs Fish Sauce
- 2 Tbs Brown Sugar
- 2 Tbs Peanut Butter
- ~1.5 lbs Chicken Breast, cut into pieces
- 1 Red Pepper, seeded and sliced
- 1 Onion, thinly sliced
- 1 Tbs Fresh Ginger, minced
- 1 Cup Frozen Peas, thawed
- 1 Tbs Lime Juice
- Fresh Coriander (for garnish)
- White Rice (cooked)

Mix curry paste, coconut milk, fish sauce, brown sugar and peanut butter in 4-6 liter slow cooker.

Place chicken breast, bell pepper, onion and ginger in slow cooker. Cover, cook on high for 4 hours.

Add peas and cook 1/2 hour longer. Stir in lime juice and serve with coriander and rice.

### Share Your Recipes

Earn a free gift if we publish your recipe.

- ONLINE: [www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com)
- MAIL: United Power Recipes  
PO BOX 929  
Brighton, CO 80601

# LINEMEN BY THE NUMBERS

**MAINTAIN  
5,979  
MILES OF LINE**

**WORK  
80 ft.  
ABOVE GROUND**

**ON-CALL  
24 hrs.  
PER DAY**




**30  
FULL-TIME  
LINEMEN**

**WEAR  
45 lbs.  
OF GEAR**

**KEEP THE LIGHTS  
ON FOR MORE THAN  
83,000  
MEMBERS**

# Responsible Generator Use Saves Lives

Electricity is something many don't think about until it's not working. For some, backup plans are already in place to ensure a continual flow of power when storms or high winds threaten to disrupt service.

The use of portable generators is commonplace during power outages, but you may not know they can potentially create one of the more dangerous situations for the linemen trying to restore power to you and your neighbors. When a generator is plugged into a wall outlet, service panel or breaker box, it produces a "backfeed," which happens when electrical energy flows in the reverse direction from its normal flow. A backfeed reenergizes the transformer closest to your house, and puts linemen at risk of electrocution.

Think of a transformer as a funnel. As electricity enters the transformer from the powerlines, it is funneled out at a lower voltage sufficient to provide power to a household. When it enters from the reverse direction, it has the opposite effect, returning the voltage to a higher

**YOU MAY NOT KNOW GENERATORS CAN POTENTIALLY CREATE ONE OF THE MORE DANGEROUS SITUATIONS FOR LINEMEN.**

level. Linemen who are caught unaware of a backfeed could risk serious injury, or even death.

It is never recommended to plug a generator into a wall outlet, service panel or breaker box; instead, plug appliances and other electrical devices directly into the generator as specified in the product's operating instructions. In the event you find it necessary to plug the generator into a wall outlet, flipping your property's

main breaker to the "off" position may provide protection to linemen working in the area. This position prevents electricity from flowing into or out of the breaker. Remember to disconnect your generator from the wall outlet prior to turning the breaker back on.

Linemen spend countless hours in dangerous situations making sure power continues to flow to every member in our service area. Help us take the necessary steps to keep them safe.



## READER REWARDS

APRIL  
2018



### Three Winners Every Month!

1<sup>st</sup> place: \$150 Lowe's Gift Card  
2<sup>nd</sup> place: \$50 Lowe's Gift Card (two winners)

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

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

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

Mail entry form to: United Power • Reader Rewards  
PO Box 929 • Brighton, CO 80601

## Reader Rewards Online

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

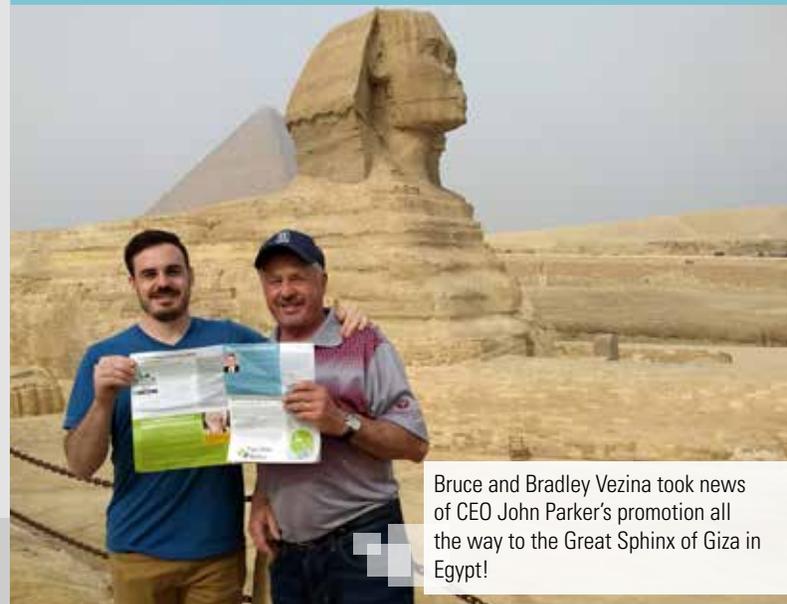


Save a stamp! Visit [www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com) and click on 'Co-op & Community' to enter Reader Rewards online. Answer the question below with your online entry:

## What day is Lineman Appreciation Day?

By submitting this entry I agree to allow United Power to publish my name in subsequent issues of United Newsline if I am selected as a winner.

## UNITED POWER PRIDE



Bruce and Bradley Vezina took news of CEO John Parker's promotion all the way to the Great Sphinx of Giza in Egypt!

## United Power Pride Photos

Snap a photo with the *United Newsline* and we'll send you a gift if we print it. Send your name, address, phone number, and a description of the photo to:

E-MAIL: [unitednewsline@unitedpower.com](mailto:unitednewsline@unitedpower.com)

MAIL: United Power—Attn: United Newsline  
PO Box 929, Brighton CO 80601

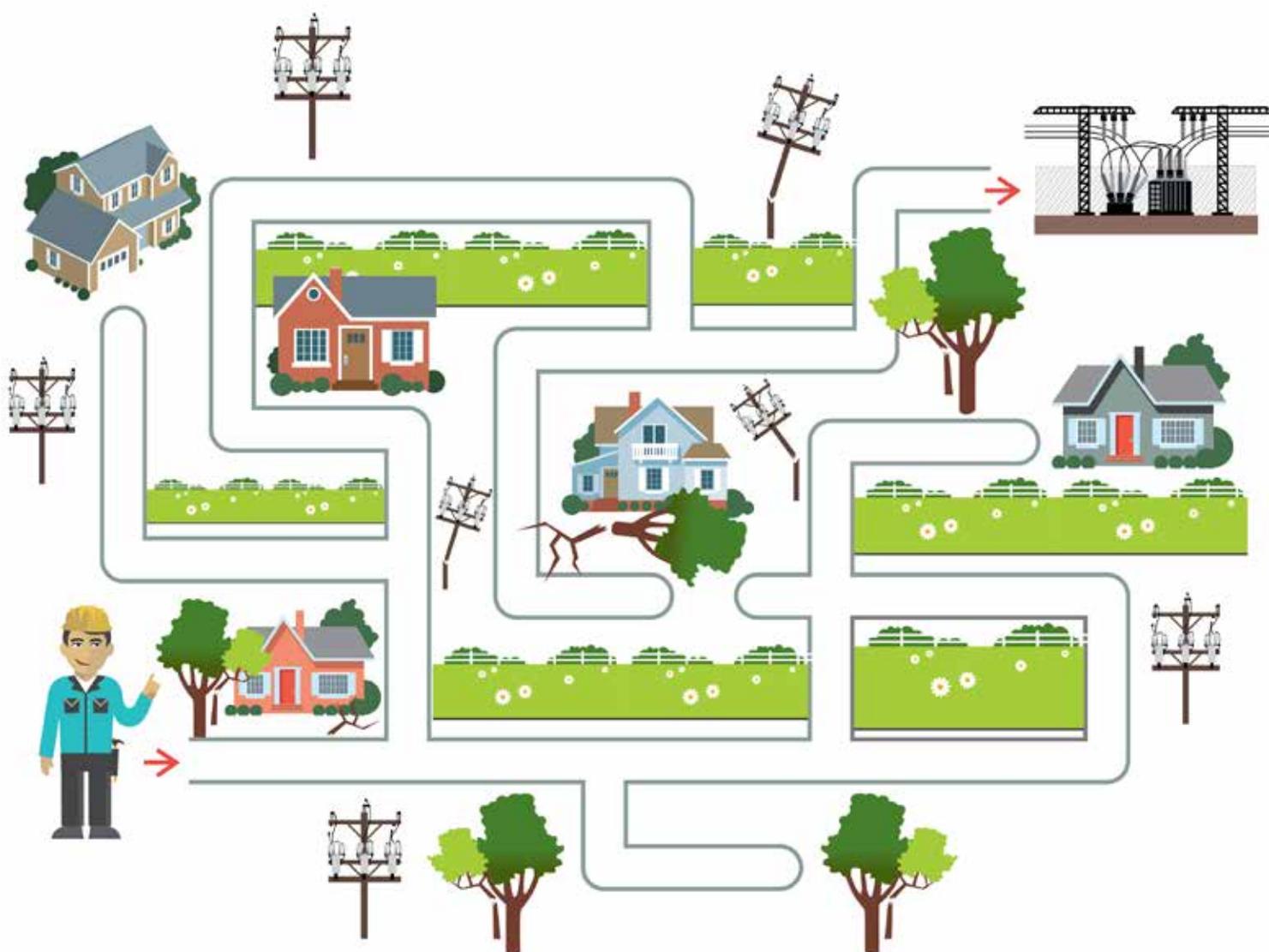
# IN HONOR OF LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY, HELP THE LINEMAN REACH THE SUBSTATION



**Energy  
Explorers**

Linemen work in dangerous conditions to restore electricity after major storms and other types of power outages. Many times, linemen make substation repairs to get the power back on.

**Can you help the lineman get to the substation?**





## Energy Savings for Spring and Summer

As ski season draws to a close and temperatures begin to rise, the time to think about how to keep your home cool and energy efficient during warmer months is now. Many energy saving measures are inexpensive to boot.

On cooler summer nights, open windows in the evening and turn off air conditioning units while sleeping. In the morning, shut the windows and blinds to hold in cool air. Where practical, plant trees and shrubs that provide shade in warm months and have the added bonus of allowing in sunlight during winter months. Well placed trees can absorb heat from the sun and provide shade for the house.

On hotter spring and summer days, avoid the temptation to set the thermostat at its lowest position. This will not actually cool the house any quicker. Instead, set the thermostat as high as you can while maintaining your comfort level. Using a ceiling fan in

conjunction with air conditioning can allow you to increase the thermostat setting without a loss in comfort. Ceiling fans only help circulate air within the room, but do not cool down the room themselves. To save energy, turn off fans in empty rooms.

Other steps you can take to save energy include replacing incandescent bulbs with LEDs. LEDs use less energy and produce less heat. You can also install a smart thermostat, like a Nest Learning Thermostat, to control heating and cooling while you are away from the house or during the evening without getting out of bed.

To learn more about additional energy-saving tips and programs, check [EnergyStar.gov](http://EnergyStar.gov) or watch for our Energy Savers tips in each month's newsletter.



### ENERGY SAVERS

#### Don't forget the Bathroom

The bathroom vanity is one of the highest-use fixtures in the average home. ENERGY STAR lighting uses less energy and generates less heat than standard lighting.

## National Work Zone Awareness Week April 9-13, 2018

United Power would like to remind our members of the importance of staying aware when entering and exiting roadside work zone areas for both your safety and our crews' safety. Transportation accidents have been one of the leading causes of on-the-job deaths nationwide.

Our crews often work near busy roadways, shoulders or intersections in large vehicles while maintaining high-powered electrical lines and equipment.



When you see a United Power line truck on the roadside, please remember to slow down and move over when possible to give our crews a wide enough path to continue working safely.

Please try to avoid distractions like cell phones or changing radio stations when entering a roadside work zone and be prepared for the unexpected.

We thank you for helping keep our crews safe!

# Youth Opportunities

## Represent Your Co-op

Did you or your student miss these opportunities? Don't worry, students are invited to apply for the Youth Tour and Cooperative Youth Camp each year. Watch our website and Facebook page at the end of 2018 to learn more about the 2019 trips.

**Like us on [Facebook.com/unitedpower](https://www.facebook.com/unitedpower) or visit the 'Co-op & Community' page at [www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com)**

## 2018 D.C. Youth Tour Delegates

United Power selected three local students to represent the cooperative at this year's Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington D.C in June. **Hannah Rockwell** of Brighton, **Megan Lewis** from Firestone and **Jordyn Saffy** of Brighton were selected based on academic performance, extracurricular activities, volunteer efforts and a brief essay.

Local electric cooperatives throughout the country sponsor approximately 1,500 ambitious high school students from small towns and cities for an incredible week in the nation's capital with the objective of providing an educational experience for young people on the organization and operation of a cooperative. Cooperatives are committed to educating America's rural youth about the country and the role electric cooperatives play in developing strong rural communities.



**Hannah Rockwell** is a student at Weld Central High School where she is an athlete in cross country and track. She is a member of the National Honor Society and president of her school's Future Business Leaders of America Club. Hannah loves school and her future plans include pursuing a career in medicine.



**Megan Lewis** attends Frederick High School, where she is a member of the National Honor Society and the Student Advisory Committee. Megan is active in musicals/plays at her school, and is on both the varsity cross country and tennis teams. Her future plans include college and medical school.



**Jordyn Saffy** attends high school at Eagle Ridge Academy. Jordan is captain of the volleyball team, president of the spirit team and participates in track and field. Her future plans include a degree in health sciences, which she intends to use to help those in need.

## 2018 Youth Camp Winners

United Power has also selected Brooklyn Stubby of Mapleton Early College in Commerce City and Catera Gagna of Brighton to represent the cooperative at the 2018 Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado this July. The camp is offered to high school juniors and seniors in the United Power service area. Interested students are asked to apply, and winners are selected based on academic performance, extracurricular activities and volunteer efforts.

The primary objective of the camp is to provide an educational experience for youth on the organization and operation of a cooperative. The camp strives to help develop leadership skills that will assist students with challenges they will face in the future.



**Brooklyn Stubby** attends Mapleton Early College and is active in student council, swimming and student mentoring. Brooklyn is keeping her options open, but is considering physical therapy, detective work or personal training/nutrition.



**Catera Gagna** is a student at Brighton High School and plays softball. She is a member of the principal's honor roll, student government and volunteers at a local elementary school. Catera plans to attend college and pursue a career in engineering.

# Inside This Issue

APRIL  
2018



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



## Lineman Appreciation Day

What makes a linemen's job so dangerous...and so fascinating?

Page 1



## Responsible Generator Use

When residents use generators improperly, linemen can pay the price.

Page 4

## STAY CONNECTED WITH YOUR CO-OP

**email**.....UnitedNewsline@UnitedPower.com

**online**.....www.unitedpower.com

**f**.....facebook.com/UnitedPower

**t**.....twitter.com/UnitedPowerCoop

**Main Switchboard**.....303-659-0551

**Member Services**.....303-637-1300

**Outage Line**.....303-637-1350

## 2018 Youth Camp and DC Tour Winners

Meet the winners who will represent United Power in Washington D.C and at the Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs this summer.

Page 7

## CONGRATS READER REWARDS WINNERS

**1st Place:** Roger & Patricia Shuler, Mead

**2nd Place:** May Baker, Dacono  
Jennifer Vander Meer, Brighton

See your name listed as a winner? Call  
303-637-1248 to claim your Reader Rewards.

<b>Chief Executive Officer</b>	John Parker	<b>Board of Directors</b>	James Vigasaa
<b>Chief Operating Officer</b>	Bryant Robbins	<i>President</i>	Susan Petricco
<b>Chief Financial Officer</b>	Laurie Rydwell	<i>Vice-President</i>	Beth Martin
<b>Public Affairs Officer</b>	Troy Whitmore	<i>Secretary/Treasurer</i>	Ursula J. Morgan
<b>Newsline Editors</b>	Heidi Storz	<i>Asst. Sec./Treasurer</i>	Keith Alquist
	Laurel Eller		Ginny Buczek
	Zachary Kinder		Tim Erickson
			Brian McCormick
			Richard Newman
			Dave Rose
			Tamra Waternath

Information for the members of United Power, Inc.  
© 2018 United Power, Inc.

# UNITED NEWSLINE

P.O. Box 929, Brighton, CO 80601

500 Cooperative Way, Brighton CO 80603

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



PRSR1 STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Ft. Collins, CO  
Permit No. 266