

UNITED NEWSLINE

Information for the members of United Power, Inc.

FEBRUARY
2019



2018: A Year in Review

United Power works tirelessly behind the scenes year after year to bring our members safe and reliable power and the tools they need to monitor and control usage patterns that could save them money. This past year has been no different for the cooperative, which took steps to be among the first to adopt utility scale battery storage and rolled out several exciting programs for members to utilize in their daily lives to understand how some behaviors may impact their bill.

Working the Lines

The ability to provide power begins with our linemen. As one of the most dangerous

jobs in the world, linemen put themselves in harm's way every day to ensure the steady stream of power to our members. In 2018, the cooperative completed construction on a new state-of-the-art training facility for linemen, comparable in size and scope to some of the state's largest. Just as you've come to expect from United Power, we went above and beyond, including the most innovative ideas from training yards across the country. From a series of low and high poles, linemen are able to practice a variety of situations to be better prepared to safely face anything they might experience in the field.

Bird's Eye View



For the past few years, United Power has prioritized preventative maintenance of its electrical infrastructure. For this reason, United

Power became one of the first electric utilities in Colorado to utilize unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) to monitor our power lines. While the project began in the mountain territory nearly two years ago, it

IN THIS ISSUE

- Questions about Demand? 2
- Downed and Dangerous 4
- Co-op Welcomes Frederick 5
- Becoming United Power 6
- Energy Efficient Appliances 7

IMPORTANT DATES

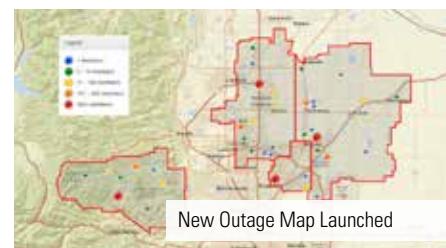
FEBRUARY 15 Deadline for Nominations by Petition for Director Candidates Page 3

MARCH 18, 19, 21, & 21 Candidate Forums Page 3

APRIL 17 Annual Meeting & Director Election Page 3

was rolled out in phases to the plains territory this past year, beginning in Brighton. Drones offer a safer and more time efficient option for diagnosing potential repairs that need to be made on poles and can often offer the information before outages happen. The project, to date, has examined more than 30 miles of power lines, saving countless man-hours and preventing outages.

When it's Unpreventable



Despite our best efforts, not all outages are preventable. To provide members with more information related to outages impacting them, United Power rolled out an all-new user friendly outage map in early 2018. The new information shows detailed outage information including number of members affected and cause, among other things, without sacrificing safety and security.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

www.unitedpower.com

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

continued on Page 3



How to See Demand:

Curious to see when you used the most energy this past month? Use Power Portal to pinpoint what's driving your energy use. Access your complete energy consumption portfolio in 15-minute increments throughout the day to get a clear look at how you use energy.

1. Login to **Power Portal** at www.unitedpower.com/powerportal.
2. Click on **My Consumption Data**.
3. Under **Usage Dashboard**, select the **Account** to view and choose **Current Month** from the drop-down and select **Billing Month**.
4. The **orange diamond** indicates the interval with the highest demand. (You may need to click on the **Demand** option under the blue chart to turn on the orange line in the graph.)
5. Click on the **blue bar** to display each 15-minute interval from that day. (Hover for more detail.)



ENERGY SAVERS

Replace Incandescents with LEDs

An incandescent bulb turns 90 percent of the energy it uses into heat. Consider replacing it with an LED bulb, which uses less energy and produces less heat. LEDs also last 50 times longer than traditional bulbs.

Questions about Demand?

United Power's new rate structure went into effect on January 1st, and members will begin to see the 2019 rates reflected as separate demand and energy charges on their February bills. While energy is the total power used, demand refers to the capacity needed to serve your location. The new rates break apart the costs for demand and energy to more fairly charge each member for their impact on the electric system and the energy they use.

Why did you change to this rate structure?

The way our members use power has changed, and we now have more detailed information about how each member uses that power. On the blended rate, some members were paying more than they should, while others were not paying enough. The demand component allows us to more fairly charge each member in a way that is more closely aligned with our costs to provide that service.

How do I see when I hit my demand?

Demand measures the highest 15-minute interval of power consumption over the billing period and your bill will show you the kilowatt (kW) demand measurement of that highest interval. If you'd like to investigate what contributed to your demand charge, the Power Portal will show you the day and time that your demand peaked. Pinpointing the day and time will give you the information to reflect on how you were using energy.

Perhaps your demand was highest on a cold Saturday afternoon when you had soup on

the stove, bread in the oven, the kids were downstairs gaming with a space heater on, and it was marathon laundry and cleaning day for the family. Operating all of these appliances at once required more system capacity for United Power to serve you, and your demand charge for the month is a fairer representation of how you used the electric system.

How can I reduce my demand?

Monitoring your use in the Power Portal will help you understand what is driving your demand. You'll see the effect of using multiple appliances at once and what your energy profile looks like when you stagger appliances. If you'd like to keep your demand charges as low as possible, small changes in the way you use energy can make a difference. Here are some easy ways to reduce your demand:

- Spread out the use of major appliances. Major electrical appliances that may contribute to high demand costs include air conditioners, electric clothes dryers, electric water heaters, electric ranges and ovens.
- Use small cooking appliances or an outdoor grill.
- Use a programmable or smart thermostat to pre-heat or pre-cool your home before you get home and operate kitchen appliances.
- Use a timer on your water heater, dishwasher and pool pump.
- Set a timer on your electric vehicle charger for the middle of the night after other major appliances are not in use.

February Bills to Reflect Rate Changes

In December, the United Power Board of Directors approved rate changes for 2019 that separated energy and demand charges, and includes a modest 1.5-2% rate increase for most members. The new rates break apart the blended rate members have paid in the past, incorporating both an energy charge and a demand charge.

New rates went into effect for energy use beginning **January 1**, so members will see these changes reflected on their **February 2019** billing statements.



Co-op Continued its Innovative Approach in 2018

Free Resources for Members

In early 2018, United Power began rolling out a new free online resource, the **Power Portal**, which allows members to monitor their energy usage in 15-minute increments to decide what behaviors had the heaviest impact and adjust accordingly. With the Power Portal, members can monitor their usage patterns to keep energy demand costs down.

The cooperative also launched *Rush Hour Rewards* in partnership with Nest Learning Thermostats to replace its former cycled air program. The smart home appliance gives members more control over energy usage when they're not at home. Enrolling in *Rush Hour Rewards* with your Nest allows United Power to adjust your thermostat a few degrees on hot summer days to save you energy, and rewards you for it at the end of the summer.

Leading the Way

United Power members have been quick to adopt solar energy, setting the bar high for other utilities to follow. In November, the cooperative celebrated its 3,000th rooftop solar connection. According to a 2018 report, United Power ranks among the top 50 utilities nationwide in solar energy and second among cooperatives in connected solar. Our commitment to renewable energy leads the way among all 43 cooperatives in Tri-State's four-state region.

Also in November, we energized the state's largest utility-scale battery storage facility at our new west office. The battery



New Battery Storage Facility at United Power's west office.

system generates 4 MW of electricity and is expected to save the cooperative \$1 million in wholesale energy charges. The project, developed in collaboration with ENGIE North America, is enough to power up to 700 homes simultaneously.



While not technically being used as a renewable energy source, battery storage represents the next logical step in the progression of renewable energy.

Commitment to Cooperative Principles

Most of us never go more than a few hours without some form of power, whether that's work, school or home or the commute in between. When United Power lineman Kelly Snow was given the opportunity to join a group of linemen from Colorado and Oklahoma to build

the infrastructure necessary to provide two remote jungle villages with power for the first time, he jumped at it. In September, the group left for Guatemala for three weeks to volunteer for the project through NRECA International. When asked why the trip meant so much to him, Snow responded with the Rural Electric Association's principle of bringing electricity to rural parts of the country and those who are underserved.



Kelly Snow presents water filtration system to Guatemalan villagers.

Throughout 2018, United Power had many opportunities to celebrate continual growth and innovation with members and leaders in the communities we serve. As we look to the future, we'll continue to set the bar for others to follow. We look forward to all 2019 has to offer, and continuing to provide our members safe and reliable power.

2019 ANNUAL MEETING & DIRECTOR ELECTION

WEDNESDAY APRIL 17, 2019

4:30 p.m. Registration Opens

6:30 p.m. Balloting Closes & Meeting Begins

Adams County Regional Park & Fairgrounds
9755 Henderson Road, Brighton, CO 80601

www.unitedpower.com/annual-meeting

BALOTTING DEADLINES

FEBRUARY 15, 2019

Director Nominations by Petition Deadline at 4 p.m.

APRIL 15, 2019

Mail-in Ballots must arrive at the P.O. Box by 6 a.m.

APRIL 17, 2019

Ballot Drop-Boxes at offices close at 2 p.m.

APRIL 17, 2019

Ballot Drop Box Open from 12–4 p.m. at the Adams County Fairgrounds

CANDIDATE FORUMS

Attend a **Meet the Candidate** forum to learn more about each of the candidates vying to serve on the Board of Directors. The following events are free to members. Light refreshments will be served. RSVPs are not required.

MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2019 | 6:30 p.m.

Adams County Fairgrounds - Waymire Dome
9755 Henderson Road Brighton, CO 80601

TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2019 | 7:30 a.m.

Fort Lupton Recreation Center
203 S. Harrison Ave. Fort Lupton, CO 80621

THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2019 | 7:30 a.m.

Coal Creek Canyon Community Center
31528 Highway 72 Golden, CO 80403

FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2019 | 7:30 a.m.

E.L.F. Grill
102 8th Street Dacono, CO 80514

Dates and locations may be subject to change.

Downed and Dangerous

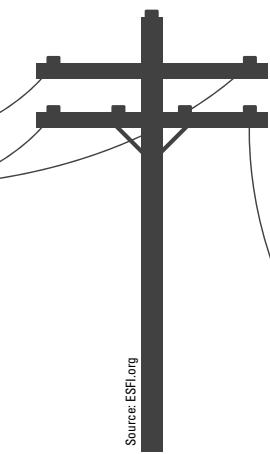
Safety Around Downed Power Lines

Colorado is no stranger to heavy thunderstorms and strong winter storms throughout the year. Strong storms can cause severe damage to homes and property, but they can also impact United Power's distribution grid, including downing power lines.

Downed power lines are extremely dangerous. Power lines carry a strong electric current, enough to cause serious injury or even death. Electricity wants to move from a high voltage zone to a low voltage zone – and it could do that

through your body. If you see a downed power line, always assume it is energized, and avoid going near it or anything in contact with the power line.

As your electric cooperative, we want to ensure your safety when



Source: ESFI.org

you encounter these situations. For your safety and the safety of others, remember these important safety tips if you ever encounter a downed power line:

- You cannot tell whether a power line is energized just by looking at it. You should assume that all downed power lines are live.
- If you see a downed power line, move away from it and anything touching it. The ground around power lines – up to 35 feet – may be energized.
- The proper way to move away from a downed power line is to shuffle away with small steps, keeping your feet together and on the ground at all times. This will minimize the potential for a strong electrical shock.
- If you see someone who is in direct or indirect contact with the downed line, do not touch the person. You could become the next victim. Call 911 for help.
- Do not attempt to move a downed power line or anything else in contact with it by using an object, such as a broom or stick. Even nonconductive materials like wood or cloth can conduct electricity if even slightly wet.
- Be careful not to touch or step in water near where a downed power line is located.
- Do not drive over downed power lines.
- If your car comes in contact with a downed power line while you are inside, stay in the car. Honk your horn to summon help, but direct others to stay away from your car.
- If you must leave your car because it is on fire, jump out of the vehicle with both feet together and avoid contact with both the car and the ground at the same time. Shuffle away from the car.



READER REWARDS



Three Winners Every Month!

1st place: \$150 Lowe's Gift Card

2nd place: \$50 Lowe's Gift Card (two winners)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Mail entry form to: United Power • Reader Rewards
500 Cooperative Way • Brighton, CO 80603

Reader Rewards Online

www.unitedpower.com



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

What anniversary is United Power celebrating at this year's Annual Meeting?

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.

FEBRUARY
2019

UNITED POWER PRIDE



The beautiful and clean country of Singapore is a must-see for many people, including some of our valued members. Here Rob and Kayla Burroughs enjoy a sunset view of the city skyline from the iconic Marina Bay Sands Hotel.

United Power Pride Photos

Snap a photo with the *United Newsline* and you'll get a \$50 bill credit if we print it. Send your name, address, phone number, and a description of the photo to:

E-MAIL: unitednewsline@unitedpower.com

MAIL: United Power—Attn: United Newsline
500 Cooperative Way, Brighton CO 80603



WELCOME FREDERICK

BRINGING CO-OP POWER TO THE TOWN OF FREDERICK

United Power Welcomes New Frederick Members

Addition of Frederick adds 2,400 Meters

In January, United Power officially welcomed approximately 2,400 new members as the cooperative became the sole provider to the Town of Frederick. These new members come into the cooperative after a deal was announced this past year to acquire the town's municipal electric utility, Frederick Power & Light.

Frederick agreed to sell the electrical infrastructure to United Power following failed negotiations over territorial disputes and pending litigation of the town's taking of service rights. In exchange for the purchase agreement, United Power agreed to drop its lawsuit, originally filed in 2017, over breach of contract.

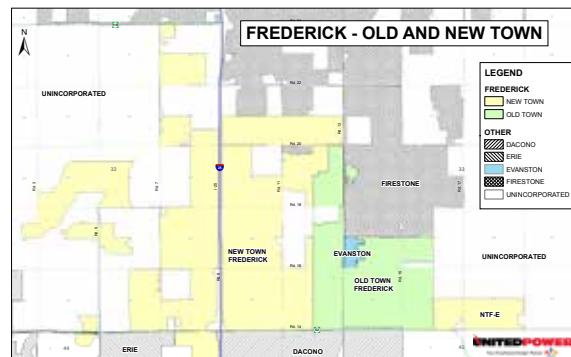
In a key step toward finalizing the deal, Frederick residents affirmed the purchase of the town's municipal electric utility in a special election this past summer. Nearly 90 percent of all voters indicated their support of United Power, which already served Frederick residents outside of "old town" boundaries.

"We are excited about bringing the entire Town of Frederick into the United Power membership," stated John Parker, United Power CEO, after the election was affirmed in June. "We want to express our thanks to the residents of Frederick for their support in this process, and

we will be working hard to make this transition a seamless process for them."

The addition of these new members pushes the cooperative's total services to nearly 90,000 meters, and closes a hole in the center of United Power's service territory. The acquisition will help the cooperative better integrate its electric delivery system as it grows and brings greater density to the operation, which will reduce operating costs for all cooperative members.

United Power has been working with Frederick to ensure these new members are well informed of the transition details. Members will receive multiple communications from the cooperative. A series of mailers will be sent to members with important electric account details. In addition, a special welcome page has been posted at www.unitedpower.com/WelcomeFrederick to ensure these new members have the information they need to take full advantage of the many programs and benefits available to them as United Power members.



RECIPES



Cheesy Salsa Mac

- 1 lb ground beef (80% lean)
- 2 cups fresh salsa
- 1 tsp taco seasoning mix
- 1/8 tsp ground pepper
- 1 1/2 cups hot water
- 1 1/2 cups elbow macaroni
- 1 cup milk
- 8 oz Velveeta, cut into cubes
- 4 oz sharp cheddar, shredded

Heat large, deep skillet over medium-high. Cook and stir beef until browned (5-7 minutes). Drain grease, and stir in salsa, taco seasoning and pepper. Simmer about 5 min.

Stir water, macaroni and milk into beef mixture and bring to boil. Reduce heat to medium-low, place cover on skillet and simmer until pasta is tender (about 10 minutes).

Stir Velveeta and cheddar into pasta and beef mixture until cheese melts completely (5-7 minutes).

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



A New Name: Union REA Becomes United Power

In the late 1980s, United Power overcame a competitive territory war and takeover bid from Public Service Company of Colorado, now Xcel Energy. The rocky battle led the cooperative to reevaluate its service and commit to trimming rates and delivering more reliable power for its members. This is the second in a three part series chronicling the cooperative's history leading up to its 80th Annual Meeting this April.

Following a member vote in August 1987 to reject Public Service Company of Colorado's (PSCo) takeover bid of Union Rural Electric Association (Union REA), the Colorado State Legislature urged the two electric utilities to settle its territory dispute in the interest of the public. The dispute had resulted in unnecessary duplication of distribution infrastructure over the years, which was costly to members and customers.

Three years later in 1990, the two utilities finalized an agreement that would exchange certain territories and establish firm territory boundaries. Union REA would begin serving Brighton, Ft. Lupton, Hudson, Keenesburg and the rural areas of Platte Valley. In return, PSCo would receive territory the new Denver International Airport was to be built on. The transfer closed the corridor separating the two areas the cooperative served along the plains.

With the territory battle behind it, the cooperative began focusing on resolving some glaring problems brought to light during the takeover attempt. Union REA's Board made a commitment to improve rates and reliability using PSCo's performance records as a measuring stick. With record performance levels and expectations aimed toward the future, Union REA became United Power, intending to help leave behind the unsophisticated image of the traditional cooperative.

The name change to United Power symbolized the cooperative's commitment to its rural heritage while presenting a progressive utility to a new urban member-base.

By November 1990, United Power had begun serving all the communities acquired in the exchange except for a lone holdout, Brighton, which had voted to deny the service transfer to the cooperative.

A couple years later, United Power had developed a reputation of reliability and reducing rates. When PSCo approached the Brighton city council again in 1992, United Power members were paying 6 percent less than Brighton residents served by PSCo.

As the cooperative and PSCo worked to move the transfer forward, United Power made dedicated efforts to educate Brighton residents and answer questions concerning service, reliability and cost of power to bolster its image as a cutting-edge power supplier. United Power assured residents it would track outage and restoration times, guarantee reliability factors as strong or better than PSCo and pledged to freeze rates for two years if the transfer was approved.

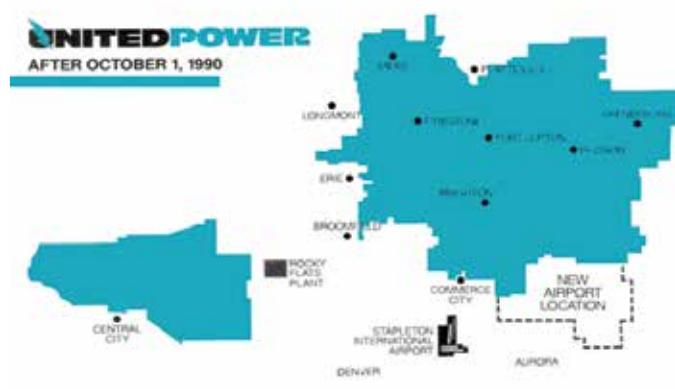
In 1993, United Power finally welcomed Brighton and its residents to the cooperative family.



ENERGY SAVERS

Size new HVAC units properly for better efficiency.

Bigger doesn't always mean better. Oversized units can cause reduced comfort and excessive noise. Undersized units can reduce efficiency and accelerate wear on system components.





Choosing Energy Efficiency Appliances

If you're holding on to older household appliances, now may be a good time to consider swapping them out for newer, more energy efficient models. Old appliances are among the biggest consumers of energy in your home, but as technology evolves, so does energy efficiency. A new energy efficient appliance can be operated using as much as 75 percent less energy than outdated appliances.

Old refrigerators are the biggest culprit of excessive energy usage among daily household appliances. While older refrigerators can cost upwards of \$16/month to use, a new model may cost as little as \$4/month. Newer, high-definition LED TVs also use a fraction of the electricity older liquid-crystal displays (LCD) and plasma screens do. And don't forget about other appliances and electronics you use daily.

Not only can new appliances save big on energy use, but they may also qualify for exclusive rebates from United Power and our wholesale power provider, Tri-State G&T. Select ENERGY STAR appliances are eligible for rebates, but must be requested within 120 days of purchase. For more information about United Power rebates, contact the energy management team at 303-659-0551 or go to www.unitedpower.com/rebates.

Tips for Purchasing New Appliances

With all the new information available about energy efficiency, it may be a little confusing to know what exactly to look for when shopping for new appliances and household electronics. Here are a few tips to help you out:

- **Look for the ENERGY STAR label.** ENERGY STAR-qualified products exceed the federal minimum standards for efficiency and quality, meaning they'll use less energy over their lifetimes than other models.
- **Carefully review the EnergyGuide label.** This yellow label provides information about how much energy an appliance uses compared to similar models.
- **Consider the purchase price and cost to operate.** These prices are important because you may be paying for the appliances energy use over the next 10-20 years, depending on when you choose to replace it again.
- **Compare prices.** Keep in mind, many retailers will match a lower price offered by competitors. Keep looking until you find the right appliance for the right price.

What are Vampire Loads?

The desktop computer in your office. The living room TV and gaming console in standby or rest mode. Even the cell phone charger you keep plugged in throughout the day. All of these items are responsible for contributing to your "vampire load," also known as the "phantom load." Vampire loads come from devices that use electricity even when they appear to be off. These loads are approaching 10 percent of the average household electric use, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Electronics and appliances in standby or rest modes require a little electricity to maintain minimal function of the device so it's ready to go when you return to using it. The primary culprits are televisions, desktop computers and, particularly, gaming consoles which can use as much electricity as a refrigerator even when not in use thanks to frequent system updates. Chargers are another contributor to the phantom load. A single charger might

not be a drain on your bill, but in an increasingly plugged-in world, the impact can begin to add up.

So how can you limit your vampire loads? The obvious solution is to simply unplug devices when not in use and disabling auto-update features that draw power when in rest mode. If you want a limited impact on your daily routine, consider investing in smart power strips. These devices can usually connect to your phone through WiFi or Bluetooth so you can turn them off and on automatically. Many of them even come with surge protection to keep your devices safe during storms or other events that may cause a surge.

In the digital, connected age, these vampire, or phantom, loads can become a real problem. A little investment and some small changes can end up saving you on your bill. For more energy efficiency information, check out www.unitedpower.com.



