JULY/AUGUST
2019

UNITED NEWSLINE

Information for the members of United Power, Inc.

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Co-op Announces Largest Capital Credit Retirement

IMPORTANT DATES

JULY 4	**Independence Day** United Power Offices Closed
AUGUST	**Capital Credit Retirement** More Details on Page 3
SEPTEMBER 2	**Labor Day** Offices Closed

Retirement of $5.5 Million on its way to Members Beginning in August

Cooperative membership has always come with a variety of benefits larger investor-owned electric utilities don't offer, but over the past year United Power consumer-owners were also able to share in some special milestones with the cooperative, as well. In April, we celebrated our 80th Annual Meeting with you at the Adams County Fairgrounds, just a few months after powering the state's largest battery storage project, located at our new Carbon Valley Service Center. The western facility allows us to respond more quickly to outages and other potential problems in that part of our territory.

This year, members will also be a part of United Power's largest ever capital credit refund. If you are new to the cooperative or unfamiliar with capital credits, these represent your investment into the co-op. Here's how it works:

Becoming a Member

If you receive power from United Power, you are not just another customer. You are a member. Members have unique privileges, one of which is the principle of economic participation. A portion of each electric bill goes toward the cooperative's operation and infrastructure, making you a consumer-owner.

Members may also vote annually in board elections or run for a board seat to make their voices heard. By actively engaging and participating with the cooperative, you will always have a voice in our operation.

Allocation of Patronage Capital

Every spring, United Power looks at the prior year and allots any funds remaining after all expenses are paid into a budget item called "patronage capital." These designated funds are then "allocated" to members based on the prior year's electric consumption – the more power you use, the larger your allocation.

The allocation is not a check but a bookkeeping of the amount of money you have invested into the cooperative's electric system based on your electric consumption. The funds are tracked, but not accessible in the form of cash. This allocation amount is reflected as an actual dollar amount on your bill in May each year.

Retirement of Capital Credits

Each year, the board of directors carefully assesses the financial condition of the cooperative and determines what amount of capital credits to retire. This year, the board approved a $5.5 million retirement, the cooperative's largest ever.

This year's retirement represents the 13th consecutive year United Power has retired capital credits.

When the board decides a retirement is feasible, the money is paid out, or "retired,"

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UNITED POWER
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

www.unitedpower.com

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

Powering Your Night at the Fair

The Adams County Fair, July 31 – August 4, will be packed with family friendly events and entertainment, and as the presenting sponsor, United Power is giving away ticket packages to some lucky members. Enter to win one of four prize packages by visiting our Facebook page, **www.facebook.com/unitedpower**.

July 31 - Aug 4, 2019

Tickets for the various United Power Grandstand Events at the Adams County Fair are on sale now. Buy your tickets at www.adamscountyfair.com.

Paid parking and shuttle rides are available. Fair admission is free.

Special Days:
Thursday, Aug. 1 – Senior Day
Friday, Aug. 2 – 9NEWS Kids Day

Adams County Fairgrounds
9755 Henderson Rd.
Brighton, CO 80601

Prize Packages:

Thursday, August 1 – 5 p.m. & 8 p.m.
4 tickets, PBR (5 p.m.) and Aaron Watson concert (8 p.m.)
2 unlimited carnival arm bands
$30 Concessions Gift Card

Friday, August 2 – 7 p.m.
4 Tickets, Demolition Derby & Fireworks
2 unlimited carnival arm bands
$30 Concessions Gift Card

Saturday, August 3 – 7 p.m.
4 Tickets, NSPA Truck Pull
2 unlimited carnival arm bands
$30 Concessions Gift Card

Sunday, August 4 – 3 p.m.
4 Tickets, Charreada
2 unlimited carnival arm bands
$30 Concessions Gift Card

To enter without using Facebook, mail a postcard with your name, address and phone number to:

United Power
Attn: Adams County Fair Ticket Package Giveaway
500 Cooperative Way
Brighton CO 80603

Entries must be received by July 24, 2018 to be eligible. United Power is not responsible for lost or misdirected mail.

ADAMS COUNTY FAIR

UnitedPower.com has a New Home

We've launched a new website with you in mind.

Find things more easily than ever thanks to the new site's more user-friendly navigation, visually focused layout and more intuitive design.

UNITED POWER
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Visit **www.unitedpower.com** to see it for yourself.

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In a Co-op, Every Member Gets a Piece of the Pie

from each member's account, beginning in August. Anyone who had service in 2018 or earlier will be eligible. This year, nearly 90,000 checks will be issued to residential and business members. While many members will receive a check, anyone who is refunded an amount less than $10 will receive it as a credit on their bill. Look for this credit on your bill in August or September.

Your capital credit amount is determined based on two factors: how much electricity you use and how long you've been a member. The longer you are a member and the more power you use, the larger your share of each retirement.

"United Power has a commitment to providing reliable energy to our members, but we also prioritize doing so at an affordable rate," said John Parker, United Power's Chief Executive Officer. "While we talk a lot about the benefits we provide to our members both individually and in the community, receiving something you can hold in your hands is a meaningful benefit, and one that differentiates cooperatives from other utilities across the country."

United Power issues checks because it's important for members to see the real benefit of membership, and handling a check achieves that goal.

Capital credit retirements have returned a steady stream of money back to members in recent years. During the past decade, United Power has been able to retire millions of dollars back to its members.

Want to learn more? Frequently asked questions about capital credits can be found online 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.

HOW CAPITAL CREDITS WORK

Cooperative members share in the ownership, construction, maintenance and prosperity of their electric utility. When financial conditions allow, every member gets a piece of the pie. Here is how your cooperative membership pays you back:

When you move into a home or establish a business in the United Power service territory, you become a member of the cooperative.

A capital credit account is established in your name and United Power uses this account to record your investment in the co-op.

Each year, any funds remaining after expenses have been paid are allocated* to your capital credit account. Notice of this allocation* appears on your May bill.

Capital credits are based on the amount of electricity you use, so your allocation* may vary each year. Businesses typically build up more capital credits than homeowners.

Each year, the Board carefully evaluates the financial condition of the co-op to determine if we can retire* capital credits. Capital credits may not be retired* every year.

When capital credits are not retired,* they are used as operating capital for system improvements and maintenance. This reduces the need for interest-bearing loans, which helps to keep costs down.

When the Board decides to retire* capital credits, we calculate the amount we need to pay to each member. Anyone who was a member in the previous year will receive a capital credit refund payment.

Beware of Scam Calls

Today, we use technology to power our lives more than ever before. While technology has become a helpful way to navigate everything from news and current events to shopping and vacation planning, there are some who use it for more deceitful means - phone scamming.

Phone scammers attempt to impersonate a representative from a respected organization, such as the IRS or United Power, to gain information or payment from a victim. Many of these scams are elaborate and sophisticated, even using spoofing software to disguise their phone number so that it appears to be coming from a recognized number ("caller ID spoofing"). It's important to be cautious when you receive an unexpected call requesting a payment.

Recently, residential and business members on United Power's lines have reported receiving calls demanding payment for "past due" amounts on electric bills. The callers are demanding, and often insist that members make an immediate payment using a prepaid debit card.

In an effort to protect your information and money, we want to remind our members how we communicate past due account balances and collect payment.

Know How United Power Does Business

- **United Power does not collect payments at member homes or businesses.** Never give money to people who may be posing as utility workers. If you are not sure about an employee's identification, ask the employee for identification or call United Power at 303-659-0551.
- **United Power never calls members in person to collect overdue electric bills.** Notice of delinquency or disconnection is sent by mail and then United Power will follow up with our automated phone system. A recorded message will instruct you to initiate a payment.
- **United Power will never require prepaid debit as the only form of payment.** Members may initiate payment in a variety of ways: online through the SmartHub portal; by phone, mail or in person using cash, check or debit.

When in Doubt, Check it Out

BE SCAM SMART

Verifying the status of your utility accounts is your best defense against scam attempts. To keep up with the current status of your electric account, reference your monthly billing statement from United Power, check your account via SmartHub or call United Power's Member Services Department at 303-637-1300. If you are ever in doubt about a potential scam call, hang up and call United Power at 303-659-0551.

READER REWARDS

JULY/AUGUST 2019

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

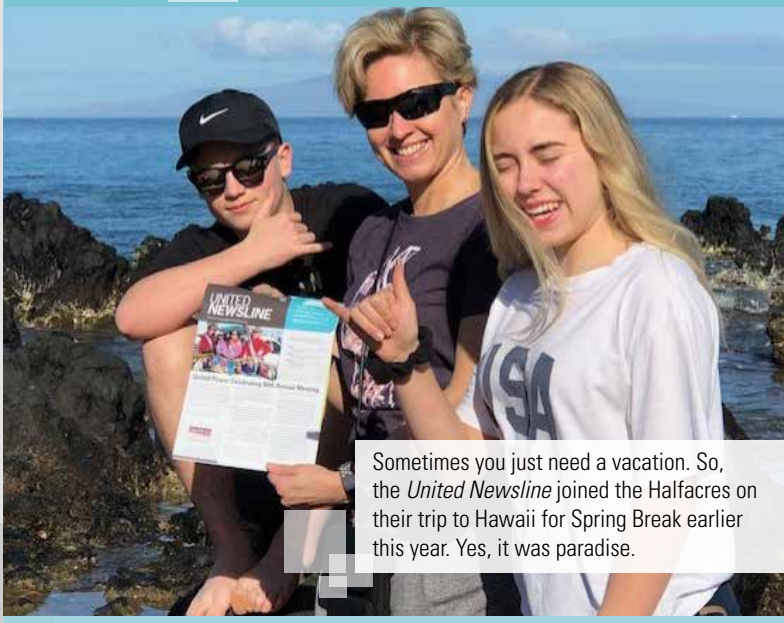
www.unitedpower.com

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:

When is the Adams County Fair?

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



Sometimes you just need a vacation. So, the *United Newsline* joined the Halfacres on their trip to Hawaii for Spring Break earlier this year. Yes, it was paradise.

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

Photo Credit Anna Politano, Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives

Back to Guatemala

For the second time in as many years, United Power lineman Kelly Snow will represent the cooperative in Guatemala. Snow has been selected to return later this summer as part of a crew of 20 linemen from Colorado and Oklahoma to provide power to yet another isolated jungle village.

This past summer, Snow spent three weeks near Playa Grande setting poles, stringing line and hanging transformers to provide power to residents in two remote jungle villages for the first time.

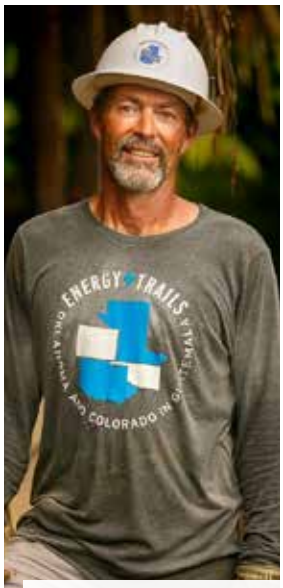
"It's really an honor to be invited back," Snow said. "Most of us have never had to go more than a day without electricity and the benefits it provides. These villages have never had that experience."

Sillab, the village they'll be energizing in October, is located in the mountainous jungles of north central Guatemala. Sillab is home to approximately 60 households, one elementary school and four churches, none of which have known the benefits of reliable and affordable electricity.

While much of the work will be the same, the terrain presents a new difficulty for Snow and his fellow linemen. Crews will have to overcome harsh conditions in order to string electric line more than six miles to Sillab, including dense jungle foliage, mountainous terrain, frequent rain and high humidity.

Harsh conditions and grueling manual labor contributed to fatigue and dehydration in the relatively flatter areas of Playa Grande.

"You don't quickly forget the experience of working in the rain and humidity," Snow said. "But steep inclines add another level of safety we'll have to prepare for and pay careful attention to during the project."



Kelly Snow, Journeyman Lineman

In Playa Grande, long days seemed longer without access to major equipment, a condition that will also worsen in Sillab.

With a few spare linemen and some light equipment, the utility near Playa Grande was able to provide a little help. The utility and power supplier near Sillab have only one lineman each and no equipment.

"It will be tough, physical labor," Snow said, "but I'm proud to be a part of it. At the end of the day, if you can be proud of what you did, the pain and the challenge is worth it."

For more than 80 years, electric cooperatives have been helping small, rural communities across the country thrive. It's one of the seven cooperative principles: concern for community. With the help of NRECA International, cooperatives have been able to take that mission global, providing millions of small communities with the gift of electricity.

"This is why we were founded – bringing power to rural America," Snow said. "The impact electricity makes on one of these villages is tangible and opens up doors to future possibilities."

The project is a joint effort between Colorado and Oklahoma's electric cooperatives and made possible by NRECA International, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization, whose mission is to increase individual and community access to electricity in all parts of the world. Over the past 50 years, NRECA International has provided electricity to more than 126 million people.

RECIPES

Gooey Butter Cake

For the Crust

Cooking spray
1 box vanilla cake mix
6 Tbs. butter
1 large egg

For the Filling

8 oz package cream cheese, softened
1/2 cup melted butter
2 large eggs
2 tsp pure vanilla extract
Pinch kosher salt
16 oz box powdered sugar (plus more for garnish)

Preheat oven to 350° and grease 9x13" baking pan with cooking spray. In large bowl, combine cake mix, melted butter and 1 egg together. Press into prepared pan.

In another large bowl, beat together cream cheese, melted butter, 2 eggs, vanilla and salt. Add powdered sugar and beat until smooth. Pour over crust and bake until golden and puffed, about 40 minutes. Center should still be gooey. Let cool and sprinkle with more powdered sugar.

Recipe from Delish.com

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

Sol Partners Founders Club
May 2009

Sol Partners Anniversary

Colorado's First Community Solar Farm Celebrates 10 Years

Over the past several years, solar panels have become a mainstay of the push for more renewable energy. Utilities, large and small, across the country have unveiled plans to add thousands of megawatts of solar-generated energy to portfolios as they aim for a net zero carbon-emission future.

In May 2009, United Power jumpstarted its renewable energy program when it powered a new, innovative concept for its members – the state's first community solar farm, Sol Partners – at its Brighton headquarters facility.

The solar farm offered the cooperative's members leasable solar panels and allowed members to dip their toes in the pool of renewable energy without making a costly commitment on a home installation. Panels were leased to members on a 25-year period for a small initial investment, and those members would receive a credit for power generated on the panels. In addition, the cooperative agreed to maintain the solar farm.

The innovative model received immediate adoption and quickly sold out. In August 2010, the cooperative launched its second community solar module. Its instant success incentivized other co-ops to invest in community solar projects of their own.

"The community solar model was initially meant as a tool for the local co-op and their members to bring more solar onto the system," said New Business Director Jerry Marizza. "What was a unique concept 10 years ago has now blossomed throughout Colorado and the nation.

ENERGY SAVERS

Service your Air Conditioner

Easy maintenance, such as routinely replacing or cleaning air filters, can lower your cooling system's energy consumption by up to 15 percent. Check your AC's evaporator coil, which should be cleaned annually.

Students Leave for D.C.

Colorado students boarded a bus from United Power on Friday, June 14 to join nearly 2,000 other high school students for the 2019 Youth Leadership Tour in Washington D.C.

Each year, United Power selects three ambitious high school students to represent the co-op at the Youth Tour. This year, United Power sponsored **Catera Gagna**, Brighton High School, **Bethany Flanagan**, Weld Central High School, and **Brooklyn Stubby**, Mapleton Early College.

Students will have an opportunity to meet with elected officials, tour Washington D.C. landmarks and learn the value of the cooperatives they represent. Applications to represent the cooperative during next year's tour will be available in December.

Summer Air Conditioning and the Demand Rate

Your air conditioner is probably one of the most demand intensive appliances in your home. This means members will begin to see their demand charge rise to include this additional appliance as the summer heat arrives. There is good news if you like keeping your home cool, though. When United Power instituted the demand charge, there was a corresponding REDUCTION in the cost of energy. Since you use a lot of energy to keep your home cool, you will probably see very little change from prior summers in your average bill.

When United Power moved to a demand rate we uncoupled costs that had previously been blended into the rate. This new structure gives you more control over your electric costs, by allowing you to avoid stacking appliance use. It also reduced the cost you pay for the actual energy you use.

The change is helping to make sure you pay a more accurate portion of your costs for the distribution system that brings power to your home.

Demand is the total of all electric appliances that are running at one time. United Power bases their demand charge on your highest demand in a 15-minute period throughout the month. In the summer this is going to happen when you run your air conditioner, and perhaps an additional appliance like your washer or oven. For example, a 24,000 BTU air conditioner creates a demand of about 3.8 kW, which translates to a demand charge of $3.80 plus the demand of any other appliances running at the same time.

United Power made sure that our members can access the information they need to better understand their power consumption. All United Power members can look at their power consumption and see when you reach your peak demand via the Power Portal. If you need help accessing the Power Portal give Member Services a call at 303-637-1300. Remember that our website, www.unitedpower.com, has lots of great information about how you can reduce demand and how demand billing works.

To keep demand charges low, stagger the use of appliances. The more appliances running at once, the higher the demand.

▲ Represents appliance stacking

▲ Represents appliance use spread over time

Fairs & Festivals

July Upcoming Events:

7/13 **Gilpin County Fair**
Gilpin County Fair | Black Hawk

7/17 **Chainsaws & Chuckwagons**
Downtown Frederick

7/27 **Adams County Fair Parade**
Historic Downtown Brighton

7/31 **Adams County Fair**
Riverdale Regional Park | Brighton

August Upcoming Events:

8/3 **Carbon Valley Music Festival**
Centennial Field | Dacono

8/24 **Erie Wine & Cheese Festival**
Coal Creek Park | Erie

Sept Upcoming Events:

9/6 **Trapper Days**
Downtown Ft. Lupton

9/14 **Mead Community Day**
Mead Town Park | Mead

9/21 **Miners Day**
Centennial Park | Frederick

Inside This Issue

JULY/AUGUST 2019

Adams County Fair Giveaway

Win one of several Adams County Fair ticket packages from United Power.

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Return to Guatemala

United Power lineman Kelly Snow has been selected to return to Guatemala.

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Capital Credits are Coming & Nearly All Will Get a Refund

United Power begins distributing capital credits in August. How will you spend yours? Submit your story for a chance to win one of three $100 bill credits to unitednewsline@unitedpower.com or on our social media using the hashtag #mycapitalcredits.

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UNITED POWER

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

STAY CONNECTED WITH YOUR CO-OP

email.....UnitedNewsline@UnitedPower.com

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.....twitter.com/UnitedPowerCoop

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

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

CONGRATS READER REWARDS WINNERS

1st Place: Beverly Luna, Lochbuie
2nd Place: Sanford Coleman, Boulder
Stephanie Hradecky, Longmont

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

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