

# UNITED NEWSLINE

Information for the members of United Power, Inc.

## IN THIS ISSUE

- Rebate Menu .....2
- Grassroots Network News .....3
- Changes to Round-Up .....4
- Energy Efficiency Tips .....7



## Board Approves Modest Rate Increase for 2017

### Increase Offsets 4.23 percent Wholesale Power Increase from Tri-State

United Power's Board of Directors approved a rate increase of 2.79 percent for residential and commercial members in 2017. The rate increase, coupled with cost containment efforts, will offset the 4.23 percent increase in wholesale power from Tri-State Generation and Transmission, United Power's wholesale power supplier.

The average residential member will see an increase of less than \$3 a month in their bill, while commercial members will see just

under a \$13 increase. The rate increase would become effective for usage beginning February 1<sup>st</sup>, so members will not see the increase until their March, 2017 bill.

"The board and staff worked hard looking at the ways we could contain operating costs to lessen the impact of this increase on our members," said Darryl Schriver, CEO. "This modest increase will help the cooperative remain financially healthy, and should make a minimal impact on most members' electric bills."

Tri-State Generation and Transmission, a generation cooperative headquartered in Westminster, provides wholesale power to 43 distribution cooperatives in a four state region, including United Power. Tri-State indicated that both increased expenses and lower revenues have made the increase necessary.

An unexpected mid-year increase in power costs from one of their larger suppliers, coupled with increased costs of producing power is stated to be key drivers of their expense increases. Tri-State states that cost increases are being driven by regulatory compliance, additional environmental

controls and increases to basic fuel and production costs.

Tri-State is also forecasting a reduction in revenue, due in part to lagging oil and gas production, slow growth, and closure of several large manufacturing and energy production facilities throughout their territory.

In 2014, United Power absorbed most of a 1.6 percent wholesale power cost increase by adjusting

rates to a handful of rate classes, and reducing some operational costs. In 2015 only one industrial rate was adjusted even though many costs continued to increase for the cooperative.

"I am pleased with the effort both the board and staff made to find a rate solution that balanced the cooperative's financial health and the well-being of our members," Schriver said. "We remain committed to looking out for all our members, while continuing to build a system that delivers safe and reliable power."

## IMPORTANT DATES

- JANUARY 31** Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp Application Deadline
- FEBRUARY 17** Deadline for Petitions to Run for United Power Board of Directors
- APRIL 18** Annual Meeting & Director Election



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

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

# Energy Efficiency Rebates

## REBATE REQUIREMENTS

United Power members qualify for these Energy Efficiency Rebates. Members are encouraged to call United Power prior to purchasing and installing any new equipment to be assured of meeting all rebate requirements. United Power and Tri-State Generation & Transmission rebates are both issued by United Power.

**Heat Pump, Electric Water Heater and Electric Heat** rebates must be requested within **120 days** of installation, require an on-site inspection by United Power's Energy Management Team, and a rebate application completed by United Power.

**ENERGY STAR® Appliance and LED Light Bulb** rebates must be requested within **120 days** of purchase. Rebates are issued as a bill credit and may take up to two billing cycles to appear. Applications are completed by the member and must be submitted with proof of purchase. Submission of an application does not guarantee a rebate. United Power reserves the right to inspect installation. Applications can be found at [www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com).

**Refrigerator/Freezer Recycling Credits** are limited to three (3) per member account, per year. Requests must be submitted with proof that the unit was properly recycled either by an appliance retailer or appliance recycler.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Click 'Manage Your Energy' at [www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com).

Call United Power's Energy Management Team at 303-659-0551.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

Rebates effective Jan. 1, 2017

## Qualifying Products

Rebate from  
Tri-State G&T

Rebate from  
United Power

### Heat Pump Air Conditioners

	Ground-Source Heat Pump: closed loop system <i>(Includes Energy Star® bonus)</i>	\$250/ton	\$200/ton*
	Air-Source Heat Pump with non-electric backup	\$150/ton	\$100/ton
	Air-Source Heat Pump with Electric Resistance backup	\$125/ton	\$100/ton
	Terminal Unit: 12,000 BTU per hr. min <i>(Not eligible for Energy Star® bonus)</i>	\$85/unit	\$75/unit
	BONUS: Energy Star® rated units (15-16 SEER/16.5 SEER +)	\$100/\$150	---

Please confirm SEER rating requirements with United Power before making any purchases. \*For applications where more than 10 units are installed in one facility, the incentive is negotiable and budgetary constraints may apply.

### Electric Water Heaters

	Limited warranty electric to electric replacement.	\$30	\$20
	Limited warranty fossil fuel to electric conversion, or new construction.	\$30	\$200
	Lifetime warranty <b>Marathon</b> water heater.	\$50	\$400
	Lifetime warranty <b>Marathon</b> water heater on <i>United Power utility control.</i>	\$50	\$500
	Lifetime warranty <b>Marathon</b> water heater and GSHP Desuperheater.	\$125	\$500
	GSHP Desuperheater with steel glass-lined tank.	\$100	\$200
	Heat Pump Water Heater	\$350	\$20

Minimum size of all units is 2.5 kW. Must have R-16 manufacturer insulation or equivalent. Applies to both new or replacement units. Must meet minimum DOE energy factors. Plastic or stone lined lifetime product.

### Electric Heat

	New Electric Thermal Storage Units on <b>automated</b> Time-of-Day control panel	\$16/kW	\$4/kW
	New Electric Thermal Slab on <b>automated</b> Time-of-Day control panel	\$12/kW	\$4/kW

Must be hard-wired, permanently installed and controlled. Minimum size is 1kW.

### ENERGY STAR® Appliances

	New Energy Star® Refrigerator/Freezer	\$30	---
	Refrigerator/Freezer Recycling Credit*	\$60	\$15
	New Energy Star® Clothes Washer	\$40	---
	New Energy Star® Dishwasher	\$20	---

A list of qualifying Energy Star® equipment and rebate details can be found at [www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com). \*To receive recycling credit, you must supply proof that your old unit was recycled. Visit our website for rebate requirements and recycling options.

### LED Light Bulbs

	LED Light bulbs 500 lumens or greater. Limit 50 bulbs per member, per year. Member must submit portion of packaging with application.	Half of bulb cost up to \$8/bulb	---
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------	-----



# Grassroots Network NEWS

## Looking Forward Post Election

The dust has settled on our lengthy election process of 2016. While we are all relieved that the telephone calls, mailers and advertisements have ended, it is time for us to acquaint ourselves with our newly elected officials and continue to communicate with those who have served in the past. Even though governmental functions never really cease, the beginning of a new calendar year is also the official start to the legislative sessions and, obviously, a new administration in the White House.

### Advocating for Members at All Levels of Government

United Power is committed to a strong governmental relations program to build relationships at all levels of government that have influence on our operations.

United Power is located in one of the fastest growing regions in our country and we have a large and politically diverse body of elected officials to work with. For example, four of Colorado's seven Congressional districts include portions of United Power's service territory. Additionally, we have 22 legislative districts (House and Senate combined) that include United Power members. (We are pleased that at least four of our Colorado legislators are United Power members). Add municipal officials from 17 municipalities and county officials from six counties and we have quite a group of policy makers representing our members. This doesn't include school districts, special and metropolitan districts, ditch companies and other quasi-governmental entities with interests in our service area.

United Power's External Affairs staff is primarily charged with the governmental relations functions at United Power. We

work closely with our board to foster relationships with elected officials and their respective staff members from Town Trustees to United State Senators and everyone in-between. We certainly welcome member and employee assistance in this endeavor and encourage our members to familiarize themselves with their elected representatives.

### Colorado After the Election

As a result of this year's election Colorado will again have a "split legislature" for the next two years. The Colorado House will remain under Democratic control with a margin of 37 to 28. House Democrats picked up three seats in this year's election. The State Senate will remain under Republican control this upcoming session with the same 18 to 17 margin of the past two years.

Generally, a split legislature is considered good for most business entities as legislation must be moderated in order to pass through both chambers and be submitted to the Governor for signature into law. In other words, we do not anticipate sweeping cooperative utility legislation in the upcoming session. The 71st Colorado General Assembly convened on January 11, 2017, and United Power will continue to keep our members updated through the Grassroots Network News.

Interested in joining United Power's Grassroots Network and staying connected to your cooperative? Sign up by calling Jennifer at 303-637-1278 or by visiting [www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com) under the 'Get Involved' tab.

## POWER MIX

Wholesale power is purchased from Tri-State Generation & Transmission. Tri-State's portfolio of electric energy is derived from base load-serving coal generating units, intermediate load-serving natural gas, combined-cycle generating units and peak load-serving natural gas and oil combustion turbines, and renewable resources, including hydropower, wind and solar.

45%	<b>Coal</b>
22%	<b>Natural Gas</b>
15%	<b>WAPA/Hydro Renewables</b>
13%	<b>Open Market Contracts</b>
5%	<b>Locally Generated Renewables*</b>



### LOCALLY GENERATED RENEWABLES

Locally generated renewable sources include utility-scale solar projects, individually owned rooftop solar, a methane landfill capture system and small wind generation.

47,541 kW	<b>Solar</b>
2 kW	<b>Wind</b>
3,200 kW	<b>Methane</b>



# Operation Round-Up is Changing - and It's Good News for Every United Power Member!



More than 22 percent of our members support Operation Round-Up and choose to "round-up" their monthly electric bill to help members of our cooperative. The growth has been so successful that we are changing the program to help get more of your money out into the communities we serve, and into the hands of those who need help the most.

Beginning on **January 1, 2017**, we will no longer accept individual and family grant requests. Instead, money will be granted to partnering organizations in our service territory that will distribute the funds to individuals and families in need. These partner groups were selected because they provide additional resources for assistance, and have access to other funds that will

allow them to provide a richer suite of services to these families. Additionally, these groups can respond more quickly to meet these families' needs, and have staff that is better trained to handle these types of requests.

In addition to the block grants that the foundation is giving to these partner organizations, the Operation Round-Up Foundation will continue to provide group grants to organizations providing support for United Power members and their needs. That means that any 501(c)3 organization that provides services to members of our cooperative can apply for funding for special projects or programs that support our members.

If you have questions about our Operation Round-Up program please contact our Member Services department at 303-637-1300.



## 2017 Director Election Balloting Deadlines

### February 17, 2017

Director Nominations by Petition Deadline 4 p.m.

### April 14, 2017

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

### April 18, 2017

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

### April 18, 2017

Ballot Drop Box Open Noon to 4 p.m. at the Adams County Fairgrounds

## READER REWARDS

January  
2017



### 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)

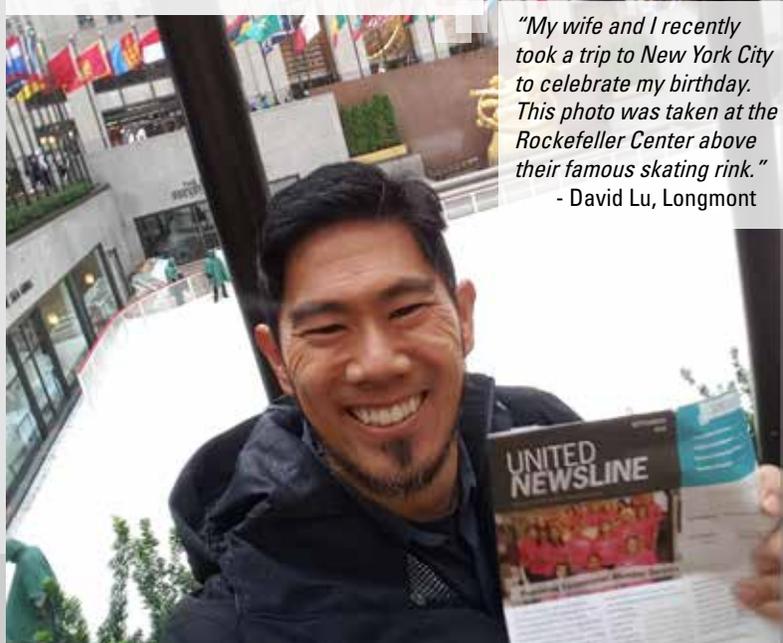


Save a stamp! Visit [www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com) and click on 'Member Benefits' to enter Reader Rewards online. Answer the question below with your online entry:

### What is one way to save energy in 2017?

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



*"My wife and I recently took a trip to New York City to celebrate my birthday. This photo was taken at the Rockefeller Center above their famous skating rink."*  
- David Lu, Longmont

### 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

# Candidate Forums Coming to a District Near You

United Power's Annual Meeting and Director Election is **Tuesday, April 18, 2017**. Leading up to the election, United Power will host various candidate forums throughout the territory to give members the opportunity to learn more from each candidate.

A forum will take place in all four Director districts: East, South, West and Mountain Districts. During the forums, members will have the opportunity to meet the candidates and hear from cooperative leadership. The Meet the Candidate Forums will be free and light refreshments will be served.

Check our website, [www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com), and upcoming editions of the *United Newslines*, for detailed information on the candidate forums.

Members who are unable to attend a candidate forum can view video profiles on our website and will receive information on each candidate in a ballot packet that will be sent in the mail in late March. Candidate profiles will also be published in the March *United Newslines*.



## Annual Meeting and Director Election Tuesday, April 18, 2017

Adams County Fairgrounds - 9755 Henderson Road, Brighton, CO  
4:30 p.m. - Registration Opens      6:30 p.m. - Meeting Begins

### NOTICE OF A CHANGE IN THE TARIFFS OF UNITED POWER, INC.

Date of Notice: December 16, 2016

You are hereby notified that UNITED POWER, INC. (United) proposes to make a change to all rate schedules (excluding the industrial service—substation or transmission service for ITD1, ITD2, ITD3, and ITD4 rate schedules) to become effective for energy usage on or after February 1, 2017 (billings issued after March 1, 2017). The increase is a pass through of the wholesale power cost increase going in effect on January 1, 2017. The present and proposed tariff provisions are available for examination at the Coal Creek Branch Office, located at 5 Gross Dam Road, Golden, Colorado; the Ft. Lupton Branch office located at 1200 Dexter Street, Ft. Lupton, Colorado; and the headquarters office located at 500 Cooperative Way, Brighton Colorado.

Anyone who desires to complain about the proposed changes shall file either an informal complaint or a formal complaint with United at 500 Cooperative Way, Brighton, Colorado 80603 at least 10 days before the proposed effective date.

An informal complaint shall be in writing and shall contain such facts and other information to adequately state the reason(s) for the complaint. An informal complaint shall be considered by United, in regard to the proposed tariff changes, but will not require that a hearing be held.

Anyone who desires a hearing must file a specific and formal complaint to the proposed changes and a request for hearing at least 10 days before the proposed effective date. A formal complaint shall be in writing in the form prescribed by United's Regulations Governing Consumer Complaints and Related Matters. Upon request, a copy of said regulations is available. United may hold a hearing to determine what changes will be authorized, regardless of complaints. If proper formal complaints and request for hearings are timely filed, the Board shall schedule a hearing. The changes ultimately authorized may or may not be the same as those proposed and may include changes different than those tariffs proposed or currently in effect. Anyone who desires to receive notice of hearings, if any, shall make a written request therefor to United, at the above address at least 10 days before the proposed effective date.

UNITED POWER, INC  
By: Darryl W. Schriver, CEO

## RECIPES



### Curry Vegetable Dip

- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 tsp. curry powder
- 1 tsp. vinegar
- 1 tsp. garlic powder
- 1 tsp. horse radish
- 1 tsp. onion powder

Blend and set over night. Serve with fresh, raw vegetables.

*Bobbie Barela, Dacono*

## CALL FOR RECIPES

Do you have a favorite recipe you'd like to share with your fellow United Power members? Submit your recipe to *United Newslines* to be part of one of our most popular newsletter sections. If your recipe is published you'll also receive a free gift!

To enter, mail your recipe to United Power Recipes at PO Box 929, Brighton, CO, 80601 or visit [www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com) under the 'Member Benefits' tab.

## 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



# Cooperative Youth Camp Teaches Leadership Skills

Every July, United Power sends three students to Steamboat Springs, CO to join other students from Colorado, Kansas, Wyoming and Oklahoma for the annual Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp. The students spend a week learning the value of cooperatives, developing leadership skills and creating new friendships that last a lifetime.

The Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp strives to develop leadership skills that will assist students with the challenges they will have in the future. To achieve this goal, the week is packed with various activities ranging from cooperative-focused projects, to a motivation and leadership seminar to creating and operating a camp co-op.

Students interested in applying for the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp must be at least 16 years of age and have their primary residence be in United Power's service territory. Applications must be postmarked by **January 31, 2016**.

For more information or to apply, visit [www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com) under the 'My Community' tab or contact Julie Stewart, Community Outreach Specialist, at 303-637-1334.

## Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp

July 15-20, 2017

Steamboat Springs, CO

Applications must be postmarked by January 31, 2017

# More 2017 Youth Opportunities Available

## Scholarships

This year United Power will award 16 scholarships for a total of \$18,500 to students who are either served by the cooperative, or are dependents of members. The scholarships range in value from \$1,000 to \$2,000. Each scholarship has certain criteria for eligibility, but in general overall academic performance, grade point average, ACT and SAT scores, extra-curricular activities and community involvement rank high in the evaluation process. A brief essay is required and the applicant's primary residence must be in United Power's service territory.

**Applications must be postmarked by January 31, 2017.**

## Washington D.C. Youth Tour

United Power is accepting applications for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to be held June 8 – 15, 2017 in Washington, D.C. This is a unique opportunity for local students to gain an understanding of American history, develop leadership skills, and have a better understanding of electric cooperatives. United Power will send three students to represent the cooperative on this all-expense paid trip to our nation's capital. United Power's Youth Tour is open to high school students 16 years of age or older whose primary residence is in United Power's service territory.

**Applications must be postmarked by January 12, 2017.**



## ENERGY SAVERS

### Keep the Damper Closed

Keep your fireplace damper closed unless a fire is burning.

Keeping the damper open is like keeping a window wide open during the winter.

It allows warm air to go right up the chimney.



United Power employees recently stepped up to help out Brighton nonprofit organization Almost Home by donating \$639 towards their Thanksgiving Box Program, which provides families in need with Thanksgiving meals. United Power matched the employee donation, for a grand total of \$1,278 going toward the program. Pictured, from left, is Julie Stewart, Community Outreach Specialist for United Power, and Rachel Monroe, Development Director at Almost Home, with the \$1,278 check.

# Energy Efficiency Tips for the New Year



While saving money through greater energy efficiency may be a year-round objective for many consumers, the way to achieve this goal will vary by season. There are a number of factors that impact energy efficiency, including weather, the age and condition of the home and desired comfort levels.

## Fall & Winter: Keeping Heat In

To maintain a warm indoor environment in chillier weather, there are simple steps you can take to increase energy efficiency. Fall is a great time to examine seals on doors and windows to check for air leaks. Caulk and weatherstrip as needed to seal in warm air and energy savings. Similarly, examine outlets for air leaks and where necessary, install gaskets around the outlet to prevent drafts. During the day, open curtains or drapes on south-facing windows to enable sunlight to heat your home naturally. Close curtains or drapes at night for an added layer of window insulation.

As the temperature drops lower with the onset of winter, schedule a service appointment for your heating system to ensure it is operating at an optimal level. Low-cost or no-cost steps for energy savings include taping or affixing heavy, clear plastic to the inside of your window frames to create an additional barrier against cold air. Ensure that the plastic is tightly sealed to the frame to help reduce infiltration.

Use a programmable thermostat to set the temperature as low as is comfortable when you are home – ideally around 68 degrees. When you are asleep or away, turn the temperature down 10-15 degrees for eight hours. According to the Department

of Energy, this small adjustment can help you save approximately 10 percent a year on heating and cooling costs.

## Spring & Summer: Keeping Your Cool

During the warmer months, energy savings and efficiency will require different measures, many of which are inexpensive. If you live in a climate that is cool, open your windows in the evening and turn off your cooling system while sleeping. In the morning, shut the windows and blinds to hold in the cool air. Where practical, plant trees and shrubs that provide shade in warm months and sunlight in the winter. In addition to the aesthetic value, well placed trees can take heat gain from the sun and provide needed shade by creating a canopy for the house.

In extremely hot weather, your cooling system works harder to close the gap between high outdoor temperatures and the cool indoor thermostat setting. Using a ceiling fan in conjunction with your air conditioning can allow you to increase the thermostat setting approximately four degrees with no reduction in comfort levels.

During the hottest months, it's all the more critical to replace any incandescent bulbs with LEDs. The waste heat from the old bulbs impacts energy use and creates wasteful and unwanted heat. Employ a programmable thermostat to adjust the settings a few degrees higher when no one is home or your family is sleeping.

## Any Season: Energy Efficient Appliances

Replacing outdated appliances that can act as energy hogs can be done any time of the year. Appliances and electronics account for about 20 percent of the average household's energy use. Efficient appliances can reduce your use of energy and water. For example, an Energy Star® clothes washer uses 40 percent less energy than conventional washers, while also reducing water bills. Not only will you save money on your energy bill every month, United Power offers rebates on Energy Star® washers, dishwashers, refrigerators and freezers. We'll also help cover the cost of recycling your old refrigerator or freezer. To learn more about our 2017 rebates, check out page 2.

To learn more about additional energy-saving tips and programs, visit our website at [www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com) or contact one of our Energy Management Specialists, at 303-637-1300 or at 303-659-0551 who are available to advise and assist you with your energy concerns. They can provide informative walk-through audits of your home and give you advice if you're considering upgrades or changes.

# Four Board Seats Up for Election

Four positions on United Power's eleven member board are up for election at the **2017 Annual Meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday, April 18, 2017** at the Adams County Fairgrounds in Brighton. One seat in the Mountain, West, East and South districts will be up for a three-year term.

To be eligible to become or remain a director, a person must be a United Power member and receive electric service from United Power at the member's primary residence in the district he or she represents. Nominations by written petition must state the name and district of the

nominee, must be signed by 15 or more United Power members, and be filed with the Board no less than 60 days prior to the Annual Meeting.

**The deadline for nominations by petition is 4 p.m. on Friday, February 17, 2017.** Petitions are available at United Power's headquarters office in Brighton at 500 Cooperative Way. Additional information can be obtained by calling United Power's executive department at 303-659-0551 or by visiting our website at [www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com).

# Inside This Issue

January 2017



## Rate Increase Approved



United Power Board approves modest rate increase for 2017.

Page 1

## Changes to Round-Up



Operation Round-Up is changing - and it's good news to every United Power member.

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



## 2017 Rebates for United Power Members

United Power offers a suite of rebates on Energy Star® appliances, electric water heaters, heat pump air conditioners and LED light bulbs. Read more before you buy an electric appliance this year.

Page 2

## CONGRATS READER REWARDS WINNERS

- 1st Place:** Dan and Margaret Adams, Hudson
- 2nd Place:** Suzanne Kibel, Fort Lupton  
Nicole Osborn, Brighton

See your name listed as a winner? Call 303-637-1325 to claim your Reader Rewards.



- Chief Executive** Brian McCormick
- Officer** Darryl Schriver
- Director of External Affairs** Troy Whitmore
- Editors** Heidi Storz, Laurel Eller, Ashley Reimers

- Board of Directors** James Vigasaa, Dave Rose, Douglas Fryce, Richard Newman, Bob Grant, Tim Erickson, Ginny Buzek, Asst. Sec./Treasurer Ursula J. Morgan, Secretary/Treasurer Beth Martin, Vice-President Susan Petrocco, President Brian McCormick

Information for the members of United Power, Inc. © 2016 United Power, Inc.

# UNITED NEWSLINE



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