

UNITED NEWSLINE

MAY
2016

Information for the members of United Power, Inc.

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IMPORTANT DATES

MAY National Electrical
Safety Month
Learn more at ecfi.org

MAY 30 United Power Offices Closed
for Memorial Day

Making Life Better the Cooperative Way Annual Meeting Features Director Election, Cooperative Update, Prizes, and More

United Power members gathered for the 77th Annual Meeting at the Adams County Fairgrounds on April 13, 2016 to learn more about how United Power is *Making Life Better The Cooperative Way*. Nearly 850 attendees represented 419 registered members at the annual meeting that included dinner, exhibit booths, entertainment, cooperative reports, the election of directors, member forum and a special member question and answer session.

For the fourth year, the cooperative held the meeting at the Adams County Fairgrounds. Member registration opened at 4:30 p.m. in the Exhibit Hall and was followed by

balloting in the annual director election and a full barbecue dinner. Members visited informational exhibit booths and enjoyed live entertainment by solo guitarist Dave Connelly in the Waymire Dome. The business meeting began at 6:30 p.m. in the Waymire Dome, and was broadcast live in the Exhibit Hall to accommodate all members in attendance.

Following the presentation of the colors by Brighton Fire Department Honor Guard, Brighton High School senior Lauren Rocha sang the national anthem for the seventh year in a row. Rocha is a thespian with the Brighton High School Drama Club and plans to attend the University of Northern Colorado in the fall to continue her work in music.

Before the Call to Order for the business meeting, board director Bill Berens who passed away last year while seated, and former board director Jim Boyd, who also passed away last year, were honored by President Brian McCormick and the board for their powerful influence on what the cooperative has become today.

After the Call of the Role and the Approval of the Agenda, the minutes of last year's 2015 Annual Meeting were accepted by the board. Next on the agenda were the reports. Director of External Affairs Troy Whitmore started with the Youth Report. Every year United Power invests in leaders of tomorrow by sponsoring attendance at the national Youth Tour and the statewide youth camp, and also by funding several college scholarships.

Whitmore introduced Sarah Conklin, a recent Youth Tour attendee, who spoke about her experience. Conklin, a student at Prairie View High School, not only represented United Power at the 2015 Youth Tour, but was also selected as the State of Colorado representative for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Youth Leadership Council.

McCormick gave his report next and focused on the cooperative succeeding in a dynamic time by putting the members first. He touched on the mission of United Power, the seven cooperative principles, and the history of the cooperative. McCormick mentioned the importance of always providing

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www.unitedpower.com

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



If we don't know, it won't be safe for our lineworkers! Any small generation system can feed electricity back onto our lines, creating a dangerous situation - for safety's sake we need to know if you've added a system.

Are You a DIY Power Generator? For Safety's Sake Let Us Know!

The drop in price of solar panels has created fertile ground for do-it-yourself power generators. While it's not widespread, we have seen an increase in electric systems being installed that have not been planned and installed by a certified installation company or with the coordination of the utility. United Power will be actively looking for these systems and requiring that the installations meet all required permitting processes. To keep everyone safe, the cooperative is even prepared to disconnect service to members who are operating a system without proper permitting until all requirements are met. **This is necessary to help keep all our members and our employees safe.** While it looks simple to throw some panels up on the roof and hook them up, but there are a lot of risks involved with the process – let's look at some of them.

Installation of a solar photovoltaic system is like any other electric installation in your home – it can be dangerous if not installed correctly. Make a mistake and you can suffer an injury – nasty things like burns, falls and electric shocks. There is also the risk of a fire if the unit is poorly installed. Like any electrical work in your home, your homeowners insurance will want to know that the unit is properly installed before paying any claim for damage. Also, if the utility doesn't know you've put the system in it poses a real risk to lineworkers during maintenance work or during outage restoration. Not having an appropriate inverter would make your system into a mini power plant, that wouldn't shut down during

a power outage. *Your system could feed energy back onto a line and injure or kill a worker if the utility doesn't know it's in operation.*

Solar installations are subject to federal, state and local permit requirements, along with an interconnect agreement with the utility. Just as you would need permits to complete work on a basement finish or bathroom remodel, a solar system requires multiple permits. The permitting process makes certain your system is installed correctly, meeting all the electrical and/or plumbing requirements for the state and local municipalities. Electricity production is a regulated industry, so you're not legally allowed to connect your system to an existing grid without appropriate inspections. The interconnection agreement with the utility helps to clarify your relationship with the utility and allows you to take advantage of United Power's net metering program.

If you have a generating system that you installed without securing the necessary permits, or are operating without an interconnection agreement with United Power, we are looking for you. Give us a call to find out how we can help you get your system in compliance, and help you avoid injuring or killing one of our United Power line workers or someone in your neighborhood.



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. Also, your air conditioner coil should be cleaned annually to ensure the system is performing correctly.

Results of the 2016 Director Election

United Power members cast 5,748 ballots, and the following results were certified by the Election and Credentials Committee at the 2016 Annual Meeting.

Elizabeth "Beth" Martin ran unopposed in the East district and retained her seat with 5,339 votes.

Robert "Bob" Grant ran unopposed in the South district and retained his seat with 5,291 votes.

Ursula J. Morgan won the race in the West district with 3,411 votes. Fred E. Depenbrock received 2,191 votes.

EAST DISTRICT

Elizabeth "Beth" Martin 5,339

SOUTH DISTRICT

Robert "Bob" Grant 5,291

WEST DISTRICT

Ursula J. Morgan 3,411

Fred E. Depenbrock 2,191

Making Life Better

flexibility, responsiveness, and strategic use of technology to make the lives of the members better. He ended his report by focusing on the future and how United Power will continue to communicate and engage with all members. He also encouraged the members to connect with their co-op by reading the newsletter, voting in director elections, asking questions, and sharing ideas and opinions.

Secretary-Treasurer Beth Martin then took the stage to review the cooperative's financial report. Martin gave a summary and the full financial report was made available to all members at the meeting in United Power's 2015 annual report. The annual report is also available online at www.unitedpower.com.

Martin reported operating revenue for the cooperative was up 16 percent from 2014, which is mostly attributed to higher kWh sales for the year. Energy sales increased more than 19 percent, due almost entirely to new large oil and gas related loads. The cooperative's operating expenses are up 15.5 percent from 2014 and Martin emphasized that purchased power now represents 75 percent of the cooperative's operating costs.



Members listen as Community Affairs Representative Tom Green explains the benefits of programs offered by United Power.

After accounting for all revenues and expenses, United Power realized net margins of \$19.7 million. In 2015, United Power retired more than \$5.2 million in capital credits to members and Martin stated that over the last five years, the cooperative has given back over \$21.7 million in capital credits. The cooperative's financial position is evaluated each year to determine if a retirement of margins to the members is warranted and announcements about capital credit retirements are published on the website and in the newsletter.

Before United Power's Chief Executive Officer Ron Asche gave his report, a video was presented highlighting how Advanced Metering Infrastructure, AMI, benefits United Power and its members. The video featured various employees discussing how AMI technology is enhancing their work at United Power and how AMI is an advantage to its members.

During Asche's report, the CEO touched on United Power's key focus areas: safety, reliability, affordability, service excellence, and sustainability. As a main focus in improving reliability, Asche discussed how AMI is helping United Power provide more reliable service which will provide members more information about their electric consumption.

Later this year, United Power will launch a web-based portal that will allow members to view their electric consumption each month. Members will have the opportunity to see and understand how their lifestyle affects their electric bill. This information can help members control their energy use more effectively and allow them to better manage the costs of their monthly electric usage.

Asche also spoke about another technology complementing the AMI improvements called Distribution Automation. DA uses intelligent devices on the distribution system to communicate on a real time basis with the central office system operations and engineering groups to help monitor the electric system and more quickly find the source of outages and other potential problems.

Other technology improvements mentioned in Asche's report included: the Mobile Work Force system which allows line crews to have access to work orders via computers in their trucks, Geospatial Information System (GIS) technology, which helps keep the distribution system maps easily updated in the Systems Operations Control Room, and multiple bill paying options.

Asche will be retiring from United Power at the end of May after serving five years as the CEO. After a nationwide search, United Power's Board of Directors announced the appointment of Darryl W. Schriver as the new CEO on April



Members learn about lineman safety equipment from Journeyman Lineman Kurt Eisenbarth.

12. Schriver joins United Power after 14 years with Taylor Electric Cooperative in Abilene, Texas. (see page 4)

Following Asche's report, he and McCormick answered various questions from members during the member forum. Before the business meeting, members had the opportunity to submit general questions about their cooperative, which were later read by board members during the meeting.

The business meeting wrapped up with the final tabulation of election results. Elizabeth "Beth" Martin in the East district and Robert "Bob" Grant in the South district both ran unopposed and will serve another three-year term. Martin received 5,339 votes and Grant received 5,291 votes. The contested West district race was won by Ursula J. Morgan who received 3,411 votes. Her opponent, Fred E. Depenbrock, received 2,191 votes.

Door prizes were next on the agenda followed with a member question and answer session giving members the opportunity to ask specific questions about their cooperative. The annual meeting officially adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Board Elects Officers

During the April 15, 2016 United Power board meeting, the board elected officers.

Brian McCormick was elected president, Susan Petrocco was elected vice president, Beth Martin was elected secretary-treasurer and Ursula Morgan was elected assistant secretary-treasurer.

New CEO Brings Wealth of Experience to United Power



In early May, Darryl W. Schriver will join the United Power team as the new Chief Executive Officer, CEO. Schriver previously served as the President/CEO at Taylor Electric Cooperative in Abilene, Texas, a cooperative serving nearly 20,000 meters in and around Abilene, Texas. He is replacing Ron Asche, who is retiring at the end of May after serving five years as United Power's CEO.

Schriver comes to United Power armed with a deep knowledge of electric distribution cooperatives and the wider electric utility industry. He is committed to helping the executive team and employees achieve excellence in serving our members and our community at large.

"I'm really looking forward to getting to know each and every employee and their families," Schriver said. "I'm also excited to have the opportunity to learn and understand every employee's contribution to the cooperative. United Power has a great reputation, a great workforce and great cooperative leadership."

Schriver recently completed a six-year term on the national Touchstone Energy Board of Directors, the governing body for more than 750 electric cooperative's national brand. During his time at Taylor Electric he was involved with the Abilene Boys

Scout Council Board, the Hendricks Hospital Foundation board, and the Abilene Industrial Board. He hopes to bring the same involvement to the communities in United Power's territories.

"I love people and I'm excited to really get to know the communities and members that United Power serves," Schriver said. "I grew up in the cooperative world my whole life and I truly believe in the seven cooperative principles."

Schriver brings a wealth of utility experience and strategic perspective to United Power. During his tenure at Taylor Electric Cooperative, Schriver helped to improve service reliability and member response. He also chaired the Texas Electric Cooperatives Statewide Board of Directors and chaired the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) Board of Directors.

"We are excited to welcome Darryl to our cooperative," said Brian McCormick, United Power Board President. "His experience as a CEO and with associated organizations brings a strong skill set with background in key operational areas to our cooperative. The board feels his leadership and experience will complement the excellent team of United Power's employees."

Schriver is joined by wife Jennifer and two teenage sons, Jacob and Jackson. They are all very enthusiastic about becoming part of the United Power family and as well as becoming an integral part of the local community.

READER REWARDS

May
2016



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
PO Box 929 • Brighton, CO 80601

Reader Rewards Online

www.unitedpower.com

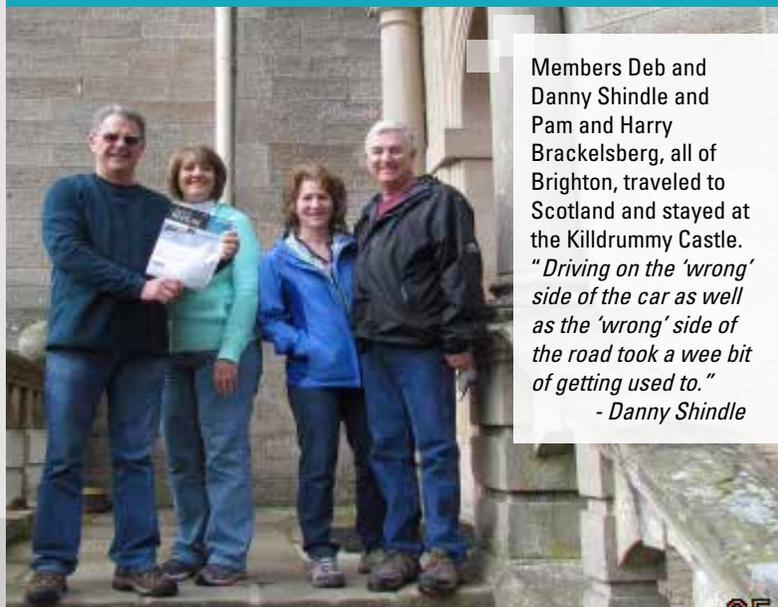


Save a stamp! Visit www.unitedpower.com and click on 'Member Tools' to enter Reader Rewards online. Answer the question below with your online entry:

How many scholarships is United Power awarding this year to area high school seniors?

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

UNITED POWER PRIDE



Members Deb and Danny Shindle and Pam and Harry Brackelsberg, all of Brighton, traveled to Scotland and stayed at the Killdrummy Castle. "Driving on the 'wrong' side of the car as well as the 'wrong' side of the road took a wee bit of getting used to."
- Danny Shindle

United Power Pride Photos

Snap a photo with the *United Newslines* 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: unitednewslines@unitedpower.com

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

Keep Access to Your Meter Clear

No matter what type of meter you have, we may need to access it from time to time. You can help us by making sure the access is clear and making sure we know if there are locked gates or animals in your yard. Household items or trash stacked in and around the meter can make access difficult or dangerous. Aggressive dogs, or kennels built so close to meters that they block access, are also an issue for our employees.



If your meter is blocked please help us by clearing a safe path. Restrain aggressive animals or arrange to have someone home when your meter is being read. If you would like to make special arrangements to meet a particular need you may have at your home, please contact us at 303-637-1300. Remember access to your meter helps to assure you have accurate readings, quick service and ultimately saves you money.

Directors Earn Credentials

United Power board directors Ginny Buczek, Tim Erickson, Beth Martin, Brian McCormick, Richard Newman, Susan Petrocco, Doug Pryce and James Vigesaa have attained their Director Gold credential from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, NRECA.

In order to earn the credential, the directors had to complete a core set of five courses followed by a variety of elective courses ranging in topics from finance to technology and then commit to a continuing education requirement throughout their service on the co-op board. Directors who earn the Director Gold credential earned three continuing education credits over a two-year period.

Today's electric utility environment imposes new demands on electric cooperative directors, particularly increased knowledge of changes in the electric utility business, new governance skill and a working knowledge of the cooperative principles. Electric co-ops in Colorado have a commitment to work through the Colorado Rural Electric Association and NRECA to sharpen this director credential program for the benefit of their electric cooperative member-owners.



From left, United Power Board President Brian McCormick, Directors Tim Erickson, Richard Newman, James Vigesaa, Ginny Buczek, Secretary-Treasurer Beth Martin, Director Doug Pryce and Vice President Susan Petrocco were presented their Director Gold credential certificates during the April 15, 2016 board meeting.

RECIPES



Peanut Butter Ice Cream

- 4 egg yolks
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- dash of salt
- 2-12 ounce cans evaporated milk
- 1 cup peanut butter

Stir egg yolks, sugar, salt and evaporated milk together in medium sauce pan. Heat, stirring constantly until mixture starts to thicken and reaches 160 degrees on candy thermometer. Remove from heat. In 2-quart freezer carton, gradually blend warm milk mixture into peanut butter. Cover and freeze. Let stand at room temperature for 15 minutes or until it can be broken into chunks. Beat with electric mixer and refreeze until just firm. Serve with chocolate syrup.

Marilyn Rowe, Brighton

Share Your Recipes

Earn a free gift if we publish your recipe.

ONLINE: www.unitedpower.com

MAIL: United Power Recipes
PO BOX 929
Brighton, CO 80601



ELECTRICAL SAFETY POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

United Power recently enlisted the help of elementary students to spread the word on the importance of electrical safety through an electrical safety poster contest. Kids in grades kindergarten through fifth were asked to create electrical safety posters that would be used through the service territory in May, which is recognized as National Electrical Safety Month. United Power employees voted in early April to select the winners.

Congratulations to all of our winners, and thank you to all of the students who entered their creative safety messages. Look for the winning safety posters to appear in newspapers and on bus benches through the cooperative service territory through May. All of the winning posters can be viewed online at www.unitedpower.com or shared on social media at [Facebook.com/UnitedPower](https://www.facebook.com/UnitedPower).



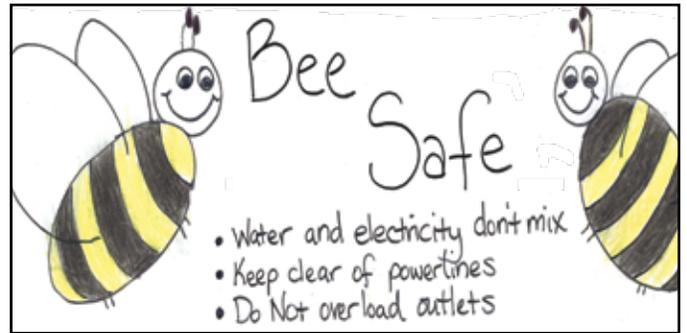
Emree Jacobson, age 6, Foundations Academy



Chloe Belcher, age 8, Colorado Digital Academy



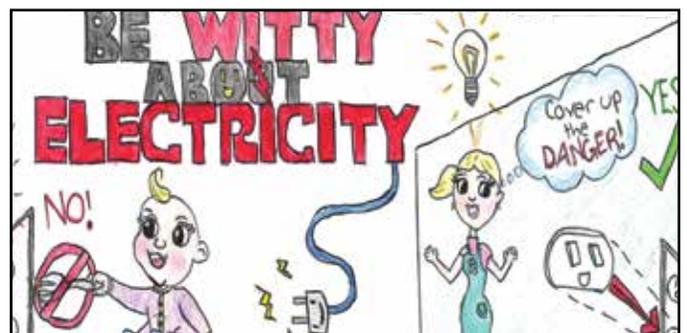
Chance Reilly, age 6, Hudson Academy



Catie Kelley, age 9, South Elementary School



Noah Mohr, age 9, Seton Home School



Jaylene Garcia, age 11, Pennock Elementary School



2016 United Power Scholarship Recipients

United Power proudly announces the 2016 scholarship recipients. Fifteen scholarships were granted for a total of \$17,500. United Power awards the scholarships each year to outstanding students served by the cooperative. The United Power Scholarship Committee gives these awards based on grades, test scores, extracurricular participation and a short essay. Applications are made available at the end of each year. Visit www.unitedpower.com for more information.

Lois Lesser Education Scholar \$1,000 Scholarship



Tiffany Smith will graduate from Prairie View High School and has been awarded the Lois Lesser Scholarship for her interest in pursuing a degree in education. Tiffany's experience working at the Brighton Recreation Center as a childcare worker has fueled her passion for her desired degree. She is an active member in the National Honor Society and plays varsity tennis.

Basin Electric Power Cooperative - \$1,000 Award



Jacob Collins is a senior at Niwot High School and will major in Chemical Engineering in the fall. Jacob is active on his school's robotic team and has received many achievements and honors in his high school career. In his spare time, he volunteers at a local elementary school library and is a tour guide at fossil researcher at the Morrison Natural History Museum.

United Power Youth Leadership Scholarship - \$1,500 Award



Cody LeBlanc from Fort Lupton High School has been awarded the Youth Leadership Scholarship for his dedication to his community and his involvement at his high school. Cody believes that it is important to step up and make a difference by volunteering and serving the community. Cody plans to attend college in the fall and major in political science.

United Power Colorado College Scholar - \$2,000 Awards



Keely Thomas is a senior at Frederick High School and plans to attend Colorado State University in the fall, where she will major in Biomedical Sciences. Keeley has lettered in academics every semester and is a valuable member in Frederick High School's Debate and Forensic program.

Tri-State G & T \$1,000 Scholarships



Samantha Gasaway plans to study Biochemistry at Loyola University in Chicago after graduating from Legacy High School. Samantha is a member of the National Honor Society, on the Principal's Honor Roll and successfully completed her high school's signature STEM program. Samantha is dedicated to volunteering in her community.



Delaney Nelson will graduate from Prairie View High School and plans to double major in Chemistry and Psychology. Delaney is on the Principal's Honor Roll, a member of the National Honor Society and is the Yearbook Editor at Prairie View High School.

United Power Book Awards - \$1,000 Scholarships



Brighton High School: **Kathryn Halverson** is a member of the National Honor Society and Drama Club. Katherine strives to make Brighton High School a positive community. She is an accomplished pianist and plans to pursue a career in Psychology.



Prairie View High School: **Matthew Kouba** plans to attend the Colorado School of Mines and major in Engineering. He is a National Honor Society member, on the Principal's Honor Roll and is a student athlete in track and field.



Mead High School: **Sophia Smith** is active in the National Honor Society and the Drama Club. She is also an accomplished student athlete in both basketball and volleyball. She will attend Hope College in Michigan in the fall.



Eagle Ridge Academy: **Elizabeth Harrison** is a member of student council and National Honor Society. She also is a peer mentor. Elizabeth will attend Casper College in the fall and pursue a career in social work.



Mountain Territory: **Jessica Gloe** is the President of the National Honor Society and is on student council. She plays volleyball and tutors after school. Jessica plans to pursue a career in molecular, chemical, and developmental biology.



Frederick High School: **Lena Bruno** plans to attend Colorado State University and major in physics and material engineering. Lena is active in choir, debate, forensics and orchestra. She devotes much of her spare time to community service.



Weld Central High School: **Dakota Kos** plans to study political science at the University of Wyoming. She is active in her Weld County 4H group and plays volleyball for her school.



Ft. Lupton High School: **Gisel Gonzales** is the President of her school's National Honor Society Chapter and hold offices in Spanish Club and LULAC, as well. Gisel plans to attend the University of Denver and major in Political Science.



At-Large: **Samantha White** plans to attend Colorado State University and major in Equine Science. Samantha is a member of the National Honor Society and devotes much of her spare time to volunteering at a therapy barn and elementary school.

Inside This Issue

May 2016



2016 United Power Annual Meeting Re-Cap & Results



Nearly 850 members attended the United Power Annual Meeting. They learned more about the operation, how the cooperative is performing financially and learned about how United Power is making life better, the cooperative way.



Event Overview

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Election Results

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New CEO Joins United Power

Darryl W. Schriver looking forward to connecting with employees and community.

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SPECIAL INSERT

2015 Financials

View the entire 2015 Annual Report at www.unitedpower.com.

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CONGRATS READER REWARDS WINNERS

- 1st Place:** Conny Kunz, Firestone
- 2nd Place:** Pressure Vessel Resources, Hudson
Cynthia Greenfield, Commerce City

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



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Troy Whitmore

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Laurel Eller
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Information for the members of United Power, Inc.
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