

# UNITED NEWSLINE

Information for the members of United Power, Inc.

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## Board Appoints Alquist to Open Board Seat



The United Power Board of Directors has appointed Keith Alquist to the board. A Brighton resident for more than 25 years, Alquist was selected from a strong slate of candidates

that submitted applications for consideration. Alquist will fill the South District seat vacated by the resignation of Bob Grant in August, and serve the remaining term, just over two years.

“The selection of Keith to fill this board seat

is a win for the cooperative members,” stated James Vigesaa, Board President. “Keith brings a rich background in cooperative business and an intimate knowledge of the United Power community to this position.”

Alquist served as Vice-President and Chief Financial Officer for the American Pride Co-op for more than 20 years, retiring after the co-op merged with Agfinity in 2012. In this position he served cooperative members throughout Brighton, Ft. Lupton, Hudson and Mead. He is a long-term member of the National Society of Accountants for Cooperatives (NSAC) which also serves electrical cooperatives. Also an active

community member, Alquist is a member of the Brighton Rotary club, which spearheads a Read-to-Me project at South Elementary, a dictionary project for third graders, and the distribution of U.S. Constitution booklets to fifth graders.

“I believe in meeting challenges ‘head-on’ and getting them resolved before they become serious issues,” stated Alquist. “I also believe in long-range planning for the future to identify issues, whether they are supply, generation, environmental, or regulatory issues, and be ready to face these issues before they become insurmountable.”

## IMPORTANT DATES

<b>NOVEMBER</b> 23 & 24	<b>Thanksgiving Holiday</b> Offices Closed
<b>DECEMBER</b> 25	<b>Christmas Holiday</b> Offices Closed
<b>JANUARY</b> 12	<b>Washington D.C. Youth Tour Cooperative Youth Camp</b> Application Deadlines Learn more on Page 6



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

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

## United Power to Build Largest Battery Storage System in State

On October 25<sup>th</sup>, United Power announced plans to construct its first commercial scale energy storage project. Located in Firestone and developed in collaboration with Chicago based SoCore Energy, the 4 megawatt/16

megawatt-hours battery storage system will be the largest facility in the State of Colorado and one of the largest systems owned and operated by an electric co-op anywhere in the country.

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# We May Have Money for You

United Power is attempting to issue unclaimed capital credit refunds to members who received electric service from the cooperative prior to 2015. If you were a member up to December 31, 2014, you may be eligible to receive a capital credit refund.

## What Are Capital Credits?

Cooperative members periodically receive capital credit refunds, based on their electric use during a specified time period. The amount you will receive is based on the amount of power you used, and the rates paid for the time period being retired. If the customer is deceased the credits may be claimed through the estate.

## Who May be Eligible for a Refund?

- If you were a United Power member for any period of time through December 31, 2014 and have moved out of the United Power service territory.
- Accounts of a deceased member may have funds due and the credits may be claimed by the estate.
- Current members may be eligible and all current members are encouraged to look at the list, especially if:
  - \* You have recently moved;
  - \* Changed your name;
  - \* Added your name to an existing account;
  - \* Did not cash a capital credit check issued in 2015 or earlier.



## Help us Find United Power Members

Do you have a relative or know of a neighbor who moved away in 2015 or earlier? They may be due a refund. A list of members who are due a refund is posted at [www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com).

## How Can I Find Out If I Am Due a Refund?

To find out if you are due a refund, visit [www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com), click on 'Co-op & Community' and look for the 'Capital Credits' page to view the entire list of unclaimed capital credit accounts.

Lists will also be posted in the lobbies of our three offices at 500 Cooperative Way in Brighton; 1200 Dexter Street in Fort Lupton; and 5 Gross Dam Road in Golden (Coal Creek Canyon).

## My Name is On The List. How Do I Claim My Money?

If you find your name on the list of unclaimed capital credits on our website, download and complete the **Patronage Capital Refund Request form** and return it to United Power. If you do not have internet access, please call our Capital Credit information hot line at 303-637-1200, leave a message with your name and mailing address and we will mail you a Patronage Capital Refund Request form. Please complete this form and mail it back to United Power in order to have your account researched.

**Forms must be received by United Power by April 27, 2018.**



## ENERGY SAVERS

### Close That Garage Door

During the winter months, don't forget to keep the garage door tightly closed as often as possible. In doing so, you'll retain warmer air against the garage-side wall of the house and it will act as a buffer against the colder outdoor air.

## Rebate Requirements Changing in 2018 on Heat Pump Air Conditioners

Beginning next year, members will see some changes to the rebate requirements on heat pump air conditioners as well as an increase in rebate amounts. Beginning on January 1, 2018, air source heat pumps must have a SEER rating of at least 15 in order to receive a rebate. Air source heat pumps with a 15-17 SEER rating, will receive a \$300 per ton rebate from Tri-State Generation and Transmission, and air source heat pumps with a SEER rating above 17 will receive a \$450 per ton rebate from Tri-State. Members will continue to receive an additional \$100 per unit rebate on air source heat pumps from United Power, if attached to an existing ETS forced air furnace. Ground-source heat pump rebates from Tri-State are increasing from \$250 to \$500 per ton starting on January 1, 2018.



An inspection by United Power is required to qualify for rebates and members are encouraged to call United Power's Energy Management Team prior to making any purchases to discuss rebate requirements. Learn more on the 'Energy Programs' tab at [www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com).

# Battery Storage System

“As one of the fastest growing co-ops in Colorado, United Power wants to stay ahead of the curve when it comes to integrating new technology that can help boost reliability and keep costs down,” said John Parker, United Power CEO. “Energy storage will play an important role in the grid of the future, and we’re excited to be starting now.”

United Power partnered with SoCore Energy to develop the project, which will be located at United Power’s west office on I-25, just south of Highway 119. SoCore is a leading solar PV and energy storage developer with a special focus on serving rural electric cooperatives. SoCore and United Power selected Tesla to supply the 4 MW / 16 MWh Powerpack system.

“SoCore worked closely with United Power to understand the objectives of the project, siting and design considerations, and performance requirements,” said SoCore President Rob Scheuermann. “This has been a terrific partnership so far, and we’re looking forward to getting construction underway.”

The battery storage system will store energy generated in the overnight hours, when demand is low, and discharge it during peak hours to reduce demand. Curbing peak demand will reduce costs

and help improve the overall efficiency of United Power’s electric grid as it serves its more than 82,000 meters.

The Firestone system is the first of several energy storage projects that United Power will roll out, piloting an innovative “community battery” strategy, allowing users to purchase a share of the battery system’s output to directly reduce demand charges on their monthly electric bills.

“United Power was one of the first utilities in the country to experiment with the ‘community solar’ concept with our Sol Partners™ program, and now there are community solar projects all over the country. ‘Community batteries’ are the next big trend,” said United Power’s New Business Director, Jerry Marizza.

SoCore Energy’s Scheuermann agrees. “Community batteries allow co-ops and their members to address the demand components of the utility bill – the portion that can’t easily be addressed with solar energy alone. Batteries provide opportunities to reduce costs, increase choices for co-ops and their members while improving resiliency of the grid.”

Construction on the system is expected to begin in the first half of 2018.

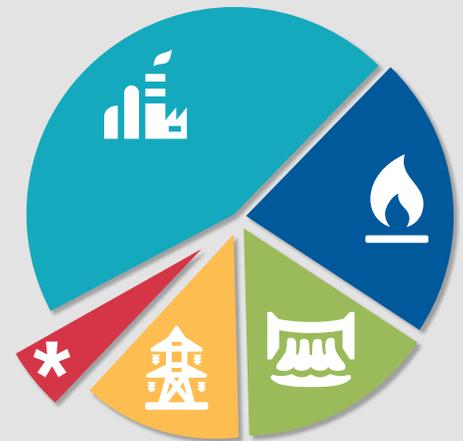


Tesla’s visualization of a battery storage system. Photo courtesy of Tesla.

## 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.

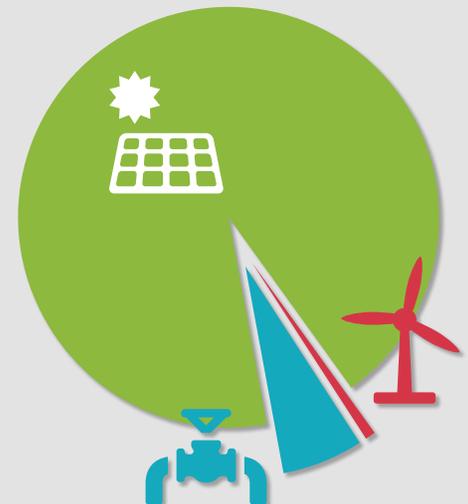
- 45% Coal
- 22% Natural Gas
- 15% WAPA/Hydro Renewables
- 13% Open Market Contracts
- 5% Locally Generated Renewables\*



## 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 Solar
- 2 kW Wind
- 3,200 kW Methane



# United Power Linemen Practice Pole Top Rescue

Recently United Power linemen participated in pole top rescue training. The exercise is meant to train linemen on how to safely lower an injured co-worker from the top of a pole to the ground. The training is mandated by OSHA, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, once a year, although United Power linemen perform pole top rescue drills twice a year for extra practice.



Greg LaConte prepares to release the dummy to the ground during a pole top rescue training exercise.



Before rescuing the dummy, Brennan Zimelman climbs as quickly and safely up a 35-foot pole.

One-by-one, the linemen test their skills on how quickly they can strap on their climbing gear, climb a 35-foot pole and safely rescue a 175-pound dummy. The dummy must be secured with a rope before being safely lowered to the ground where co-workers are prepared to provide emergency first aid care until emergency medical professional arrive on scene to take over. The rescue must be done in four minutes or less.

Pole top rescue is an essential part of the training required by United Power linemen – safely rescuing a fellow lineman could mean the difference between life and death. Some of our linemen can perform the rescue in less than two minutes, minimizing the amount of time an injured co-worker has before receiving lifesaving CPR.

Pole top rescue training and other safety training ensures our linemen are constantly reminded of the safety aspect of their job, and the importance of using equipment in the safest manner possible.



Trent Purington keeps his focus as he practices rescuing a 175-pound dummy during pole top rescue training.

## READER REWARDS

November  
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 'Co-op & Community' to enter Reader Rewards online. Answer the question below with your online entry:

### When is the deadline to submit an application for the 2018 Washington D.C. Youth Tour?

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



Judy Rodriguez and Leticia Armendariz of Brighton display their *United Newslines* on an end of summer vacation to Legoland in California. They enjoyed food, fun, amusement rides and lots of legos!

### 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](mailto:unitednewslines@unitedpower.com)

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

# Retiring from United Power

November 2017

5

United Power congratulates four employees on their retirements within the past year. Combined, employees Curt Bergman, Mitzi Rea and Mike Sanchez dedicated 62 years of service to United Power and its members.



**Curt Bergman** retired on June 23, 2017 after just over 15 years of service at United Power. Curt started as a Senior Electric System Designer. He later moved to the position of Quality Control and Inspection Coordinator. Curt is spending his retirement in Iowa to be close to his brother and other relatives.



**Mitzi Rea** retired on July 7, 2017 after 22 years of service at United Power. She came to United Power as a Programmer Analyst before being promoted to Supervisor of Information Services and later became the Manager of Information Services. Mitzi plans to continue to do some work in the electrical industry during her retirement.



**Mike Sanchez** retired on August 7, 2017 after 25 years of service at United Power. Sanchez came to United Power from Minnesota to be a Journey Lineworker. He was later promoted to Troubleshooter. He is enjoying retirement with his wife Deb, traveling the United States.



**Vicky Schenfeld** retired on September 29, 2017 after 25 years of service to United Power. She was hired as an Automated Mapping Specialist. This position essentially built our online maps. Entering retirement, Vicky is looking forward to not having any plans and having more time to volunteer.

**United Power wishes all of these exemplary employees well as they enjoy the many new adventures that retirement can bring!**

## Hodge, Whitmore Honored



Mary Hodge, Adams County Commissioner, and Troy Whitmore, United Power Public Affairs Officer received the distinguished Alumni of the Plains award from Pro 15 at their annual Fall Conference held in October. Commissioner Hodge was also inducted into the Pro 15 Legislative Hall of Fame.

Hodge, a United Power member, graduated from high school in Idalia, Colo., and prior to serving as an Adams County Commissioner, she served in the Colorado State Legislature in both the House and Senate. Whitmore graduated from high school in Haxtun, Colo. and has been with United Power for 31 years. He has served the community on the Thornton City Council, Brighton Economic Development Council, MetroNorth Chamber of Commerce Board and Government Affairs Committee, Northeastern Junior College Alumni Association and the Colorado 4-H and Colorado FFA Foundations.

The Alumni of the Plains award was established eleven years ago to recognize individuals who graduated from a high school in one of the 15 counties in Northeast Colorado, and who have excelled in their profession. Progressive 15 (Pro 15) is the collective voice of 15 counties in Northeast Colorado—advocating for legislation and policy that impact the economic vitality of the region.

## RECIPES



### Savory Pumpkin Hummus with Cinnamon Tortilla Chips

Hummus:

- 1 cup reduced sodium chickpeas de-skinned
- 3/4 cup canned pumpkin
- 1/4 cup maple syrup
- 2 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
- 2 tsp coconut oil melted

Chips:

- 1 whole wheat tortilla
- 1/2 Tbs. coconut oil melted
- Truvia for sprinkling
- Cinnamon for sprinkling

Preheat oven to 350 degrees and rub a cookie sheet with melted coconut oil and set aside. Add chickpeas, pumpkin, maple syrup, pie spice and 2 tsp. of coconut oil into a small food processor and process until smooth. Cut tortilla into eight triangles and lay on the prepared cookie sheet. Brush with half of the melted coconut oil and then sprinkle with cinnamon and Truvia. Bake for eight minutes or until lightly golden. Flip the tortillas, brush with remaining coconut oil and sprinkle with more cinnamon and Truvia. Bake for another eight minutes until the tortillas are deep golden, brown. Once the chips cool and the Truvia hardens, you will have nice and crunchy chips!

*Marta Kwiat, Brighton*

### 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

# Youth Opportunities Available

## All Applications Due in January



Applications and more information for United Power's youth opportunities are available under the 'Co-op & Community' tab at [www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com) or call Julie Stewart, Community Outreach Specialist, at 303-637-1334.

### 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, 2018.**

### Washington D.C. Youth Tour

United Power is accepting applications for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour held June 7 – 14, 2018 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, 2018.**

### Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp

The Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp is held near Steamboat Springs, Colo. from July 14 – 19, 2018. The primary objective of this camp is to provide an educational experience for young people on the organization and operation of a cooperative. Students also participate in activities that teach leadership and teamwork skills and build self-esteem and confidence. Interested students must complete an application, be 16 years of age or older, and have their primary residence be in United Power's service territory.

**Applications must be postmarked by January 12, 2018.**



## ENERGY SAVERS

### Adjust the Temperature

When you are home, set your thermostat as low as comfortable. When you are asleep or out of the house, turn your thermostat back 10 to 15 degrees for eight hours. You could save 10 percent a year on your heating bill.

## Be in the Know: Join our Grassroots Network

United Power is building a grassroots network of members who want to get involved in key legislative issues. Members of this group will receive information about issues that could affect their rates, reliability or the operation of the cooperative. The group will also have an opportunity to contact their state and federal representatives to voice their opinion.

The goal is to educate interested members on industry issues and for the members to be active in starting conversations with key legislators, local officials and even other members about how their service might be affected. There is no cost, just a great opportunity to get involved and learn more about electric cooperatives and our industry.

To have your name and email added to our Grassroots Network, call Jennifer at 303-637-1248, or sign up on our website at [www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com).



# Don't Be Victim to a Scam

Unfortunately, in today's world, scams are inevitable. Utility scams often involve an individual or group posing as an employee of your electric cooperative. The scammer may use threatening language in order to frighten you into offering your credit card or bank account information. Don't fall victim to these types of scams.

In an effort to protect your money and personal information, we want to remind members to stay vigilant and keep up with the current status of your electric account by referencing your monthly statement, calling United Power's Member Services Department at 303-637-1300, or by logging into your account via SmartHub.

## Know How United Power Does Business

- **United Power does not collect utility 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 phone message will instruct you to initiate a payment.
- **It is important to note that while United Power will accept MoneyPak as a form of payment, we will never require or demand MoneyPak as the only form of payment we would accept.** In fact, members can save themselves the \$4.95 MoneyPak convenience fee and walk into any United Power office to pay their electric bill with cash.
- **United Power members can call their electric cooperative 24 hours a day to confirm their account status or to make a payment over the phone.** SmartHub, United Power's billing and payment portal, is another tool for members to check their account status and make a secure payment directly to United Power.

## HOW TO SPOT A SCAM

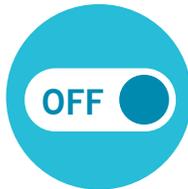
### Don't become a victim.

In one of the most common scams, a caller may:



**Pretend** to be from your utility. (Your caller ID may even display your utility's name.)

**Threaten** to turn off power, water or natural gas service to your home or business within an hour.



**Demand immediate payment** – often by prepaid debit card.

### Suspect a scammer? Here's what to do if the call seems suspicious:

- 1 Hang up.
- 2 Call your utility provider at the phone number on your bill.
- 3 Call the police.



**DO NOT** pay over the phone if immediate payment is demanded to avoid a disconnection.

**DON'T FALL FOR THE CALL!**



DON'T FALL FOR THE CALL!  
**UTILITIES UNITED**  
AGAINST SCAMS

# Inside This Issue

November 2017



## Board Appoints Alquist

United Power Board appoints Keith Alquist to fill the open South District seat.

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## Rebate Changes

Beginning on January 1, 2018, members will see some changes to the rebate requirements on heat pump air conditioners.

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## Unclaimed Capital Credits

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## New Battery Storage System

On October 25<sup>th</sup>, United Power announced plans to construct its first commercial scale energy storage project.

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### 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

### CONGRATS READER REWARDS WINNERS

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place:** Wilbur Wafel, Keenesburg
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Shana Hill, Brighton  
Nate Laff, Commerce City

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



- Chief Executive Officer** James Vigasaa
- Officer** Susan Petrocco
- John Parker**
- Public Affairs Officer** Beth Martin
- Troy Whitmore**
- Secretary/Treasurer** Ursula J. Morgan
- Asst. Sec./Treasurer** Ginny Buzek
- Editors** Heidi Storz
- Ashley Reimers**
- Laurel Eller**
- Tim Erickson**
- Brian McCormick**
- Richard Newman**
- Dave Rose**
- Tamra Waitemath**
- Keith Alquist**

- Board of Directors**
- James Vigasaa
- Susan Petrocco
- President
- Secretary/Treasurer
- Ursula J. Morgan
- Asst. Sec./Treasurer
- Ginny Buzek
- Tim Erickson
- Brian McCormick
- Richard Newman
- Dave Rose
- Tamra Waitemath
- Keith Alquist

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## UNITED NEWSLINE



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