

UNITED NEWSLINE

Information for the members of United Power, Inc.

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IMPORTANT DATES

FEBRUARY **Deadline for Nominations**
16 **by Petition for Director**
 Candidates
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MARCH **Annual Meeting &**
19, 20, 22 & 23 **Director Election**
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APRIL **Annual Meeting &**
18 **Director Election**
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Rate Change Effective with January Usage

United Power residential members are reminded that they will see a small increase on their electric bill, effective on their January 1, 2018 usage. This means most members will see the increase on their first statement in February. The increase is a flat addition of \$2 to the fixed charge, raising this charge from \$17 per month to \$19 per month.

“The Cost of Service study clearly illustrated that members in the residential rate class – which is nearly every home and farm on our lines – has been not paying enough to cover what it costs to serve them,” stated John

Parker, CEO. “We are taking a hard look at the long-term impacts of anticipated changes in our industry and will be formulating a multi-year plan to change the way we charge our members. In the meantime we are pleased that we will be able to keep the 2018 increase to this modest amount.”

Same Thing, Different Name: Facility Charge to be Renamed the Fixed Charge

This component of the bill is one way that United Power recovers a portion of the cost for the cooperative’s fixed costs. Included in this charge are some of the cooperative’s costs for billing, collections, member services and metering. These are costs that are incurred by all members – residential members, commercial accounts; even net metered accounts with solar panels incur these costs. A fixed charge helps us have a reliable way to recover some of these costs every month.

Changes to How Electricity is Billed to be Phased-In Over the Next Few Years

Following the results of a year-long trial of a pilot demand rate, the board agreed to a five year phase-in plan of a residential demand rate to replace the current rate structure. The dynamic pricing model will provide a more fair cost structure, and gives members an ability to control their costs by staggering the use of electric appliances and by shifting their use of electricity to non-peak periods.

Learning about how a demand rate works will take a lot of communication, so the five year period is being used to help our members and employees better understand the rate and how members can control their costs with some simple strategies.

Later in 2018 all members will begin to see a line on their bill simply entitled “Demand.” Initially, there will not be a dollar amount attached to this line item while we provide the information as education for members. By adding the new line it will allow members

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www.unitedpower.com

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

United Power to Award \$18,500 in 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. Scholarships are awarded based on overall academic performance taking into account grade point average, ACT and SAT scores, extra-curricular activities, and a brief essay. Only one application is needed to apply for all available scholarships. **Applications must be postmarked by January 31, 2018.**



For More Information

Learn more and download an application at unitedpower.com. For additional inquiries, contact Julie Stewart, Community Outreach Specialist, at 303-637-1334.

The following scholarships will be awarded:

- **\$1,000 Basin Electric Power Cooperative Scholarship.** One scholarship is available for a student attending any post-secondary accredited institution.
- **\$2,000 United Power Colorado College Scholarships.** Two scholarships are available for a United Power customer or customer dependent attending a public Colorado university or college.
- **\$1,000 Lois Lesser Scholarship.** One scholarship is available for a United Power customer or customer dependent pursuing a degree in education.
- **\$1,000 Bill Berens Memorial Scholarship.** One scholarship will be awarded to a United Power or customer dependent pursuing a degree in engineering.
- **\$1,000 Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association Scholarships.** One scholarship is available for a student attending any post-secondary accredited institution of higher education.
- **\$1,500 Youth Leadership Scholarship.** One scholarship will be awarded to a student attending any post-secondary accredited institution of higher education. This scholarship is evaluated primarily on community service activities, a record of leadership activities, and volunteer efforts.
- **\$1,000 United Power Book Scholarships.** Nine book scholarships are available for any freshman entering any post-secondary accredited institution of higher education.



ENERGY SAVERS

Keep the Oven Door Closed

Don't open the oven door to see what's cooking. Instead, turn on the oven light and check the status through the oven window. Opening the oven door lowers the temperature inside which increases cooking time and wastes energy.

Annual Director Election

Four positions on United Power's eleven member board are up for election at **the 2018 Annual Meeting which is scheduled for Wednesday, April 18, 2018** 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. United Power's bylaws (available at www.unitedpower.com, at any of our offices, or through the mail) provide in-depth information on director districts, qualifications, terms, elections, meetings and officers.

Members can determine which district they live in by finding the information in the upper right hand corner of their monthly United Power statement. 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 16, 2018.

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.

Rate Changes in 2018 and Beyond

to see an actual number that corresponds to their use. In 2019 United Power will institute a demand charge and that will slowly increase, with a corresponding reduction in the energy charge. United Power will begin actively communicating how a demand charge works via the newsletter, website, social media and bill stuffers, so our members have the opportunity to gain an understanding

of this new way of charging for electric consumption. Many members will see very little change in their bills, but some members who are heavy users during the peak periods will be more heavily affected, and without the demand rate they have been driving up costs for other users. We will continue to communicate about these changes via the newsletter and our website at www.unitedpower.com.

UNDERSTANDING UTILITY COSTS AND CHARGES

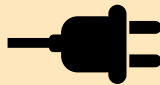
People don't often have to think about what goes into their electricity charges, they think about what electricity does. When they flip the switch - the light comes "on." As a cooperative utility, United Power must pay close attention to how electricity is generated, distributed and metered. All aspects of this delivery need to be considered to ensure that the energy a member needs is available to them, that all costs of service are being covered, and that members are paying equitable rates for the energy they use.

Collecting money through a customer's utility bill covers not only the cost of the energy a member uses, but also supports the cost of the distribution grid that delivers that energy to the individual. For most utilities, it comes down to three fundamental cost drivers:



FIXED COSTS

These are costs that are not based on the amount of energy used or size of the service available to the customer. These costs can include issuing a monthly bill, meter reading, access to member services, etc. These costs usually appear on the utility bill as a Fixed Service or Facility Charge. **This component is charged even if a customer doesn't use any energy.** It even applies in the case where they might generate energy on-site. In all these cases, a meter is still read and a bill is always issued.



ENERGY COSTS

These are the costs that are completely dependent on the energy that is used. A utility considers this portion of the rate structure as variable. If you don't use any energy, you would incur none of these variable costs. These costs are usually associated with the fuel that runs the generator that makes the electricity. Utilities like United Power experience this cost through the wholesale rates they pay to their generation supplier.



CAPACITY COSTS

These costs are associated with the size of the wire, transformer and the overall facilities that are required to serve different customers. A customer that has a number of electrical appliances and uses them simultaneously requires larger utility equipment than the customer who doesn't. **This component of the rate isn't based on the total energy used over a period of time, but rather specifically on the amount used at one time.** The larger the service requirements, the larger the investment the utility has in equipment to serve that customer. Even if a customer doesn't use any energy for a particular month, the utility still has to have the necessary capacity and equipment available in the event that they need it.

2018

ANNUAL MEETING & DIRECTOR ELECTION

WEDNESDAY APRIL 18, 2018

4:30 p.m. Registration Opens
6:30 p.m. Balloting Closes & Meeting Begins

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

www.unitedpower.com/annualmeeting

BALLOTING DEADLINES

FEBRUARY 16, 2018

Director Nominations by Petition Deadline at 4 p.m.

APRIL 16, 2018

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

APRIL 18, 2018

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

APRIL 18, 2018

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

CANDIDATE FORUMS

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

MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2018 | 6:30 p.m.
Adams County Fairgrounds - Waymire Dome
9755 Henderson Road Brighton, CO 80601

TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2018 | 7:30 a.m.
Fort Lupton Recreation Center
203 S. Harrison Ave. Fort Lupton, CO 80621

THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2018 | 7:30 a.m.
Coal Creek Canyon Community Center
31528 Highway 72 Golden, CO 80403

FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 2018 | 7:30 a.m.
E.L.F. Grill
102 8th Street Dacono, CO 80514

Dates and locations may be subject to change.

Safety with Space Heaters

As temperatures drop this winter, many will look for supplemental heating sources for their homes. Space heaters can be a good alternative for those who want to warm one area of their home without turning up the thermostat on the central heating system. However, space heaters are also responsible for 32 percent of house fires, according to the National Fire Protection Association. If you are planning to use a space heater in your home this winter, review these tips to keep you, your family and your property safe.

Materials

What are the components of your space heater? Parts like metal grating can be hot to the touch and may burn anyone who gets close.

- Make sure you purchase a heater that is cool to the touch and has guards over the coils.
- Choose a space heater that has been tested and certified by a nationally recognized testing institute such as the Underwriters Laboratories.
- Buy a heater that can handle the area that you want to heat.
- Read and follow manufacturer's operating instructions.

Placement

While it can be tempting to place a small space heater on a shelf so it is not in the way of pets and children, it is safest to leave it on a nonflammable level floor surface.



- Keep the heater at least three feet from flammable items such as curtains, furniture, or bedspreads.
- Do not use a space heater in the bathroom—it's a high moisture area that could cause damage to the heater.

Use

Never leave a space heater unattended while in use. If you are leaving your home or going to bed, make sure to unplug the heater.

- Do not use an extension cord when plugging in a space heater as it can cause overheating.
- Be sure the heater's plug fits snugly in an outlet. The cord and plug may feel warm, but should not feel hot. If they do, unplug the heater and have a qualified repair person check for problems.

Special Features

Does your space heater have an auto shutoff function if tipped over? Auto shutoff can be a lifesaver.

READER REWARDS

JANUARY
2018



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

What director candidate forum event is located nearest to you? Will we see you there?

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



Brighton members Brad and Kim Bohling shared this photo relaxing at home with their *United Newsline* and their pup, Muffin. "Hi, Muffin! Thanks for showing us your United Power Pride."

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

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

RECIPES



The Power of Giving Back

What started as a very cold morning on Sunday, December 17th turned into a surprisingly warm day in terms of giving. United Power employees Bill Hottel, Fremont Bossow, Ted Achatz, and Ethan Minnick joined volunteers from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local Union 111 at the Denver Rescue Mission for their annual Feed the Homeless event. For more than 20 years, the IBEW Local 111 has held this event on the weekend before Christmas.

Through a collaboration of volunteers, donations of food, clothing and money, organizers and volunteers were able to feed

nearly 700 people. Volunteers meet on the Saturday before the event to assemble cold meals for distribution and to organize the donated clothing and toiletries. Then early on Sunday morning, volunteers assemble their donated grills, generators and food to cook and serve a hot meal for anyone in attendance. Many of the people served by the event leave with two meals and a bag of essential toiletries.

For information on other community service events or to contribute to this worthy cause please visit www.ibew111.org.



Warm & Hearty Beef Stew

- 2 lbs. cubed beef stew meat
- 3 Tbs. vegetable oil
- 4 cubes beef bouillon, crumbled
- 4 cups water
- 1 tsp. dried rosemary
- 1 tsp. dried parsley
- 1/2 tsp. ground black pepper
- 3 large potatoes, peeled and cubed
- 4 carrots, cut into 1 inch pieces
- 3 stalks celery, cut into 1 inch pieces
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 tsp. cornstarch
- 2 tsp. cold water

In a large pot or dutch oven, cook beef in oil over medium heat until brown. Dissolve bouillon in water and pour into pot. Stir in rosemary, parsley and pepper. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat, cover and simmer 1 hour.

Stir potatoes, carrots, celery, and onion into the pot. Dissolve cornstarch in 2 teaspoons cold water and stir into stew. Cover and simmer 1 hour more.

Before You're in the Dark, Help Us Find You Fast

In the event of a power outage, or to notify our members of a planned outage, United Power uses an automated phone system.

It's important to keep an up-to-date phone number on your account to quickly report an outage, and to stay informed of planned outages.

To update your account contact information:

- **Call Member Services at 303-637-1300; or**
- **Login to your account through SmartHub at www.unitedpower.com.**



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

Take the Chill Out of Winter Bills

Between holiday house guests and shorter, colder days, energy bills tend to climb in the winter. The average family spends about \$2,024 a year on energy—nearly half of that goes towards heating and cooling costs. Stay warm and save energy with these helpful tips:

- **Set your thermostat to 68 degrees or lower.** If you decrease the temperature by just one degree, you can save up to five percent on heating costs.
- **Don't run space heaters in empty rooms.** People are often shocked at how fast the cost of a space heater can add up. Follow all safety precautions and don't leave them running while you're away.
- **Reduce hot water temperatures.** Heating water accounts for 12 percent of the average home's energy use. Set your water heater's thermostat to 120 degrees or lower—that's usually sufficient for a household's hot-water needs.
- **Consider replacing old appliances with Energy Star® models.** You can save about 15 percent of your normal energy use with these appliances and get rebates from United Power to help offset the purchase.



The more heat that escapes from cracks, the more cold air enters. Seal and insulate to keep heat in and cold air out.

- **Adjust the blinds and curtains.** Keep them open to let in sunlight during the day and close them at night to keep heat inside and protect from drafts.
- **Seal and insulate.** This is the best way to keep heat in, and cold air out. Areas that may need sealing include corners, cracks, door frames, and windows.
- **Free your vents.** HVAC systems will have to work twice as hard if vents are blocked by rugs, furniture, or doors. Keep vents clear for proper air flow.
- **Check furnace filters.** Be sure to check your heating and cooling system's air filter every month; and replace the filter at least every three months.



ENERGY SAVERS

Keep Up on Your HVAC system

A little do-it-yourself maintenance ensures that your heating/cooling system doesn't have to work as hard to keep your house warm. Swap out your air filters at least every three months.

Operation Round-Up Donations are Tax Deductible*



More than 20 percent of our members donate to United Power's Operation Round-Up, rounding their bills up to the next full dollar amount and donating that change to the Foundation.

The Foundation in turn makes grants to partner agencies providing vital services

to United Power members in need. As a charitable, 501(c)3 organization, donations are deductible for many individuals.*

If you gave to Operation Round-Up in 2017, we've made it easy for you to determine the amount of your donation by providing you with the information on your January or February bill statement. Just remember to take it to your tax advisor when you complete your taxes this year.

**Individual tax situations will vary. As with any donation, please consult your personal tax professional for specific benefits related to your gifts.*



2018 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 Water Heater 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.

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.




Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

www.unitedpower.com

Rebates effective Jan. 1, 2018


Qualifying Products	Rebate from Tri-State G&T	Rebate from United Power
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Heat Pump Air Conditioners

	Ground-Source Heat Pump: closed loop system <i>(Minimum 3/4 ton)</i>	\$500/ton	\$200/ton*
	Air-Source Heat Pump: 15-17 SEER	\$300/ton	\$100/ton
	Air-Source Heat Pump: greater than 17 SEER	\$450/ton	\$100/ton
	Air Source Heat Pump: integrated controlled ETS backup	\$100/unit	*ETS rebate may not be applicable
	Terminal Unit: 12,000 BTU per hr. min	\$85/unit	\$75/unit


Air Source Heat Pump minimum: 15 SEER, 1 ton. *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 Marathon water heater.	\$50*	\$400
	Lifetime warranty Marathon water heater on <i>United Power utility control.</i>	\$50*	\$500
	Lifetime warranty Marathon water heater and GSHP Desuperheater: any size gallon	\$125	\$500
	GSHP Desuperheater with steel glass-lined tank.	\$100	\$200
	Heat Pump Water Heater: 30 gallon minimum	\$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. *30-55 gallon only

Electric Heat

	New Electric Thermal Storage Units on automated Time-of-Day control panel	\$16/kW	\$4/kW
	New Electric Thermal Slab on automated 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. *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	---
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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit www.unitedpower.com or call United Power's Energy Management Team at 303-659-0551.

Inside This Issue

JANUARY
2018



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



2018 Director Election

Important dates and deadlines for your 2018 Cooperative Director Election

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Safety with Space Heaters

Stay warm and safe with space heaters this winter.

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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



2018 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.

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CONGRATS READER REWARDS WINNERS

1st Place: Robert Boggs, Henderson

2nd Place: Ronald Gelden, Longmont
Roberta Schleppy, Golden

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

Chief Executive Officer	John Parker	Board of Directors	James Vigasaa
Chief Operating Officer	Bryant Robbins		Susan Petrocchio
Chief Financial Officer	Laurie Rydwell		<i>Vice-President</i>
Public Affairs Officer	Troy Whitmore		Beth Martin
Newsline Editors	Heidi Storz		<i>Secretary/Treasurer</i>
	Laurel Eller		Ursula J. Morgan
			<i>Asst. Sec./Treasurer</i>
			Keith Alquist
			Ginny Buczek
			Tim Erickson
			Brian McCormick
			Richard Newman
			Dave Rose
			Tamra Watermath

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UNITED NEWSLINE

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



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