

# UNITED NEWSLINE

Information for the members of United Power, Inc.

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## 2022: A Year in Review

## IMPORTANT DATES

- JAN. 27 Scholarship Applications Due
- FEB. 10 Director Nominations Due  
Petitions due by 4 p.m.
- FEB. 20 Presidents Day  
Offices Closed
- APRIL 12 Annual Meeting & Director Election

United Power’s definition of a banner year is one in which we find new ways to better serve our members and our communities. We are working tirelessly to position the cooperative for future success, using our experience and expertise to prepare for emerging trends and industry changes. We developed Our Cooperative Roadmap (Roadmap) as an evolving action plan to guide our decisions in the coming years, and we took the first steps toward executing the plan last year. Behind the scenes, we were also working to improve our system’s resiliency and efficiency so members can have even greater peace of mind knowing they will continue to receive reliable power. In 2022, we also introduced new member programs, welcomed

back members for our first in-person annual meeting since 2019, and went above and beyond in supporting our local nonprofits.

### Seeking More Flexible, Affordable, Sustainable Power

As an electric distribution cooperative, United Power does not generate its own power. The cooperative must instead purchase wholesale power from a generation supplier. For many years, United Power has purchased 95% of its wholesale power from one source. As clean energy technologies advance and the cost to maintain coal-fired power plants increases, United Power has sought ways to seek more affordable, flexible, and sustainable power from its wholesale provider. The cooperative even worked toward modifying the terms of the current contract, which limits United Power’s ability to source more than 5% as locally-generated, more affordable energy. Unable to come to an agreement with its current power provider, United Power filed its notice of intent to withdraw, effective May 1, 2024.

“Unfortunately, our power supplier has been ignoring our efforts to come to an amicable arrangement that better supports the needs of our members,” said Mark A. Gabriel, United Power’s President and Chief Executive Officer.

“Instead of working with us in the pursuit of lower-cost, cleaner options, our power supplier has resisted these developments.”

This pending change in power suppliers does not affect your membership with United Power. There will be no change in the quality of our service, the reliability of your power, or our commitment to our members. We encourage you to read more about the upcoming transition at [www.unitedpower.com/powersupply](http://www.unitedpower.com/powersupply).

### Improving System Reliability

Speaking of reliability, United Power has consistently reported some of the best performance numbers for electric utilities across the country. This is due in part to a targeted maintenance practice that focuses on analyzing data to isolate the worst performing segments on the electric delivery system. Strategically placed smart devices collect critical information and transfer it back to system operators. Once identified, maintenance projects can be targeted to improve these segments.

The national average for outage duration hovers around 120 minutes per meter, meaning a person can expect to experience an aggregate of approximately two hours of outage time at their home over the course of a year. Since instituting the new maintenance practice in 2017, United



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

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

# Along These Lines

## A Message from United Power's President & CEO



**Mark A. Gabriel**

President & Chief Executive Officer

### Have Feedback For Us?

Submit your questions, comments, concerns, or general feedback at [www.unitedpower.com/CEO](http://www.unitedpower.com/CEO).

### Our Cooperative Roadmap

Our Cooperative Roadmap contains the cooperative's long-term action plan and key priorities to maintain its strength and competitiveness in the evolving electric industry.

Read Our Cooperative Roadmap at [www.unitedpower.com/roadmap](http://www.unitedpower.com/roadmap).

United Power had a tremendous year in 2022, from our system's performance in limiting outages and outage duration to our important decision to withdraw from our wholesale power contract and seek a new power supplier.

Much is happening behind the scenes as we prepare for the next decade and beyond. The investments we make — strongly supported by your forward-thinking Board of Directors — position United Power for a future with diverse generation and storage technologies to meet the expectations of our members.

Our dedicated employees are the force behind our successful operations. It takes a team with diverse skill sets and abilities. Our line crews are on call 24/7 to respond to unexpected emergencies and restore power during an outage, and the excellent efforts of our office staff keep the business flowing day-to-day.

Our system relies on dozens of complicated processes that must occur to keep the lights on, and some are not obvious. Supply chain disruption planning, understanding operational challenges through asset management, protecting critical infrastructure across a remote footprint, and understanding and communicating with our members are just a few of these important, yet hidden, processes.

Electric utilities are one of the few businesses only recognized when they do not perform well. I am proud to say that thanks to our great team, our outage times were half the national average in 2022. Over the past several years, we have made a concerted effort to underground our lines where practical, use new and emerging technologies, and deploy additional sensors while focusing our maintenance efforts and investments on areas needing the most improvements.

Our Cooperative Roadmap (Roadmap) outlines the key directions for United Power as we boldly move into the future — a future with a shared energy economy, more electrification, and higher demands for reliability and

resilience. We are, as previously announced, preparing for a future with a new power supplier and getting ready for a power market to come in 2025. These moves take many months, if not years, of preparation. The team at United Power is working toward these goals. At the same time, we are understanding of the economic challenges our members are facing, and we are working to keep rates low and reliability high while meeting state regulations. Read more about our Roadmap at [www.unitedpower.com/roadmap](http://www.unitedpower.com/roadmap).

We are also in the process of seeking federal funding to help support our infrastructure, as laid out in the Inflation Reduction Act, in areas such as wildfire mitigation, electric vehicle charging, and sensors. Under the legislation, individual members and businesses may also have opportunities to apply for direct federal funding for efficiency upgrades, such as energy storage projects, heat pumps, insulation, and electrification of industrial processes.

The upcoming year will be an exciting one as we continue the path outlined in our Roadmap. I am confident we will continue to be the best cooperative in Colorado and one of the best in the nation thanks to our tremendous team and the support from our Board, who are working to keep our communities strong.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to me anytime.

## Power Supply, Member Programs Highlight 2022

Power's outage times have dropped below 70 minutes per meter.

The cooperative also continues to enhance its wildfire mitigation plan. This year, Red Flag Warning procedures were added to the plan to better protect our communities and improve system reliability. We will continue to apply the highest safety standards and implement industry best practices for the ongoing safety and protection of our members and communities.

### Smart Summer Rewards

United Power's newest program rewards members for helping the cooperative avoid demand spikes on hot summer days. Enrolling in Smart Rewards will allow the cooperative to automatically adjust your thermostat on days when peak power surges. The slight adjustment to your thermostat may result in a modest savings on your monthly bills, and you will also receive a \$25 bill credit for every summer you remain enrolled. Read more about the Smart Rewards program at [www.unitedpower.com/smart-rewards](http://www.unitedpower.com/smart-rewards).

### Expanding Access to EVs

Electric vehicles (EVs) accounted for nearly 10% of all new car sales in Colorado in 2022. United Power expanded its catalog of available programs this past year for members who own or have interest in purchasing an EV.

The cooperative's first EV investment was its fast charger at the Coal Creek office. The network expanded to three with the Market

Street Mart charger in Keenesburg in 2021 and the United Power office location in Carbon Valley in 2022. The newest addition to this network filled a 30-mile gap in available charging options between Thornton and Loveland.

The majority of EV owners, however, charge their vehicles at home using upgraded electrical outlets. United Power debuted both its new EV wiring rebate and United EV pilot program this past year. All members qualify for the cooperative's wiring rebate, but members who enroll in United EV receive additional rebate dollars, at-home charging equipment, and a menu of rates and options for smart charging. More information about United Power's EV programs is available at [www.unitedpower.com/ev](http://www.unitedpower.com/ev).

### Getting Back to In-Person

Health and safety precautions surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic prevented United Power from gathering with our members for more than two years. We were finally able to welcome members back to an in-person Annual Meeting in 2022. Additionally, fairs and festivals resumed this summer, giving us a chance to connect with members in the communities they call home. We were also able to send local high school students on the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., where our youth delegate was nominated among her peers to represent Colorado on the National Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Leadership Council.

of our offices, or through mail) provide in-depth information on director districts, qualifications, terms, elections, meetings, and officers.

Eligible members interested in running for a seat on the Board of Directors must submit nominations by written petition. Nominations by written petition must state the name and district of the nominee, and must be signed by 15 or more United Power members. Each member's district is printed on their United Power billing statement. **The deadline for director nominations by petition is 4 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 10, 2023.** Petitions are available by contacting United Power's Executive Department at 303-659-0551.

# 2023

## ANNUAL MEETING & DIRECTOR ELECTION

### WEDNESDAY APRIL 12, 2023

The 2023 Annual Meeting will be held as a hybrid event. Members may view the meeting online or attend in person.

#### MEETING LIVESTREAM

[www.unitedpower.com/annual-meeting](http://www.unitedpower.com/annual-meeting)

#### IN-PERSON MEETING

**Riverdale Regional Park & Fairgrounds**  
9755 Henderson Road, Brighton, CO 80601

**4:30 p.m.** In-person Registration, Balloting, & Dinner

**6:30 p.m.** Online & In-person Meeting Begins

### BALLOTING DEADLINES

**Balloting in the 2023 Director Election will be conducted by both electronic & paper balloting.**

#### FEB. 10, 2023

Director nominations by petition deadline at 4 p.m.

#### MARCH 13, 2023

Electronic balloting opens & paper ballots are mailed to members.

#### APRIL 11, 2023

Mail-in ballots must arrive at the P.O. Box by 11:59 a.m. Electronic balloting closes at 11:59 a.m.

#### APRIL 12, 2023

In-person voting open from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

### CANDIDATE FORUMS

In March, United Power will host four candidate forums for memers. Forums are free, RSVPs are not required, and light refreshments will be served.

#### MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2023 | 6:30 p.m.

Riverdale Regional Park  
Rendezvous Room, Waymire Dome  
**View Livestream** at [www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com)

#### TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2023 | 7:30 a.m.

Coal Creek Canyon Community Center

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2023 | 6:30 p.m.

United Power Carbon Valley Service Center

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2023 | 7:30 a.m.

Fort Lupton Recreation Center  
Multi-purpose Room 3

*Meet the Candidate Forums subject to change or cancellation.*

## Annual Director Election Four Board Seats Up for Election

Four positions on United Power's eleven-member board are up for election at **the 2023 Annual Meeting which is scheduled for Wednesday, April 12, 2023.** The cooperative plans to host a hybrid event, available for members to attend either in person or view online. One seat in the East, West, South, and Mountain districts will be up for three-year terms.

To be eligible to become or remain a director, a person must be a United Power member for at least two years immediately before becoming a director 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](http://www.unitedpower.com), any

# Beware of Rooftop Solar Sales Scams

## United Power Does Not Contract or Partner with Any Solar Vendors

United Power is proud to be ranked among the top electric utilities across the country in member-owned rooftop solar installations. We are rapidly approaching our 10,000th net metering agreement. While we empower our members to pursue solar if it suits their energy needs and lifestyle, we do not contract or partner with any company that sells solar panels. Some members have recently reported door-to-door salespeople who are claiming to represent the cooperative and are using intentionally misleading promises to persuade members into making costly decisions about installing solar panels. To help our members separate fact from fiction, we have refuted a couple of the most common solar scams here.

### Claim: Going Solar Will Eliminate Your Bill

One of the most common promises solar salespeople make is that after purchasing a solar system, you will no longer receive a bill from your electric utility. **This is not true.** To take full advantage of “banking” your excess generation, and if you need a continuous source of power when the sun is not shining, you will likely want to maintain a connection to the United Power grid. All United Power members pay a fixed monthly charge, which covers a portion of the costs for grid connection including billing, collections, member services, and metering. Your bill may also include local taxes and franchise fees, which vary based on where you live.

You should also consider the cost of a new solar system. According to Consumer Affairs, Colorado residents can expect to spend nearly \$14,000 on a 6-kW system – even after tax incentives. If you finance a system, your monthly solar payment could come with a higher price tag than you would pay for electricity alone.



### Claim: United Power Keeps Raising Rates

Salespeople have told members that we continue to raise rates, and that they have been paying more because of it. **Residential rates for United Power members have remained steady for more than three years.**

Any increases that members may have noticed on their monthly billing statements are likely due to recent weather trends or being home more frequently resulting in increased electric usage, not higher rates. If you want to learn more about your energy usage trends and pinpoint what is driving your electric costs, contact United Power’s Energy Management team at 303-637-1300.

United Power has a guide on our website for members who are considering solar. Visit our Going Solar guide to learn more about the benefits of your solar connection to the local electric grid at [www.unitedpower.com/going-solar](http://www.unitedpower.com/going-solar). Please be extremely cautious of any door-to-door salesperson claiming to sell solar panels on United Power’s behalf, especially if they come with grand promises that seem too good to be true.

## READER REWARDS

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### Three Winners Every Month!

1<sup>st</sup> place: \$100 Bill Credit

2<sup>nd</sup> place: \$50 Bill Credit (two winners)

### Submit Reader Rewards Online

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



Visit [www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com) and click on ‘News & Community’ to enter Reader Rewards online. Answer the question below with your online entry:

### Does United Power partner with any solar vendors?

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. For complete contest rules, visit [www.unitedpower.com/newslines](http://www.unitedpower.com/newslines).

### Members may also enter by mailing the following entry form to:

United Power • Reader Rewards • 500 Cooperative Way • Brighton, CO 80603

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## UNITED POWER PRIDE



Longtime owners of Dacono’s Daylight Donuts, Patrick and Linda Allour, took a break from the batter to bask on the beach. No word yet on whether they intend to open a second beach-side location.

### United Power Pride Photos

Snap a photo with the *United Newslines* and you’ll receive a \$100 bill credit if we print it. Submit your photo along with your name, address, email, and a description of the photo online at [www.unitedpower.com/unitedpowerpride](http://www.unitedpower.com/unitedpowerpride).



# Grant Recipients Selected

## Members Select Six Nonprofits to Receive \$12,000

United Power launched Member Choice grants to provide a way for members to put their community knowledge into action – by nominating local nonprofits for grant dollars from the cooperative. The following organizations were selected to receive a total of \$12,000 through Member Choice grants in 2022.

### CASA of Adams & Broomfield Counties

CASA is a volunteer-based nonprofit that recruits, trains, and places advocates to represent the best interests of child victims of abuse and neglect who are in the judicial system. The desired result is that children have a safe, permanent home where they can thrive.



### Food for Hope

Food for Hope is empowering and strengthening the future of Adams County communities by providing nutritional assistance to children in need throughout the school year. They operate food banks at school district sites, distribute food bags to students, and provide healthy school snacks.



### Fort Lupton Food and Clothing Bank

The mission of the Fort Lupton Food and Clothing Bank is to provide life-sustaining food and clothing to people in need in and around the Fort Lupton community. Each year, the organization provides assistance to nearly 9,000 individuals.



### St. Augustine Food Pantry

The St. Augustine Food Pantry is an agency of the Food Bank of the Rockies serving those in need in Brighton and the nearby surrounding areas. The pantry distributes fresh food, personal hygiene products, and baby products collected from vendors, parishioners, and the Food Bank of the Rockies.



### Sparkling Kindness

Sparkling Kindness is a small nonprofit operating out of Commerce City. It provides support to the local homeless population by distributing basic hygiene kits, feminine hygiene kits, and “comfort” kits (consisting of fleece blankets, socks, stuffed animals, coloring books, crayons, and chapstick).



### Canyon Cares

Canyon Cares provides short-term resources to help care for the necessities and urgent needs of residents in Coal Creek Canyon, Nederland, and unincorporated Gilpin County. Assistance includes medical, housing, repairs, and utilities.



## RECIPES



### Banana-Bran Muffins

- 2 large eggs
- 2/3 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1 cup mashed ripe bananas
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1 cup unprocessed wheat bran
- 1/4 cup canola oil
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 cup whole wheat flour
- 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/2 cup chocolate chips (optional)
- 1/3 cup chopped walnuts (optional)

Preheat oven to 400°. Grease muffin pan.

Whisk eggs and brown sugar in medium bowl until smooth. Whisk in bananas, buttermilk, wheat bran, oil, and vanilla. Whisk whole wheat flour, all-purpose flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, and salt in large bowl. Make a well in dry ingredients, and add wet ingredients. Stir with rubber spatula until just combined. Stir in chocolate chips, if using.

Scoop into prepared pan and top with walnuts, if using. Bake until tops are golden, 15-25 minutes. Let cool in pan for five minutes.

Source: *Eating Well*

### Share Your Recipes

Earn a free gift if we publish your recipe.

- ONLINE: [www.unitedpower.com/newsline](http://www.unitedpower.com/newsline)
- MAIL: United Power Recipes  
500 Cooperative Way  
Brighton, CO 80603

# 2023 Youth Trips & Scholarships



## Youth Tour

Students explore Washington, D.C. with peers from across the country and learn about American history and the cooperative business model while developing leadership skills. Each day is packed with memorable moments.

**Application Deadline:**  
**Jan. 18, 2023**

## Youth Camp

Campers spend a week near Steamboat Springs establishing and managing their own cooperative. In between days filled with cooperative-focused activities, leadership training seminars, and collaborative group projects, campers enjoy fun activities like rafting down the Colorado River or exploring Fish Creek Falls.

**Application Deadline:**  
**Jan. 18, 2023**

## Scholarships

United Power awards more than \$20,000 in scholarships to outstanding students served by the cooperative. Scholarships include awards for students attending an accredited university or college in Colorado or pursuing a specific degree program, as well as 11 book scholarships.

**Application Deadline:**  
**Jan. 27, 2023**

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



## Space Heater Efficiency

### Staying Warm Without Breaking the Bank

Heating is our biggest energy consumer, so when you can do it efficiently, you will notice savings on your bill. A cozy solution for providing additional warmth in your home can be a portable space heater. However, the cost can add up quickly if you are not careful.

### Space Heater Costs Can Add Up

While space heaters can quickly warm up a small area, they are not designed to be your primary heat source. Central heating is more efficient than a space heater when heating the same amount of space over longer periods. Using one 1500-watt plug-in space heater for as little as two hours per day over a month can cost you nearly \$10 extra on your monthly electric bill. This includes any small electric space heaters or decorative electric fireplaces with heat features.

Operating a space heater while other appliances like your dishwasher or dryer are running also adds to your demand. The more hours your space heater operates, the more days you turn it on, and the more appliances running simultaneously, the faster those charges add up.

### Low-Cost Ways to Stay Warm

Warming your body costs less than warming a room or your whole house. Use these tips before you crank up the heater:

- **Dress in layers.** Keep your core and feet warm with sweaters, socks, and slippers.
- **Decorate for warmth.** Add rugs to hard floors, flannel sheets on beds, and cozy up with blankets on the sofa.
- **Use the sun.** Open curtains during the day to let the sun naturally warm your home. Close them at night to prevent heat from escaping.
- **Don't block airflow.** Clear couches or rugs from vents so warm air can flow freely.

### Stay Warm – and Safe – With These Tips

- **Give it room.** Keep space heaters at least three feet from any flammable items.
- **Keep it out of reach.** Keep space heaters out of reach of small children and pets.
- **Set it smart.** Place the heater on a solid, flat surface. Never run power cords under rugs, carpeting, or furniture.
- **Plug it directly.** Be sure plug fits tightly into an outlet and is the only device plugged into the outlet. Extension cords and power strips may cause overheating.
- **Turn it off.** Do not use space heaters unattended, in a child's room, or while you are sleeping. Use programmable timers when possible.
- **Unplug it.** Always unplug and safely store unused space heaters.

### Space Heater Sticker Shock

Cost to operate one 1500-watt electric space heater for 30 days.



**2 Hours/Day**  
**\$8.95**



**4 Hours/Day**  
**\$17.90**



**8 Hours/Day**  
**\$35.80**

Figures based on the operation of one 1500-watt space heater for the duration of 30 consecutive days. A 1500-watt space heater on United Power's standard residential rate will cost \$0.1492 per hour to operate.

Figures do not include demand charges of \$1.50/kW.

# ENERGY SMART REBATES | 2023



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

United Power members receiving permanent electric service qualify for the following Energy Smart Rebates. In addition to the rebates listed here, United Power members also qualify for rebates on heat pumps and electric heat. Members are encouraged to review program details prior to purchasing and installing any new equipment to be assured of meeting all rebate requirements.

All rebate applications must be submitted within 90 days of purchase. Submission of an application does not guarantee a rebate and United Power reserves the right to inspect installation. The following rebate amounts are effective Jan. 1, 2023 and subject to change at any time.

**Complete rebate details, qualifications, and online rebate applications can be found at:**  
[www.unitedpower.com/rebates](http://www.unitedpower.com/rebates).



## Smart Thermostats

Honeywell Smart Thermostat*	\$75
Google Nest Smart Thermostat*	\$50
Smart Rewards Program Credit	\$25/year

\*Qualifying smart thermostats must be eligible for and enrolled in the Smart Rewards program to receive rebate.

## Appliances

ENERGY STAR® Clothes Dryer	\$30
Induction Cooktop – 30" or larger gas to electric conversion	\$350
Refrigerator/Freezer Recycling Credit*	\$60

\*Recycling credits available for full-size refrigerators/freezers only (7.75 cu. ft. min.).

## Whole House Fan

Replacement or new installation	\$100
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## Electric Outdoor Power Equipment

Final rebate amounts are 25% of the equipment cost up to the maximum.

Electric Trimmers, Pruners, Leaf Blowers, Power Washers	max. \$50
Electric Chainsaws	max. \$100
Electric Snow Blowers, Electric Lawn Mowers (walk-behind)	max. \$150

New equipment only. Battery or corded equipment. Minimum purchase price of \$50. Limit one rebate per product type, per year.

## Electric Water Heaters

Water Heater – fossil fuel to electric conversion or new construction	\$150
Water Heater – on United Power utility control	\$250
GSHP Desuperheater with steel glass-lined tank*	\$300
Heat Pump Water Heater	\$370

Minimum size of all units is 2.5 kW and 30 gallon. 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.

\*Rebate limited to one wired tank on two tank GSHP desuperheater configuration.

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United Power does not contract or partner with any solar vendors.

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Space heaters can quickly add to your monthly bill.

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## 2023 Energy Smart Rebates

Before you purchase an electric appliance, view our list of rebates.

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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

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

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

## CONGRATS READER REWARDS WINNERS

**1<sup>st</sup> Place:** Fred Wright, Commerce City

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Rachel Long, Firestone  
Frank Sullivan, Golden

See your name? Call 303-637-1325 within two (2) months of the issue date to claim your Reader Rewards.

**Board of Directors**  
Elizabeth "Beth" A. Martin  
Elizabeth "Beth" A. Martin  
Mark A. Gabriel  
**President & Chief Executive Officer**

**Chairman**  
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James Vigasas  
Vice-Chairman  
Tim Erickson  
Tim Erickson  
Secretary  
Keith Alquist  
Keith Alquist  
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Information for the members of United Power, Inc.

# UNITED NEWSLINE

500 Cooperative Way, Brighton, CO 80603

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

