

MAY/JUNE
2020

UNITED NEWSLINE

Information for the members of United Power, Inc.

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Here for Our Members

IMPORTANT DATES

MAY	National Electrical Safety Month Learn more at esfi.org
MAY 25	Memorial Day United Power Offices Closed
JULY 4	Independence Day United Power Offices Closed

As of press time, offices are closed. Please check www.unitedpower.com for opening information.

United Power Board of Directors Approves Aid to Members During COVID-19

While many of our members are stuck at home counting the days until they can leave their homes and return to work or school, many more have not been so lucky. The coronavirus has caused hardship for countless individuals and families in Colorado and throughout the country. United Power recognizes the difficult circumstances some of its members find themselves in, and with this in mind has taken action to provide relief for those impacted by the coronavirus.

Before the pandemic led to Governor Polis' shelter-in-place order in mid-March, United

Power made the proactive decision to care for the health and safety of both its employees and members by closing office locations and extending payment hours at its existing kiosks in Carbon Valley and Coal Creek Canyon. An additional payment kiosk was installed at the Brighton location in April. The cooperative also temporarily suspended disconnects for nonpayment, understanding some members may be more impacted than others.

As elected officials and health professionals began recommending extending shelter-in-place protocols through April and social distancing measures into the summer, the cooperative again considered new opportunities to address the rising needs of members and local communities. This month, the United Power board of directors announced the advancement of its capital credit retirement and established a special fund to provide financial assistance to members impacted by the coronavirus. Members may also help their neighbors who may be struggling during this time through a one-time donation to Operation Round-Up by calling the cooperative's Member Services team at 303-637-1300.

Members to Receive Advanced Capital Credits Refunds

The United Power board of directors has typically considered the cooperative's capital credit retirement in late summer or early fall. With the current situation, however, the board decided an early retirement could provide some relief, especially to members who have been financially and economically impacted by the virus.

"We know many of our members are impacted by this pandemic," said Board Chairman James Vigesaa. "We are carefully considering the best ways we can help our members during this time, and this hopefully provides some relief for them."

Capital credits represent a portion of your investment in the cooperative. Every spring, United Power looks at the prior year and allots any funds remaining after all expenses are paid into a budget item called "patronage capital," which are then allocated to members based on their prior year's electric consumption. The board then assesses the financial condition



www.unitedpower.com

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

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Two Local Food Banks to Receive \$1,000 Member Choice Grants

United Power introduced its new Member Choice Grants program earlier this year, asking members to nominate a nonprofit organization in its service territory they would like to see the cooperative help support.

Within the service territory, several of these organizations exist to provide for the needs of individuals and families and bring value to the communities they serve. These grant nominations allow United Power to provide support for causes and organizations members truly care about.

Nominations quickly began arriving, and it was clear members saw an immediate need to provide basic food supplies for their neighbors at this time. United Power is happy to announce the two organizations receiving the first \$1,000 Member Choice Grants from the first round of nominations for 2020.

Carbon Valley Help Center



The Carbon Valley Help Center exists to help with the immediate needs of residents in their area, including food assistance and financial support. The grant will be used to help provide for the needs of its food pantry during the pandemic.

Fort Lupton Food & 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.

Nominations are **now open** for the second round of Member Choice Grants, which will be announced in the next *United Newswire*. To submit a nomination, fill out the form on our website at www.unitedpower.com and provide a brief reason why you feel the organization should receive the grant.

Safe Ways To Pay Your Bill

With United Power offices closed over much of the past two months in response to concerns about COVID-19, in-person payments have been suspended. To stay current on bills, members can take advantage of some of the cooperative's other payment options that are fee-free, post to your account immediately and keep you at a safe distance.

- **Online/Mobile Payments.** This is a quick and easy way for members to view their accounts and pay bills from their homes or remotely from their smart phones using the United Power app. Members can also use their online accounts to report an outage and contact the cooperative.
- **Automatic Bill Payments.** Auto Pay is a hassle-free way to ensure your payments are made on time every month. When you sign up for Auto Pay, your payment is automatically deducted on your regular due date.
- **Payment Kiosks.** United Power has payment kiosks in three locations: Brighton, Carbon Valley and Coal Creek. Kiosks are easy to use and have extended hours. Members only need an account number and form of payment, and payments by cash or credit are immediately applied to your account.
- **Pay By Phone.** Payment can also be made by phone 24 hours per day by check or credit card by calling 866-999-4485.
- **Pay Now.** Pay Now allows members to make quick, one-time payments to their accounts without needing a login or password. You'll just need an account number and form of payment.
- **Pay by MoneyGram.** You can pay your United Power bill at more than 41,000 MoneyGram locations.
- **Pay As You Go.** A new payment method for members allows you to pay for power before you use it.

More information about payment options can be found at www.unitedpower.com.

Helping Provide Relief for Members During this Uncertain Time

of the cooperative and determines what amount of capital credits to retire. This year, the board approved an advanced retirement of \$5.5 million.

Your capital credit refund amount is determined based on two factors: how much electricity you use and how long you've been a member. The longer you are a member and the more power you use, the larger your share of each retirement.

In prior years, members would either receive a check or see their refund reflected as a credit on their bill beginning in August. With the earlier retirement this year, members can expect to see their refunds in May. Anyone who received service in 2019 or earlier will be eligible to receive a refund.

While many members received checks in the past, more will instead notice the refund as a credit on their bill this year. In an effort to further protect members during this time, refunds less than \$50 will appear as a bill credit, and refunds more than \$50 will arrive as a check. In the past, credits greater than \$10 were distributed as a check. This decision was made so fewer members would need to travel to local banks to cash retirement checks.

"We talk a lot about the many benefits of being a member of a cooperative like United Power," Vigessaa said. "Our capital credits are as tangible as it gets to realizing those benefits. In a time like now, we are working hard on behalf of our members."

To learn more about United Power capital credits, visit www.unitedpower.com.

United Power Board Approves Assistance Fund for Members

In addition to advancing its capital credit retirement, the cooperative's board also established the Co-op Cares Fund. The Fund was created by allocating \$250,000 in unclaimed capital credits, designed to offset electric bills for members economically impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly those who have been affected by illness or job losses.

"The Co-op Cares Fund complements the many other ways United Power is helping our members," said Bryant Robbins, United Power's CEO. "As a member-owned

cooperative, we are always looking for ways to support our members during tough times, and this situation has impacted our members in so many diverse ways."

The Co-op Cares Fund will be available for assistance through the end of 2020 or when the fund has been depleted. United Power members who are financially impacted by the current health emergency or any other situation can reach our Member Service department at 303-637-1300.

Members Helping Members

Not all members have been impacted by this pandemic in the same way. For those who'd like to help alleviate some of the burdens of those who've been impacted, members can make one-time donations to Operation Round-Up, which distributes those donations to nonprofit groups meeting the needs of individuals and families throughout the service territory.

To make a one-time donation to Operation Round-Up or enroll in the program to round up your monthly bill, call the cooperative's Member Services team at 303-637-1300 or visit the website at www.unitedpower.com/round-up.

United Power is guided by a set of principles that make the cooperative more than your local energy provider, but a partner. It's uncertain how long we may be asked to maintain social distancing to continue to protect one another. As we move into the coming months, United Power will continue to monitor the situation and consider the best solutions for its members.

Please watch the United Power website and follow the cooperative on social media for the latest information on office openings and ways to stay connected.

"We're in this together," said Robbins. "To beat it, we have to work together and help each other out. That's the co-op way."

RECIPES



Savory Dutch Baby

- 1 cup + 2 Tbsp all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp kosher salt
- 1/2 tsp ground black pepper
- 8 large eggs
- 3/4 cup whole milk
- 2 Tbsp finely chopped fresh thyme
- 2 Tbsp minced chives, parsley or tarragon
- 6 Tbsp unsalted butter
- 3/4 cup grated Parmigiano-Reggiano
- Sea salt, for garnish

Heat oven to 425°. In a large bowl, whisk together flour, salt and pepper. In a separate bowl, whisk together eggs and milk. Whisk wet ingredients into dry until just combined. Stir in thyme and other herbs.

Melt butter in heavy 12-inch ovenproof skillet over medium heat. Let it cook until it smells nutty and browns, about 5-7 minutes, then swirl so that butter coats bottom of pan.

Pour batter into pan and scatter cheese and salt over top. Bake until puffed and golden, about 25 minutes. Serve with sriracha and lemon wedges on side, if desired.

Share Your Recipes

Earn a free gift if we publish your recipe.

ONLINE: www.unitedpower.com

MAIL: United Power Recipes
500 Cooperative Way
Brighton, CO 80603

Home Electrical Safety

May is National Electrical Safety Month

May is typically the month when families begin gearing up for vacations as summer approaches. The arrival of the coronavirus, however, flipped things on their head this year. With more people home over the past few weeks, as schools transition to online learning and many members are working from home, summer has become an ideal opportunity to remind members about the importance of electrical safety in the home.

This May, United Power is joining with the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) to raise awareness about potential home electrical hazards and the importance of electrical safety. It might not cross our minds to consider the potential threat of electrical hazards, but with more people plugged in, safety is just as important as staying healthy.



Visit www.esfi.org for more tips on keeping your home and family safe.

United Power offers the following tips to help identify and eliminate electrical hazards to protect yourself, your family and your home:

- Overloaded electrical circuits are a major cause of residential fires. Lower your risk of electrical fires by not overloading your home's electrical system.
- Unplug chargers when not in use. Not only do unused chargers still draw energy (called "vampire loads"), they are also a potential fire risk, especially if your outlet doesn't have a secure hold on the plug. Unsecure plugs can cause electrical arcing, leading to a fire.
- Be careful when using power strips to increase available outlets. While designed for use with electronics, they can still be overloaded with the addition of bigger appliances. This can create another fire risk. Use with caution and read any safety advice.
- Frequently tripped circuit breakers and blown fuses are a clear warning sign of faulty electrical wiring. Contact a licensed electrician for an inspection.



Keeping Our Linemen Safe During COVID-19

With many of our members impacted by current social distancing measures, the reliability of our electrical system is more important than ever. Our lineworkers are hard at work to ensure our members continue to receive safe and reliable power during this pandemic.

For your safety and ours, please maintain a safe distance from our crews. Approaching lineworkers can compromise their health and it also distracts them while they are performing critical work.

If you need assistance, please call our office at 303-637-1300 or visit www.unitedpower.com.

READER REWARDS

MAY/JUNE
2020



Three Winners Every Month!

- 1st place: \$100 Lowe's Gift Card
2nd place: \$50 Lowe's Gift Card (two winners)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Mail entry form to: United Power • Reader Rewards
500 Cooperative Way • Brighton, CO 80603

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:

How was this year's Annual Meeting held?

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



Our *United Newsline* took a tour across Langjökull Glacier, the second largest glacier in Iceland, with Josh and Tania Hattig earlier this year. Jealously, it was also a snowmobile tour.

United Power Pride Photos

Snap a photo with the *United Newsline* and you'll get 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.

CHARGING FORWARD



2019

FINANCIAL REPORT

COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET

	2019	2018
ASSETS		
Utility Plant		
Electric Plant	\$399,340,879	\$347,984,980
less: Depreciation	(94,029,791)	(87,312,346)
Depreciated Value	<u>305,311,088</u>	<u>260,672,634</u>
Investments and Other Property	140,709,554	134,792,775
Current Assets		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	3,979,469	5,845,866
Receivables	14,864,976	11,056,883
Materials	8,844,269	6,410,484
Prepayments and Other Current Assets	36,788,874	34,550,404
Total	<u>64,477,588</u>	<u>57,863,637</u>
Total Assets	\$510,498,230	\$453,329,046
LIABILITIES & CAPITAL		
Capital Equities		
Patronage Capital	\$213,859,846	\$198,824,947
Other Capital	(3,609,227)	(4,269,612)
Total	<u>210,250,619</u>	<u>194,555,335</u>
Long-Term Debt	216,992,065	188,197,259
Obligations Under Capital Leases	-	216,296
Current Liabilities		
Current Maturities of Long-Term Debt	7,970,139	7,264,377
Current Maturities of Capital Leases	216,296	513,086
Notes Payable	33,200,000	26,000,000
Accounts Payable	24,542,051	21,323,765
Accrued Expenses	7,110,831	6,388,651
Accrued Taxes	4,761,800	4,460,161
Customer Deposits	2,195,438	1,507,211
Total	<u>79,996,555</u>	<u>67,457,251</u>
Deferred Credits	3,258,991	2,902,905
Total Liabilities & Capital	\$510,498,230	\$453,329,046

TOTAL REVENUE

(THOUSANDS)



2015	\$208,569
2016	\$219,962
2017	\$227,405
2018	\$255,683

2019 \$285,599

TOTAL ASSETS

(THOUSANDS)



2015	\$383,093
2016	\$387,864
2017	\$420,078
2018	\$453,329

2019 \$510,498

TOTAL PLANT INVESTMENT

(THOUSANDS)



2015	\$309,352
2016	\$302,293
2017	\$323,901
2018	\$347,985

2019 \$399,341

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS & PATRONAGE CAPITAL

	2019	2018
OPERATING REVENUE		
Operating Revenue	\$285,598,719	\$255,682,734
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Cost of purchased power	211,490,581	191,749,770
Operating expenses - distribution	7,386,676	6,395,663
Maintenance of distribution plant	7,270,436	6,979,330
Consumer accounting and collection expenses	5,268,354	5,823,542
Other customer expenses	2,792,621	2,920,805
Administrative & general expense	15,218,627	12,232,906
Directors fees and expense	240,045	419,386
Depreciation	10,467,083	8,966,487
Property taxes	4,788,168	4,491,773
Other expenses	428,936	599,994
Total Operating Expenses	265,351,527	240,579,656
Operating Margins before Interest Expense	20,247,192	15,103,078
Interest Expense		
Interest on long-term debt	8,607,392	7,261,699
Other interest expense	711,856	482,962
Total Interest Expense	9,319,248	7,744,661
Operating Margins Before Capital Credits	10,927,944	7,358,417
G&T and Other Capital Credits	9,852,235	8,708,703
Operating Margins	20,780,179	16,067,120
Interest revenue	269,824	261,319
Other revenue (expense)	(314,963)	(190,592)
Nonoperating margin	(45,139)	70,727
Net Margins	\$20,735,040	\$16,137,847

	2019	2018
PATRONAGE CAPITAL AND OTHER EQUITY		
Net Margins	\$20,735,040	\$16,137,847
Patronage Capital & Other Equities, Beginning of Year	194,555,335	182,538,248
Subtotal	215,290,375	198,676,095
Retirement of Capital Credits and Other Contributions (Net)	(5,039,756)	(4,120,760)
Patronage Capital & Other Equities, End of Year	\$210,250,619	\$194,555,335

NUMBER OF METERS SERVED



2015	76,629
2016	79,966
2017	83,323
2018	87,528
2019	93,527

MILES OF LINE



2015	5,800
2016	5,857
2017	5,979
2018	5,941
2019	6,205

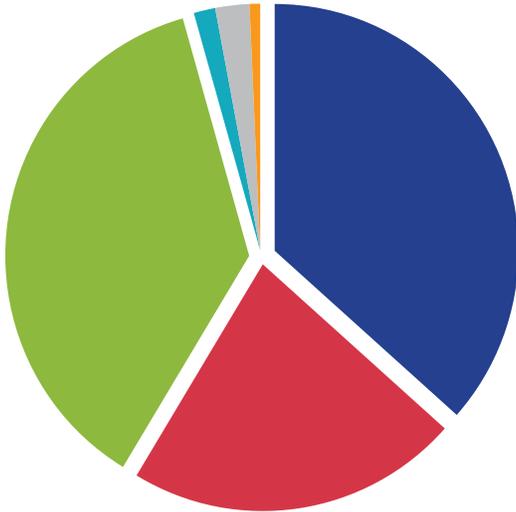
ENERGY SALES - KWH (THOUSANDS)



2015	1,965,198
2016	2,150,654
2017	2,182,274
2018	2,447,189
2019	2,739,378

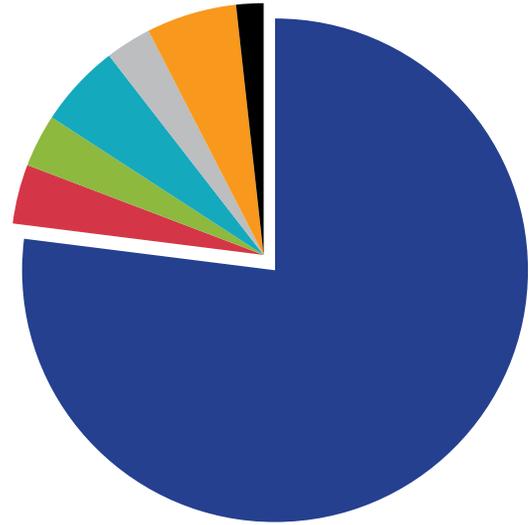
SOURCES OF INCOME

(OPERATING & NON-OPERATING)



Residential	\$107,657,635	36.4%
Small Commercial	\$64,945,738	22.0%
Large Commercial	\$108,734,755	36.8%
Other Operating Revenues	\$4,212,971	1.5%
Tri-State Allocations (non-cash)	\$7,404,052	2.5%
Other Allocations & Income (non-cash)	\$2,448,183	0.8%

STATEMENT OF EXPENSES



Cost of Power	\$211,490,581	77.0%
Depreciation (non-cash)	\$10,467,083	3.8%
Interest	\$9,319,248	3.4%
Operations & Maintenance	\$14,657,112	5.3%
Consumer Accounts & Info	\$8,060,975	2.9%
Admin, Gen'l & Other	\$15,887,608	5.9%
Taxes	\$4,788,168	1.7%

YOUR ENERGY DOLLAR

For every dollar you spend, three-quarters goes toward the cost of wholesale power.

74¢

Cost of Power

26¢

Depreciation (4¢), Interest (3¢), Operating Expense (13¢), Taxes (2¢), Operating Margins (4¢)



United Power Book Awards - \$1,000 Scholarships



Brianna Diaz, Brighton High:

Brianna will graduate from Brighton High School in May. She is a member of Link Crew, LULAC and the varsity cross country team, just to name a few. She will attend the Colorado School of Mines and major in engineering.



Angelica Fletcher, Prairie View:

Angelica will graduate from Prairie View in May and plans to pursue a degree in business management at the University of Northern Colorado. She is an active leader in National Honor Society at her school.



Megan Harrison, Eagle Ridge:

Megan will graduate from Eagle Ridge in May and plans to pursue a degree in social work. She is in Drama Club and volunteers at a local food bank in her spare time.



Michael Clementson, Frederick High:

Michael is active in the National Honor Society and plays football for Frederick High School. He will attend the University of Denver and study international relations and affairs. In his spare time, he is a youth flag football referee.



Dina Zito, Ft. Lupton High:

Dina plays various sports at Fort Lupton High School and holds positions in many of its clubs. She is going to Colorado State University in the fall to study mechanical engineering. She is also a lifeguard at her local rec center.



Blake LaVanchy, Mead High:

Blake will graduate from Mead High School and plans to study both English and French in the fall. He volunteers at his church and has taken mission trips to the Dominican Republic and Ecuador.



Ivonne Olivas, Weld Central:

Ivonne plans to pursue a degree in journalism after she graduates from Weld Central High School. She is captain of the dance team at her school and also runs a blog.



Claire Diekman, Mountain Territory:

Claire will attend the University of Arizona to study nursing in the fall. She plays varsity volleyball and is active in theater and school plays at Gilpin County High School.



Jeffrey Fitzjohn, Erie High:

Jeffrey plans to attend the University of Colorado in Denver in the fall and pursue a career in mechanical or electrical engineering. He plays varsity soccer and volunteers at his local Humane Society.



Claire Fisk, At-Large:

Claire attends Summit Academy and plans to study business and music in the fall. She spends time volunteering at local events and plays a wind instrument in the band.



2020 United Power Scholarship Recipients

United Power recognizes seniors in the Class of 2020 won't be able to participate in graduations this year and wants to acknowledge each and every student's hard work this year. Congratulations, Class of 2020. Seventeen scholarships were granted in 2020 for a total of \$19,500. 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.**

Skylar Tempel Basin Electric Power Co-op, \$1,000



Skylar Tempel is a senior at Erie High School, and upon graduation she plans to major in environmental science at Franklin University in Switzerland. Skylar is active at her high school, participating in Future Farmers of America (FFA), 4-H and theater. She spends countless hours giving back to her community.

Rylie James Bill Berens Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000



This scholarship is awarded to an outstanding student who plans to pursue a career in engineering. Rylie James, a senior at Prospect Ridge Academy in Broomfield, plans to major in mechanical engineering in the fall, and is particularly interested in clean and renewable sources of energy. She is also the founder of

Kuddlez for Kidz, a nonprofit that collects and distributes stuffed animals to hospitalized children and their siblings.

Elizabeth Dexter Lois Lesser Education Scholar, \$1,000



Elizabeth Dexter will graduate from Fort Lupton High School and has been awarded the Lois Lesser Scholarship for her interest in pursuing a degree in early childhood education. She reads to local preschool students and volunteers at events that focus on children. She will attend Metro State University in the fall.

Calla Winner Tri-State G&T Association Scholarship, \$1,000



Calla Winner is very active in sports at Peak to Peak Charter School where she is in track and plays volleyball. Calla will be attending the Colorado School of Mines in the fall where she will pursue a degree in engineering. In her spare time, she tutors students in physics and math.

Madison Harper United Power Youth Leadership Scholarship, \$1,500



Madison Harper, a senior at Erie High School, has been awarded the Youth Leadership Scholarship for her dedication to her community and her involvement in high school. Madison participates in Girl Scouts and marching band. She has a passion for helping and plans to study forensic psychology in the fall.

Jade Glaister United Power Colorado College Scholar, \$2,000



Jade Glaister plans to study mechanical engineering at the Colorado School of Mines after graduation from Legacy High School in Broomfield. At her high school, Jade was co-founder of the Debate Club, president of the Environmental Club and played violin. She also volunteers at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in Golden.

Wesley Swieter United Power Colorado College Scholar, \$2,000



Wesley Swieter will graduate from Weld Central High School and plans to attend the Colorado School of Mines in the fall, where he will major in engineering and math. He plays football, is in band and participates in both theater and drama. Wesley has also learned valuable leadership skills during his 10 years in his local 4-H program.

2020 Director Election Results

United Power members cast more than 6,500 ballots in this year's director election, and the following results were certified by the Election and Credentials Committee at the 2020 Annual Meeting.

South District

<i>David E. Rose</i>	2,335
<i>Stan Martin</i>	1,833
<i>Greg Campbell</i>	1,244
<i>Phil Noble</i>	926

East District

<i>James Vigesaa</i>	5,741
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West District

<i>Virginia A. Buczek</i>	4,499
<i>James P. Menghi</i>	1,774

Mountain District

<i>Tamra K. Waltemath</i>	5,770
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ENERGY SAVERS

Learn to Love Your Grill.

The great thing about your grill is that you can use it while social distancing. It can also save you energy. Using an oven raises the temperature inside your home forcing your A/C to work harder. A grill will save energy used from both the oven and your A/C.

United Power Goes Virtual

Co-op Holds First-Ever Virtual Annual Meeting

Cooperatives throughout the country had to become more creative during the past two months in order to hold annual meetings for members. When Adams County made the decision to close all its facilities through the end of April in response to growing concerns over the rapid spread of COVID-19, United Power was already considering alternate options to its traditional Annual Meeting format to account for the health and safety of its members. The result was the co-op's first-ever virtual "telephone town hall" style Annual Meeting held April 15, 2020.

A record number of members chose to participate in the cooperative's over-the-phone Annual Meeting. Nearly 570 members pre-registered for the meeting, which had originally been scheduled at the Riverdale Regional Park. The virtual format offered United Power an optimal platform to educate members about the cooperative's activity over the past year.

Since an in-person meeting could not be hosted, voting in this year's director election was conducted via mail-in ballot only. Incumbents in United Power's South and West Districts each won reelection in contested races. David E. Rose, South District, received 2,335 votes to retain his seat on the board. Stan Martin also received 1,833 votes in the South District. Greg Campbell and Phil Noble received 1,244 and 926 votes, respectively. In the West District, Virginia "Ginny" A. Buczek retained her seat after receiving 4,499 votes. James P. Menghi received 1,774 votes. Tamra K. Waltemath, Mountain District, and James Vigesaa, East District, who ran unopposed in this year's election, received 5,770 and 5,741 votes.

The meeting began with a video presentation highlighting some of United Power's biggest accomplishments over the past year, including the cooperative's focus on driving member satisfaction through increased reliability and pursuing more affordable power. Upgrades to the cooperative's system, including the installation of an industry-leading "smart grid," reduced outage times and placed the cooperative among the top 10 percent of utilities nationwide in reliability.

"Just a few years ago our outage numbers were somewhere around the national average," said Bryant Robbins, United Power's acting Chief Executive Officer. "Over the past couple years, we've been able to greatly improve those, and we're now among

CHARGING FORWARD

the best, cooperative or investor-owned, in the country."

Meanwhile, the cooperative has made headlines for ongoing negotiations with its wholesale power provider, Tri-State Generation & Transmission, that would allow it to pursue more affordable energy options.

"One of our biggest challenges is the affordability of our power supply," said Board Chairman James Vigesaa. "We're trying to obtain the most affordable supply for our members by looking at all our options, including our wholesale power costs and what other opportunities exists to offer a better value to our members."

Even as United Power was busy upgrading its system, staffing a new office location, providing an exceptional array of services empowering members to monitor and control their energy usage and negotiating terms with Tri-State, it finished the year strong. The cooperative's total assets hit \$510 million for the first time in 2019 and operating expenses totaled \$275 million, an increase of approximately 11 percent from 2018. Purchased power again represented approximately 77 percent of operating costs.

With another strong year financially, the cooperative was able to retire \$5.5 million in capital credits last year, it's largest retirement. In the past five years, United Power has retired nearly \$25 million in capital credits back to members.

Due to the nature of the meeting format, additional content that would traditionally be shared at an on-site meeting was added to the website for members to view and is available now for any members who were not able to join the call at www.unitedpower.com.

Demand & Summer Heat

May is here and summer is just around the corner. Although the spring has given us brief reprieves from winter weather, soon the summer heat will arrive. With more people expected to work from home this summer, temperatures might not be the only thing rising.

Your air conditioning is one of the most demand intensive appliances in your home, accounting for more than 15 percent of your total energy usage. This means members will begin to see their demand charge rise to include the use of this additional appliance. However, when United Power introduced its demand rate in January 2019, it also lowered the cost of energy – which means two things for members.

Most members will not see a significant increase to their monthly bills despite January rate increases. With the decrease in cost of energy corresponding to the demand rate increase, bills should stay fairly level. The average increase for

members on the standard residential rate when increases took effect was less than \$2/month. Rate increases also gave members more control over their bills by allowing them to choose when to use appliances, keeping demand low and bills even lower. *The graphic below demonstrates appliance stacking and how staggering their use can save on demand.*

United Power has also provided tools to assist members in monitoring and controlling their energy usage. The Power Portal, for example, provides a custom dashboard detailing energy usage patterns and identifying peak demand allowing members to determine what behaviors are driving their demand. The cooperative also launched a new demand calculator this year to give members an idea of what appliances are consuming the most energy and contributing to demand charges. With air conditioning being a main culprit during the summer, United Power also offers a rebate on energy efficient A/C units.

The majority of summer energy efficiency tips revolve around creative ways to keep your home cool without overburdening your air conditioning. You can find some of these energy efficiency tips in the sidebar.

For more information about demand and available rebates, please visit www.unitedpower.com.

To keep demand charges low, stagger the use of appliances. The more appliances running at once, the higher the demand.



▲ Represents appliance stacking



▲ Represents appliance use spread over time

Summer Energy Efficiency Tips

Although summer is still a few weeks out, it's never too early to start thinking about how to use energy more efficiently. Summer utility bills can be higher, but with a little preparation, you can see big savings on your summer energy usage.

- **Cross ventilate your home.** Colorado's mild climate makes cross ventilation a perfect way to cool your home without using excess energy. Cross ventilation uses wind moving through your home to cool it naturally rather than by using an appliance like your air conditioner. Simply open windows in the morning or evening to let the natural cool air in and turn off the A/C.
- **Block out the sun.** Another way to keep your home cool and give your air conditioner a break is to close blinds or curtains. Open windows allow light in which warms the air causing the A/C to work harder to keep your home cool. Keeping blinds closed allows the air to warm more slowly.
- **Use ceiling fans.** Ceiling fans allow you to increase the temperature on your air conditioning unit by up to four degrees without any loss in comfort. They should be turning counterclockwise during the summer. But remember to turn them off when you leave a room. Fans don't actually cool the air in a room, just the people.
- **Use a smart thermostat.** Smart thermostats learn your habits and can adjust your air conditioner accordingly. It also gives 24/7 access to your home's heating and cooling.

