

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER
2019

UNITED NEWSLINE

Information for the members of United Power, Inc.

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October is National Co-op Month

IMPORTANT DATES

SEPTEMBER All Month	September is National Preparedness Month
OCTOBER All Month	October is National Co-op Month
APRIL 15, 2020	Annual Meeting & Director Election

United Power is More Than Your Electric Provider. We're Part of Your Community.

What sets cooperatives apart from our for-profit counterparts is our emphasis on the communities and members we serve. When United Power celebrated its 80th anniversary earlier this year, the story was not about us, but each of you and the strength of the communities that make up who we are. Without you, there would be no United Power. We're invested in making each and every one of our communities the best version of itself and empowering our members to be a part of that vision.

This October, United Power invites our members to join with us in honoring National Co-op Month, a celebration of the commitment cooperatives play in their communities. There are more than 64,000 co-ops in the United States stretching across almost every industry that touches our daily lives.

Nearly 1,000 cooperatives are electric utilities established to deliver power to parts of the country larger investor-owned companies had no interest in serving. Electric cooperatives were birthed out of the hard work of our members who recognized a need and set out to find a way to meet it. We were formed by our community, for our community.

As our communities have grown, so have we. So too has our commitment to you. United Power is an active presence in the cities and towns we serve. Our employees live, work, play and serve here. Their faces are recognizable on local chambers of commerce boards, at nonprofits fundraisers, youth sporting events and fairs and festivals across the nearly 900 square miles we serve.

Your cooperative puts money back into the community in the form of sponsorships, scholarships and youth leadership development. In August, United Power partnered with the Touchstone Energy balloon program to highlight two local nonprofits, Foster Source and Food For Hope, and present them with check donations to continue their incredible work in our community.

Operation Round-Up, a foundation that wouldn't be possible without the generous support of our members, provides thousands of dollars to service organizations each year. Over its 20-year history, the foundation has distributed more than \$1.5 million to organizations that provide for the necessities and urgent needs of residents in our territory. Operation Round-Up is truly an example of member-driven commitment to giving back.

In May, the board of directors approved a \$5.5 million capital credit refund. Those refunds don't just go back to individual families within our territory. They are also distributed to schools districts and local governments.



www.unitedpower.com

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

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IN A CO-OP, EVERY MEMBER GETS A PIECE OF THE PIE



United Power members should be on the lookout for capital credit refunds coming soon. Earlier this year, the Board of Directors approved a \$5.5 million retirement, the largest in the co-op's 80-year history. Refunds were dispersed beginning in August.

Members may receive their capital credit refund as a check in the mail or a credit on their electric bill, depending on the amount they are receiving. Members who are receiving \$10 or more are issued a check by mail, and refunds under that amount are applied to bills as a credit in either August or September.

Cooperative membership has always come with a variety of benefits larger investor-owned electric utilities don't offer. One of those benefits, capital credits represent each member's investment in and ownership of the cooperative. United Power exists to provide its members with reliable and affordable electric service, and not to boost profits for shareholders.

Each year, the Board of Directors carefully assesses the financial condition of the cooperative and determines if a capital credit retirement is feasible and in what amount. This year's retirement represents not only the largest in United Power's history but also the 13th consecutive year the board has retired capital credits.

Anyone who had service in 2018 or earlier was eligible for this year's retirement. Nearly 90,000 checks will be issued to residential and business members. Your capital credit amount is determined based on 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.

United Power issues checks because it's an important reminder for members that their membership has a real benefit, and handling a check achieves that goal.

Want to learn more? Frequently asked questions can be found online at www.unitedpower.com or you can call a member services representative at 303-637-1300.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- If you move, please be sure to leave your new address with us so we can continue to refund any capital credits you are eligible to receive in the future.
- Upon death, the deceased member's capital credit account is available for estate retirement. The representative of the estate should contact United Power to settle the capital credit account.

How Will You Spend Your Capital Credits?

Each year our members look forward to receiving their capital credit retirement checks. No matter how large or small the retirement, we also look forward to hearing how you intend to put your refund to use.

Tell us the fun, creative or unique ways you will spend your capital credit refund, and we'll enter you into a drawing for one of three \$100 bill credits.

Submit your story for a chance to win:

Email unitednewsline@unitedpower.com OR share your story on social media with the hashtag [#mycapitalcredits](https://twitter.com/mycapitalcredits).

 [Facebook.com/UnitedPower](https://www.facebook.com/UnitedPower)

 [Twitter.com/UnitedPowerCoop](https://twitter.com/UnitedPowerCoop)

Remember to share your stories with us by Sept. 30

CAPITAL CREDIT REFUND CHECKS HAVE AN EXPIRATION DATE, SO PLEASE BE SURE TO PROCESS CHECKS PROMPTLY.



ENERGY SAVERS

Let light and heat from windows inside.

Keeping your windows closed in the summer prevents heat from entering the home. When the weather cools, keeping them open lets the sun do some of your heating and gives your heater a rest.

UNITED POWER

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Exclusive Member Coupon

\$1 off
Adult
Admission

Proceeds from door admissions benefit the Adams County Museum

**Country
Christmas
Bazaar**

November 9 & 10
9 am - 4 pm

400 BOOTHS
FOUR BIG BUILDINGS
HANDCRAFTED GIFTS

Adult Admission is \$4 with coupon
Coupon good for up to four adults
Ages 14 & under enter for free
Free Parking

Copies of coupon will not be accepted.

Riverdale Regional Park & Fairgrounds

9755 Henderson Rd., Henderson, CO

www.adamscountymuseum.com | 303-659-7103

October is Co-op Month

This year, United Power has also re-emphasized its commitment to its members with the addition of Meghan Dewey as its Member Engagement Officer. In this newly created position, Dewey is responsible for developing and implementing United Power's member engagement strategy.

Read more about Meghan on Page 7.

Ultimately, though, the larger community benefits from these programs because of our members, who empower us through your membership, participation and support.

Members can play an even larger role in setting the direction of the cooperative. Our democratically elected board of directors are members, just like you. Each

year, members vote for board members in our director election at our Annual Meeting in April, and any member may be eligible to run for a seat. Our board and leadership team also hold occasional listening sessions to hear the concerns of our membership to make sure our policies reflects your needs.

While United Power exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy, we hope you think of us as more than your energy provider, but as a local business that supports the economic development and prosperity of its communities and members - by the community, for the community.



Rising to the Occasion

The early morning sun shining off the Touchstone Energy hot air balloon provided the perfect backdrop for United Power at the Adams County Fair in early August.

United Power partnered with Touchstone Energy Cooperative's national balloon program to present two donations to local nonprofits that are doing incredible work in our community:

Food for Hope: There are thousands of children in Adams County who receive little to nothing to

eat when they are not at school. Food for Hope seeks to empower and nourish the future of our community by providing nutritious food to children in need.

Foster Source: Provides relevant training, resources and support to foster parents from a trauma-informed approach, giving them the skills and confidence to spark healing in vulnerable children.



IN YOUR CORNER: CO-OPS DOING GOOD



All in the Family

And we're a large family. Roughly **1 in 3 people**, or nearly 140 million, are part of at least one of the 64,000 cooperatives nationwide.



Contributing to Economic Success

Cooperatives generate **\$652 billion in annual sales**, not including the taxes they put back into their communities. Cooperatives also employ nearly 2 million people.



Did You Know?

Cooperatives operate across almost every industry you use daily, including housing and food services, banking and agriculture. For example, **nearly 80% of all dairy farmers** are part of a cooperative. There are also more than 5,000 credit unions nationwide.



Powering the Nation

There are more than 900 electric cooperatives nationwide. They make up **42% of the nation's electric grid and power 75% of its landmass**, including 18 million homes, schools and businesses.



Co-ops & Food

For every \$1 spent at a food co-op, \$1.60 is generated in the local economy. That is **15% more** than a conventional grocer.

September is National Preparedness Month

Are You Ready?

Severe weather is a fact of life, and it's important to make sure you and your family are prepared for when it occurs. Each September, the Federal Emergency Management Agency recognizes National Preparedness Month to educate and empower Americans to take simple steps to prepare for and respond to potential emergencies that could affect us where we live, work and visit. This year's theme (**Prepared, Not Scared. Be Ready for Disasters.**) touches on four distinct aspects of emergency preparation:

Save Early for Disaster Costs. Emergencies hit us when we least expect and could be costly if we aren't prepared beforehand. Do you have an emergency fund? Does your insurance adequately cover the costs of a natural disaster? Does your homeowners' or renters' insurance cover flood damages? It's important to have funds available when emergencies disrupt daily life or if an ATM isn't immediately available.

Make a Plan. Preparing your family for an emergency is as simple as a conversation over dinner, and it's important to include kids in the disaster planning process. Practice your plan, including evacuations, fire escapes and turning off utilities like natural gas.

Youth Preparedness. Teach children what to do in an emergency if they are at home or away. They should know how to communicate during an emergency, with you, friends or emergency responders. Review family emergency plans regularly, or even have them practice building their own emergency kits.

Get Involved in Community Preparedness. Take some time to learn about the hazards most likely to affect your community and their responses. Look for opportunities to get involved by volunteering with organizations before, during and after potential disasters. Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) train volunteers to prepare for the types of disasters their community may face.

For more information on National Preparedness Month, including sample emergency communications plans, organizations you can volunteer with during disasters and more, visit www.ready.gov.

Proactive Prevention:

Colorado wildfires have consumed thousands of acres of land in recent years and remain a constant risk due to the state's abundant national forests and state parks. United Power's approach to wildfire mitigation has always been proactive, including comprehensive system improvements over the past several years.



- Risk mitigation begins with vegetation around power lines. United Power has contracted additional crews to remove dead and growing trees near power lines and right of ways.
- Policy decisions regarding upgrades to existing infrastructure and new construction, including the use of underground lines and more heat insulating equipment.
- Analysis and study into new and emerging technology to further prevent wildfires.

For more information on United Power's fire mitigation plan, visit www.unitedpower.com.

READER REWARDS

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER
2019



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
500 Cooperative Way • Brighton, CO 80603

Reader Rewards Online

www.unitedpower.com

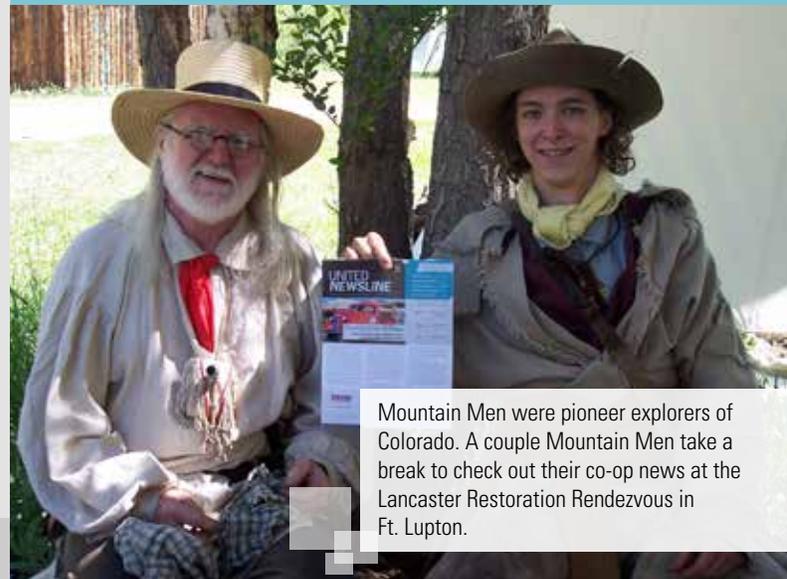


Save a stamp! Visit www.unitedpower.com and find Reader Rewards under the "News & Community" drop down menu. Answer the question below with your entry:

When is National Co-op Month celebrated?

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



Mountain Men were pioneer explorers of Colorado. A couple Mountain Men take a break to check out their co-op news at the Lancaster Restoration Rendezvous in Ft. Lupton.

United Power Pride Photos

Snap a photo with the *United Newsline* and you'll get a \$50 bill credit if we print it or share it on social media. **Send your name, address, phone number, and a description of the photo to:**

E-MAIL: unitednewsline@unitedpower.com

MAIL: United Power—Attn: United Newsline
500 Cooperative Way, Brighton CO 80603

Today's Youth. Tomorrow's Leaders.

2020 Youth Leadership Applications Available at Year's End

As your cooperative we believe in contributing to the well-being of the communities that make up who we are, including building up tomorrow's leaders in those communities. Each summer, United Power selects local youth from within our service territory to represent the cooperative for a week in the mountains of northwest Colorado at the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp or an all-expense-paid trip to Washington D.C. for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

Applications will be available online at www.unitedpower.com.

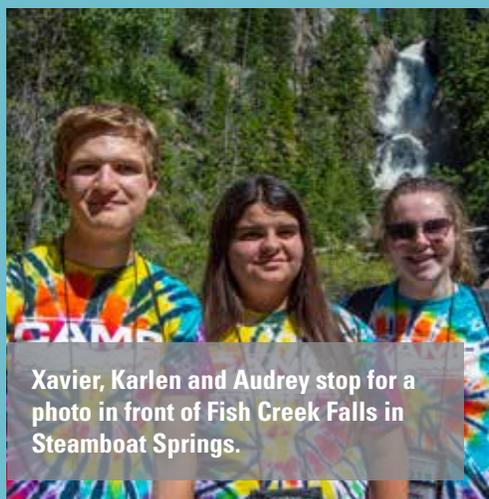
CYLC: Camp, Cabins & Cooperatives

The Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp isn't a camp in the traditional sense. There are no tents, no campfires, no s'mores. Business begins as soon as the buses and vans roll in to deposit campers from their respective cooperatives. Campers establish and manage their own cooperative for the week, including election of a Board of Directors and holding regular meetings for "members." In between, days are filled with cooperative-focused activities, leadership training and collaborative group projects.

However, being part of a cooperative isn't all business all the time. Whether it was building camaraderie while rafting down the Colorado River or enjoying the majestic Fish Creek Falls, campers had ample opportunity to build friendships and have fun.

This summer, three area youth represented United Power at camp: **Xavier Galyardt**,

Mead High School; **Audrey Thompson**, Prospect Ridge Academy; and **Karlen Ruybal**, Ft. Lupton High School.



Xavier, Karlen and Audrey stop for a photo in front of Fish Creek Falls in Steamboat Springs.

Youth Tour: Colorado Youth Visit Capitol Hill

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour has been a proud tradition among cooperatives since 1957 when Lyndon B. Johnson, speaking at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's annual meeting, suggested sending youth to the capitol to see "what the flag stands for and represents."

Local electric cooperatives throughout the country sponsor approximately 1,500 high school students from small towns and cities for an incredible week in the nation's capital with the objective of providing an educational experience for young people on the organization and operation of a cooperative.

Each day of the Youth Tour is packed full of memorable moments for youth from across the country. Between meeting with elected officials, learning the value of the cooperatives they represent and developing leadership skills, students are able to spend time touring some of Washington D.C.'s landmarks and memorials.

Each year, United Power selects three ambitious high school students to attend Youth Tour: **Catera Gagna**, Brighton High School; **Brooklyn Stubby**, Mapleton Early College; and **Bethany Flanagan**, Weld Central High School.



CC, Bethany and Brooklyn outside the Capitol Building in Washington D.C.

MEET YOUR 2020 CAMP AMBASSADOR



Xavier "X" Galyardt

Xavier, who goes by "X," was a United Power representative at the 2019 Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp. Each year at CYLC, youth campaign throughout the week and are elected by their peers to return to camp the following year as an ambassador.

What did you enjoy most about camp?

Although the activities were fantastic – rafting, learning, dancing, adventuring – they are trivial in comparison to the friends I acquired. They are easily what I enjoyed most. The hardest part of camp was leaving them behind.

How did it prepare you for being a leader in your school and community?

The camp was incredible at presenting leadership ideas and displaying leadership ideals. These ideas reignited my passion for leadership and demonstrated the true influence of leaders. I have adopted a new philosophy on leading, and can't wait to see how it plays out.

What does it mean to be elected a 2020 camp ambassador?

Being elected ambassador is a tremendous honor. To become a camp ambassador one must go through two stages of speeches and voting. After all that, my peers selected me because they trust me to represent them next year.

Why should other high school students attend camp in 2020?

For every reason someone could choose not to attend camp, I could list two reasons to come. For one, it's a vacation away from normal life. You'll also meet some of the most compassionate people you may ever now. There is no downside.

Making Waves in Energy Storage

Only Colorado Utility Ranked Nationally in Energy Storage

United Power has been named as one of a select group of utilities that connected the most energy storage capacity to the grid in 2018, earning it a spot on the annual Top 10 utility industry list compiled by the Smart Electric Power Alliance (SEPA).

In survey results released August 6, United Power ranked No. 10 on the utility energy storage list for Annual Megawatt-hours with 18.2 megawatt-hours (MWh) in interconnected capacity in 2018.

United Power was the only Colorado utility to be listed in the top ten and is among the smallest of the utilities to make the list. The survey ranked battery storage initiatives from a mix of investor-owned, municipal and cooperative utility systems – including some of the largest energy companies in the country. United Power recently topped more than 92,000 meters and powered two Tesla battery storage systems – one of which is the largest battery storage system in Colorado.

“Being recognized in the top 10 with some of the largest utilities across the country is an honor and a testament to the innovation that our board and staff are working hard to achieve. We want to ensure that the latest emerging energy technologies are powering our members into the future,” said John Parker, United Power’s Chief Executive Officer. “Despite being one of the smaller utilities on this list, we continue to be leaders in energy innovation in Colorado, among cooperatives, and when measured against some of the largest investor-owned utilities across the country.”

The 12th Annual Utility Market Survey collected figures from over 500 utilities across the country. The full Top 10 listings are available online at www.sepapower.org.

“The utilities in the Top 10 are truly spearheading the progress we’ve seen in the electric sector this past year,” said Julia Hamm, SEPA’s President and CEO. “It goes beyond just energy storage – they are implementing replicable business models and paving the way to a clean and modern energy future, something that won’t be possible without utilities’ leadership and cooperation.”



ENERGY SAVERS

Energy Saving Cooking

Copper-bottomed pans heat faster on the stove. In the oven, ceramic and glass dishes are better than metal. With ceramic and glass dishes, you can turn the oven down about 25 degrees, and your meal will cook just as quickly.

Summer Heat Sets Record Peak

The summer is coming to a close soon, but you may have noticed some higher than usual bills over the past couple months. That's in part due to the unusually warm summer we've had this year.

As the temperatures rose, United Power also felt the affects. In July, the cooperative hit its record peak demand at more than 520 megawatts, the highest demand of any cooperative in the state. Nationally, the heat wave resulted in the highest demand since 2017, according to the Energy Information Administration.

If you're looking for ways to beat the heat without seeing the impact on your electric bill, the Department of Energy recommends turning your A/C up a few degrees when you leave the house. Turning your thermostat back a few degrees and ensuring your house has the proper insulation can result in big savings.

You can find more energy savings tips on our website at www.unitedpower.com under Energy Programs and Managing My Energy.



New Officer Emphasizes Member Focus



United Power welcomed Meghan Dewey as its new Member Engagement Officer in August. Dewey joins the cooperative after spending more

than seven years in various leadership positions at one of California's largest utilities, Pacific Gas and Electric. At United Power, she will be responsible for developing and implementing a cohesive member engagement strategy and spearheading new programs and services.

"I am delighted to join United Power as its first Member Engagement Officer," Dewey said. "United Power's commitment to its members and community, and its strong track record of performance and innovation provides a real foundation for our future. I'm looking forward to working together with our members, our Board, community leaders, and the United Power executive team to continue to provide value to our members and help lead us forward into a better energy future - the cooperative way."

Dewey comes to United Power with extensive knowledge of the electric utility industry and a track record of implementing successful energy efficiency programs and enhancing the customer-side experience. While with PG&E, she spearheaded one of the country's largest and most impactful energy efficiency programs and technology portfolios with more than 100 customer programs. She was most recently involved in the company's wildfire safety program, designing new programs, products and services to advance customers' resiliency and meet their energy needs during proactive power shutoffs.

"United Power has a bold vision for its future, and we're excited to add Meghan's perspective as we develop our long-term strategy," said John Parker, United Power Chief Executive Officer. "She brings a wealth of experience with her from her time at PG&E and will be a valuable addition as we continue to look for better ways to serve our members."



NEW ENERGY STAR® Air Conditioning Rebate

Upgrading your home's air conditioning with an Energy Star® rated unit will keep you cool and save energy – and you'll earn a rebate from United Power.

Qualifications:

- Energy Star® rated
- Split unit systems
- Min. equipment size is 1 ton

Rebate request must be made within 120 days of installation. Signed inspection report from United Power required. List of qualifying equipment available at www.ceedirectory.org.

Rebate:

\$100/unit for Energy Star® rated air conditioners, 15-16 SEER

\$150/unit for Energy Star® rated air conditioners, above 16 SEER

Learn more about United Power's A/C rebate at www.unitedpower.com.

RECIPES



Lemongrass Curry with Shrimp

- 1 large shallot, coarsely chopped
- 5 garlic cloves, smashed
- 2 lemongrass stalks, thinly sliced
- 1-inch piece ginger, peeled and chopped
- 1 jalapeno, seeds removed, coarsely chopped
- 1 tsp ground coriander
- 1/2 tsp ground cumin
- 1/2 cup cilantro with stems, coarsely chopped
- 2 Tbsp vegetable oil, divided
- 2 Tbsp white miso
- 2 tsp light brown sugar
- 1 13.5 oz can coconut milk
- 1 lb large shrimp
- 2 Tbsp fresh lime juice

Process shallot, garlic, lemongrass, ginger, jalapeno, coriander, cumin, cilantro and 1 Tbsp oil in food processor until smooth paste forms.

Heat remaining oil in medium saucepan over medium-high heat. Cook paste, stirring constantly, until fragrant and starting to brown on bottom of pan. Mix in miso and sugar, then whisk in coconut milk and 1/2 cup water. Bring to a simmer, stirring occasionally, until flavors come together, 20-25 minutes.

Add shrimp and simmer just until cooked through. Remove from heat and add lime juice.

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

Inside This Issue

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Summer Youth Leadership

United Power sent several students on leadership trips this summer.

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Top 10 in Energy Storage

SEPA ranked United Power in its top 10 utilities for energy storage in 2018.

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CONGRATS READER REWARDS WINNERS

- 1st Place:** Travis Penman Keever, Brighton
- 2nd Place:** Kelly Lundquist, Frederick
Brian Routh, Thornton

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

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Ursula J. Morgan
Beth Martin
Beth Martin
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UNITED NEWSLINE



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