

HIGH WEST ENERGY

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner
The power of human connections®

SPARKS

JANUARY 2013

HWE/TRI-STATE/BASIN SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Scholarships will be awarded to students who are dependents of High West Energy consumers or employees. Applicants must be students enrolled or planning to enroll in a full time undergraduate or graduate course of study at an accredited, two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school. Returning college students are also encouraged to apply.

Scholarship recipients will be chosen from a selection committee which consists of educators from our three state area. Recipients are chosen on a combination of SAT/ACT scores a minimum of 2.50 GPA, spelling and grammar skills as evidenced in the application, work experience, participation in school and community activities. A short personal statement of career goals and a written recommendation from a third party are also required.

Applications for the 2013-2014 school year will be accepted until Monday February 11, 2013. The winners will be announced in April or May.

YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION MUST BE RETURNED BY FEBRUARY 11, 2013

TO:

High West Energy, Inc.
Attn: Tamara McNamee
PO Box 519
Pine Bluffs, Wy 82082-0519

*****If mailing in your application it must be postmarked no later than February 7, 2013.*****

Applications have been mailed to the following high school counselors &/or advisors:

Nebraska:	Wyoming:
Kimball	Pine Bluffs
Harrisburg	Burns
Potter-Dix	Central
Colorado:	East
Pawnee	South
Peetz	Triumph

For more information contact Tamara McNamee at 245-3261 for Laramie County residents or 1-888-834-1657 for all other residents.

Additional forms may be picked up at our main office:
**6270 County Road 212
Pine Bluffs, Wy 82082**

ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

We have scholarship applications available for the WREA Lineman Scholarship, Dar Hackworth Lineworker Scholarship and Neil Adkins Lineworker Scholarship.

These three scholarships encourage, promote and educate lineworkers for enduring and rewarding careers with Wyoming's electric cooperatives.

Deadlines are:

Dar Hackworth Scholarship and Neil Adkins Scholarship - May 1, 2013 (Wyoming students only)
WREA Lineman Scholarship - April 20, 2013 (any student whose parents are served by a Wyoming cooperative.

Please contact us if you are interested in applying for these scholarships and becoming a lineman.

High West Energy, Inc.
PO Box 519
Pine Bluffs, Wy 82082-0519

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*District 11 - Troy Freeburg PH #308-673-5336
Bushnell, NE*

*District 12 - Don Wisroth PH #245-3454
Pine Bluffs, WY*

*District 13 - Clinton Farrar PH #547-3435
Hillsdale, WY*

*District 14 - Jerry Burnett PH #970-895-3386
Hereford, CO*

*District 15 - Dan Acheson PH #308-235-2300
Kimball, NE*

*District 16 - Wayne Child PH #632-5401
Cheyenne, WY*

*District 17 - Russ Nielsen PH #308-250-4262
Potter, NE*

*The monthly board meeting is normally held on
the 4th Monday of each month.*

MANAGER: Brian D. Heithoff

EDITOR: Tamara McNamee

OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Fri - 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Open During Noon

Closed Weekends - Holidays

PHONE NUMBERS

Outage calls 24 hours a day

Laramie County 245-3261

Toll Free 1-888-834-1657

WEBSITE INFORMATION

www.highwestenergy.com

www.TogetherWeSave.com

www.ourenergy.com

www.touchstoneenergy.com

BILLING QUESTIONS

Local 245-3261

Toll Free 1-888-834-1657

*High West Energy
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner*



Wayne Child Substation Energized!

On November 29, 2012 the Wayne Child Substation located at the Archer Complex was energized and then began providing service to the surrounding area on November 30th. The substation construction was completed in about seven months following an additional 2 years in planning at a cost of about \$2.5 million dollars. The energy source is from Tri-State Generation and Transmission's 230,000 to 34,500 volt transformer located adjacent to High West Energy's 34,500 to 12,500 volt transformer.

Brian Heithoff, General Manager of High West states "The Wayne Child Substation will enhance reliability, help distribute vast amounts of energy and boost the local economy." The Child Substation will give a source of additional power to better serve the continuing growth of Laramie County and the greater Cheyenne area including the petroleum industry which will also benefit as it continues to grow in Laramie County and Weld County, Colorado.



Tip of the Month

Sleek new flat-panel TVs can consume almost as much electricity as a refrigerator. In general, the bigger the screen, the more power it draws, and HD pulls more, too. Plasma screens use the most energy, while LCD TVs use much less. And remember to change your new TV's default settings to a power saver mode, and turn down the LCD backlight to save energy without sacrificing picture quality.

Source: Cooperative Research Network

We had a nice turnout at the cooperative's annual meeting on November 3rd. Even though we are two months past the meeting, I have included a few excerpts from my report to the membership for this month's column. If you have any comments, suggestions or complaints, please do not hesitate to contact me.

The mission of High West Energy, a member-owned, not-for-profit cooperative, is to serve our members by providing safe, reliable and competitively priced energy and services focusing on the needs of the membership. What I will report on today is that we take our responsibility to our members seriously and are therefore working diligently to carry out our mission, and to improve the value we provide to our members.

High West Energy is solid financially. We easily meet our financial covenants that are required by our lenders every year, and will again in 2012. We have an adequate cash position and have access to lines of credit; should something adverse happen that shuts down access to long-term financing for a spell.

It is also important to know that HWE is price-competitive to each type of account we serve. We aren't necessarily the lowest cost provider, and I would argue that being lowest isn't necessarily a good thing because it could be an indication that the electric system is being neglected from a maintenance standpoint, but when we look at a dozen or so utilities in and around our electric service area, our prices are very competitive.

In today's world, security breaches are a constant threat, and no one can say with absolute confidence that they are bullet proof, however, I want to relay that this is an issue we take very seriously. We have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars over the years putting in place safeguards, and will continue to invest money in protecting our system and information. In our mission statement we proclaim our focus on safety, which implies we have a disciplined and conscientious approach to doing business. Obviously this applies to employees using modern equipment, quality tools and employing safe work practices when building electric infrastructure. Please know that when we use the term safe it also applies to your peace of mind by protecting you and your account data.

We are not short on challenges, but I think they all feed into an overarching challenge of how to improve the service we provide, at a time when our cost structure is rising and we are fully aware you don't want to pay higher rates any more than we want to ask you to.

We have two costs that are impacting us more than others. First, the money needed to invest in our electric system due to its age is significant, and second, laws and regulations at the federal level has and will continue to negatively impact the cost to generate electricity.

My comments today included only a small portion of projects and initiatives that we are, and will be, working on to become more efficient and effective of an organization. Working hard to improve what we do today and at the same time create an organization that can meet the expectations of tomorrow is not necessarily an easy task. But it is what we are doing.

It requires a daily discipline to figure out how to improve upon the individual and collective performance of the cooperative. Please know that your Board and employees are committed to meeting yours and our ever increasing expectations: not only this month, but next month, next year and even beyond. We will hold ourselves accountable to each other and to you to fulfill this commitment.

I started my report by saying that it is the mission of High West Energy is to serve our members by providing safe, reliable and competitively priced energy and services focusing on the needs of the membership. That is what we strive do and how we strive do it. All so that members see their quality of life improved. As we celebrate our 75th anniversary of our incorporation this year, I have great confidence this cooperative is, and can become, even more relevant and valued than we were then.

Brian Heithoff, General Manager

COMING SOON!

Is your computer acting up?

In the 1990's HWE formed a wholly-owned subsidiary called High West Communications (HWC). Governance of HWC is through a separate Board of Directors (BOD) elected annually by High West Energy. Various services have been



Terry Steege

Dave Crouse



offered by HWC over the years, including satellite television, home medical monitoring and computer services.

For the past six months, we have been analyzing the need for and the financial viability of HWC again offering computer services in the tri-state region.

This entails repair, consulting, network administration, virus removal, programming and web site design and hosting.

Our analysis indicates both a need and the viability of offering such services, and therefore we are excited to announce computer services will once again be offered using the name High West Digital Solutions (HWDS). This business has the full support of the HWC Board of Directors, HWE Board of Directors, management of both organizations and the IT staff at HWE.

We are targeting March 1st as an in-service date.

Per an existing outsourcing agreement with our subsidiary, HWE will be responsible for the marketing, sales, billing, accounting, emergency response and customer service functions for High West Digital Services. Service inquiries will also be handled by HWE staff.

HWDS will lease office space from HWE, so we can be found just like members find HWE.

Stay tuned for more information in the upcoming months.

*Dave Crouse, IT Coordinator/System Administrator
Terry Steege, Information Systems Engineer*



"NO LOST TIME ACCIDENT AWARD"

High West has been recognized by Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange for outstanding achievement of an accident-free record of 228,340 employee-hours since 2009.

The Lineman's Prayer
 Almighty God, creator of the earth, wind and rain,
 protect us as we journey through the morning mist,
 the noontime sun, and the evening shadows.
 Help us to always remember that the most powerful
 energy can light the sky
 and run across wires that only time and experience
 can guide us to touch.
 Teach us to trust in Your divine intervention
 but prepare us for unnatural clashes that neither
 God nor man can control
 Lead us into the darkest storm
 and deliver us to serve those who depend on our
 skills.
 Thank you, O God, for every blessing
 and may You give us strength to reach for the stars.
 Amen

2012 Company Awards

Century Awards:

Lloyd Sisson - Engineering Manager
 Jerry Steele - Foreman

Career Awards:

Tim Lang - Staff Engineer
 Miles Killham - Lineman

Service Awards:

15 Years:

Jeremy Fryda - Lead Lineman
 Dean McCluskey - Lead Lineman

10 Years:

Chris Zitek - Meter/AMI Technician

5 Years:

Don Wood - Warehouse

TOTAL YEARS FOR ALL HIGH WEST

ENERGY EMPLOYEES 619

GREAT HAPPENINGS IN 2013!

Stay tuned for new innovative services coming your way. We are always seeking new services and products to make life somewhat easier and more cost effective for you, our members.

As new services are brought aboard keep checking our website:

www.highwestenergy.com

and of course refer to your SPARKS for all of the updates.

WE ARE SO EXCITED AND HOPE THAT YOU WILL BE TOO!!!