

MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

## Local Before Local Was Cool

AUTONOMY & INDEPENDENCE: ONE OF THE SEVEN COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES THAT GIVE ALL CO-OPS GUIDANCE



Brian Heithoff, CEO/General Manager

Whether you travel across the country or prefer to stay close to your hometown, one thing you may be noticing is the emphasis on "Buy Local" campaigns. This is based on a simple fact: It's important to support businesses that support our community.

The Small Business Administration and the research firm, Civic Economics, estimate that dollars spent at locally owned businesses stay in the community more than three times longer than money spent

at "Big Box" stores headquartered far away from your hometown. This means your community wealth is more likely to grow by shopping locally. That's something to think about this holiday season.

Consumer cooperatives, like High West Energy, have known this forever. We were formed in 1937 by people in this community to serve the people that work, worship and live in this community. The fact that we are controlled locally, allowing us to serve your needs, is a critically important principle.

One of our Seven Cooperative Principles is: Autonomy and Independence. And that is defined as follows: Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If the co-op enters into agreements with other organizations or raises capital from external sources, it is done so based on terms that ensure democratic control by the members and maintain the cooperative's autonomy.

This will allow us to continue to be the self-help organization envisioned by the founders of the modern cooperative movement.

In other words, for the co-op to stay a co-op it is vitally important we stay close to you, our members, to ensure we are continuing to respond to your needs. This could be through increasing energy-efficiency programs, offering renewable sources of energy and continuing our efforts to support other local businesses, schools and civic organizations.

You can be sure that High West Energy will not be moving our operations to Mexico or China, as so many other corporations do. We began right here in Pine Bluffs, Wyoming and we plan on being here for a very long time. As always, we welcome your participation and suggestions about how we can improve our locally owned and controlled services.



## Green Gift Giving Guide

Wondering what to buy for the person who has everything? How about a gift for an environmentally conscious family member or friend? This holiday season, High West Energy urges you to consider giving the gift of energy efficiency.

This doesn't mean that you have to go out and replace your aunt's refrigerator or your grandma's washer and dryer—though you may be their favorite if you do. Giving the gift of energy efficiency can be as simple as filling their stockings, or creating a gift basket, with some of these helpful products:

**LED light bulbs** are the easiest way to increase efficiency in your home. From indoor bulbs for your lamps, recessed lighting and hanging fixtures to outdoor lighting, such as flood lamps and even decorative lighting strands—there's an LED bulb for everyone.

**Water-saving showerheads** are also a great gift option. On average, Americans consume over 3 billion gallons of water daily. Switching to a water-saving showerhead could save a family of three up to \$631 per year in costs and could reduce water consumption by over 2,600 gallons per year.

Supplement your gift with **caulking supplies or weather strips**, and before you know it, you will have the perfect energy-saving gift! All of these products are available online and at Big Box hardware stores, so get to shopping. From all of us here at High West Energy, have a happy, energy-efficient holiday!

In celebration of the holidays, the offices will be closed on December 25 & 26.

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

HIGH WEST ENERGY, INC. • PO BOX 519 • PINE BLUFFS, WY 82082-0519 • LARAMIE COUNTY (307) 245-3261 • TOLL FREE (888) 834-1657 **OUTAGE CALLS 24 HOURS A DAY**

FACEBOOK.COM/HIGHWESTENERGY @HIGHWESTENERGY

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board meetings are typically held on the fourth Monday of each month.

**District 11 – Troy Freeburg**  
Bushnell, NE (308) 673-5336

**District 12 – Don Wisroth**  
Pine Bluffs, WY (307) 245-3454

**District 13 – Ed Prosser**  
Cheyenne, WY (307) 632-6068

**District 14 – Jerry Burnett**  
Hereford, CO (970) 895-3386

**District 15 – Dan Acheson**  
Kimball, NE (308) 235-2300

**District 16 – Jamie Fowler**  
Cheyenne, WY (307) 214-9191

**District 17 – Russ Nielsen**  
Potter, NE (308) 250-4262

### LEADERSHIP TEAM

Brian Heithoff, CEO/General Manager

Lloyd Sisson, Engineering Manager

Karen Rintelmann, Chief Financial Officer

Jeff Bruckner, Operations Manager

Konnie Rask, Energy Services Manager

Lorrell Walter, Public Relations Manager

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday  
7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Closed weekends & holidays

### CHEYENNE SERVICE CENTER

3302 I-80 Service Road  
Cheyenne, WY 82009  
Open Monday – Friday  
10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

# Jamie Fowler Receives Credentialed Cooperative Director Certification

Jamie Fowler, High West Energy's District 16 board member, recently received his Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certification from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. A ten-year member of the cooperative, Jamie was elected to the board at the 2013 annual meeting.

The CCD is earned by attending five required courses that focus on basic governance knowledge and the skills required of corporate directors, and successfully completing a learning assessment for each. One of the key strengths of the rural electric program is the commitment by directors, managers and employees to education and professional development. Of more than 7,000 active directors in the rural electric program today, nearly sixty-five percent have earned their CCD.

Extraordinary board governance requires a strong commitment to learning. The fundamental responsibility is to be engaged, informed and faithful fiduciaries and gatekeepers, protecting the long-term interests of members (stockholders) and other important constituencies, including regulators, employees, customers and the public. The CCD curriculum provides the important foundation directors require to effectively oversee the business of their cooperative. **Congratulations, Jamie!**



Jo Ann Emerson, President/CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association congratulates Jamie Fowler on his CCD Certification.



## Save the Date – Scholarship Deadlines Coming Up!

A number of scholarship opportunities will become available in early 2015. Additional information will be in a future issue of SPARKS. However, for planning purposes, please make note of the following deadlines:

### **Dar Hackworth Lineworker Scholarship\***

**Due by May 1, 2015**

Created in 2006 in memory of Dar Hackworth who moved from Ohio to Powell, Wyo. with his family in 1997. An electrical lineworker with Garland Light & Power Company, Hackworth lost his life in the summer of 2005 in a non-utility-related accident.

### **Neil T. Adkins Lineworker Scholarship\***

**Due by May 1, 2015**

A lifelong resident of Wyoming, Neil Adkins graduated from the lineworker program at Bismarck State College and worked for 3-C Construction. He was killed in an automobile accident in 2009, when he was just 20 years old.

### **WREA Lineman Memorial Scholarship**

**Due by March 1, 2014**

The objective of the WREA Lineman Memorial Scholarship is to encourage, promote, and educate line workers for enduring and rewarding careers with Wyoming's electric cooperatives. The scholarship(s) will be awarded to applicants who plan to attend an approved regional line worker training program.

### **NREA Women in Rural Electrification Scholarship**

Each of the three lineman schools in Nebraska offer scholarships through this program. Please contact the school for deadline and application information.

#### **Western Nebraska Community College**

(888) 559-9622

[www.wncc.net](http://www.wncc.net)

#### **Northeast Community College**

(800) 348-9033

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

#### **Metropolitan Community College**

(800) 228-9553 x4030

[www.mccneb.edu](http://www.mccneb.edu)

### **High West Energy Scholarships**

Applications for six \$1000 scholarships and two \$500 scholarships can be obtained from our website or by calling our office. **The application must be postmarked by February 2, 2015 or dropped off at the office by 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 5, 2015.**



## FEATURED PERSON

### **Donald Wisroth** Retired, Board of Directors

Don Wisroth was elected to the High West Energy board of directors 30 years ago at the 1984 annual meeting. During his tenure, he represented the cooperative in several different capacities:

- Western United Electric Supply Corporation Board of Directors (2009-2014)
- Midwest Electric Consumers Board of Directors (1995-2014)
- Wyoming Rural Electric Association Board of Directors (1985-2002)

Don was born and raised in Pine Bluffs and lives on the property owned by his family when he was born. His father, Carl, became a High West Energy (then Rural Electric Company) member in 1937, when electricity was transferred to their property from the city of Pine Bluffs.

Don and his wife, Sandy, have 5 children, 11 grandchildren and a great grandchild between them. With fewer commitments to the cooperatives, he plans to spend more time enjoying one of his favorite past times, fishing. The staff and board of directors at High West Energy would like to thank Don for his service to the cooperative and wish him well.



## Energy Assistance Available for Eligible Members

Winter weather is upon us and we realize that some members may need some extra assistance in paying their utility bills. The good news is that there is assistance available in all the states we serve. In general, benefits are based on household size, household income and the type of fuel used as the primary heating source. For more information, please visit the appropriate website:

### **Wyoming Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP):**

<https://sites.google.com/a/wyo.gov/dfsweb/economic-assistance/lieap>

1-800-246-4221

### **Nebraska Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP):**

[http://dhhs.ne.gov/children\\_family\\_services/Pages/fia\\_energy.aspx](http://dhhs.ne.gov/children_family_services/Pages/fia_energy.aspx)

1-800-430-3244

### **Colorado Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP):**

[www.energyoutreach.org](http://www.energyoutreach.org)

(303) 825-8750