

HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

The Beacon

JUNE 2024



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Our mission is to provide our members with reliable, high-quality electricity and other needed services, which will improve their economic and social well-being and provide significant long-range benefits for our communities, our state and our nation.

Highline Electric offices will be closed July 4.



HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION
IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER



Touchstone Energy®

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BY DENNIS HERMAN GENERAL MANAGER



DENNIS HERMAN

One of the most important aspects that makes electric cooperatives unique compared to investor-owned utilities is our governance model. Cooperative organizations are governed by a locally elected board of directors. Given that the control of your power provider is in the hands of the directors that you elect, you may wonder what the job entails.

In this article, I outline the key responsibilities of the board, as well as the supportive functions they contribute to the successful operation of your power provider.

At the core of the board's responsibilities lie its duties in maintaining legal integrity, acting as trustees of member interests, engaging in strategic planning, providing oversight over company operations, and establishing measures for performance evaluation.

Legal Integrity: One of the primary duties of the board is to ensure compliance with all legal requirements outlined in the organization's articles of incorporation, by-laws, and relevant regulations. This includes adherence to federal, state, and local statutes, as well as regulations from regulatory bodies such as the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the Federal Communications Commission. Additionally, the board oversees the execution of legal contracts, approves membership applications, and ensures all contractual obligations are met.

Trusteeship of Member Interests: As stewards of the organization's assets, the

board is responsible for safeguarding and managing these assets in the best interest of the members. This includes adherence to the organization's by-laws and policies, as well as implementing programs for member and public relations. For cooperatives, the board also allocates capital credits to patrons annually and determines the timing and amount of patronage refunds.

Strategic Planning: Effective strategic planning is essential for guiding the organization towards its goals and objectives. The board is tasked with developing ideals, objectives, and major goals in consultation with management and members. This involves establishing financial plans and policies, as well as policies for member relations, public relations, and consumer education. The board may also plan annual, district, and special membership meetings to engage with members and solicit their input.

Operational Requirements: The board provides oversight and authorization for operational activities, including the approval of funds for necessary facilities and equipment. This includes the selection and employment of a competent manager, as well as the approval of various consultants. The board advises the manager on specific managerial decisions.

Performance Evaluation: Regular performance evaluation is crucial for assessing the effectiveness of the organization's operations. The board reviews periodic reports from the manager, annual financial audits,

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

and outcomes of membership meetings to ensure alignment with approved objectives and plans.

Supportive Functions: In addition to their core responsibilities, board members also play a crucial role in fostering effective communication and collaboration within the organization. Board members contribute ideas, information, and make decisions in a manner consistent with parliamentary procedure. They also participate in committee work when necessary.

With the Manager: Board members provide information and advice to the manager on matters concerning member interests and recognize the manager as the primary point of contact for operational issues.

With Members: Board members inform, advise, and garner support from members on issues affecting their interests. They also relay relevant information to operating management and maintain a positive image of the organization within the community.

In conclusion, the effective governance of your local power provider relies on the diligent oversight and strategic guidance provided by the board of directors. By fulfilling their responsibilities and fostering supportive relationships, board members can contribute to the long-term success and sustainability of the organization.

Join HEA at Ovid Days Color Run

Ovid Days Color Run/Walk is scheduled for June 8. Join in the fun for a good cause and sign up today at oviddayscolorrund.com. All proceeds go to Children's Hospital Colorado Heart Institute.



▲ HEA Member Services Specialist Jessie Heath wins awards for Best Photo and Best Digital Media in the statewide Excellence in Communication contest.

▶ HEA Member Services Supervisor Tadius Huser wins an award for his 2023 article "4-H Energy Lab," in the category of Best Community Story. The Excellence in Communications contest is a statewide contest for co-op communicators.



▲ Highline Electric Association's IT Supervisor Alex Astley (left) and General Manager Dennis Herman win an award for their Best Safety Story. The 2023 co-written article covers how to keep your information safe online.



HEA Awarded in Statewide Communications Contest

The 2023 Excellence in Communications contest winners were announced in February at the CREA annual meeting. Highline Electric Association was pleased to bring home four awards.

Jessie Heath, Tad Huser, Alex Astley, and Dennis Herman won awards in the categories of Best Photo, Best Safety Article, Best Digital Media, and Best Industry-related Article.

The statewide contest recognizes individual electric co-op communicators who demonstrate knowledge, industry expertise, and skill in their external communications efforts. This contest allows for co-op communicators to showcase their abilities among a highly respected group of cooperative peers.

Congratulations to Jessie, Tad, Alex, and Dennis for the recognition of their hard work and dedication to sharing HEA and industry news with their members.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING EMPLOYEES WHO CELEBRATE AN EMPLOYMENT ANNIVERSARY IN JUNE:

Rance Ferguson.....	31 years
Alex Astley.....	10 years
Carl Haughn.....	2 years
Joe Muller.....	1 year



HEA Maintenance Tech Kevin Humphreys.

Highline Electric welcomes Kevin Humphreys to his new position as maintenance technician at the co-op.

He replaces longtime employee, Steve Deaver, who was with the co-op for 20 years.

When he's not working, Kevin enjoys, woodworking, scuba diving, hiking, and spending time with his daughters, Megan (24) and Ashley (28).

Kevin is excited for his new role, saying, "I look forward to working with maintenance for Highline."

Welcome to the HEA team, Kevin!



Homeschool student Aubrey Poe (left) and Katelyn Reichman, Julesburg High School, represent Highline Electric Association at Youth Tour this month in Washington, D.C.

Highline Sends Two Students to Washington, D.C.

Highline Electric Association is proud to announce that Aubrey Poe and Katelyn Reichman have been selected to represent the cooperative at the electric cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., June 17 to 23. Highline covers all expenses — transportation, accommodations, meals, and admission fees — for Aubrey and Katelyn.

Filled with visits to iconic monuments, explorations of world-class museums, and opportunities to engage with elected officials, Youth Tour promises an immersive experience within the electric cooperative network while delving into the rich history of our nation's capital. Aubrey and Katelyn will build friendships with peers from across the country, fostering lifelong connections.

PROPERTY TAXES PAID IN 2023

Nebraska

County	Amount
Chase	\$ 57,010.00
Deuel	\$ 1,657.82
Dundy	\$ 141.98
Perkins	\$ 2,895.44
TOTAL	\$ 61,705.24

Colorado

County	Amount
Logan	\$ 119,247.02
Morgan	\$ 1,034.36
Phillips	\$ 149,767.60
Sedgwick	\$ 67,672.12
Washington	\$ 9,693.72
Weld	\$ 157.82
Yuma	\$ 52,733.62
TOTAL	\$ 400,336.26

PESTICIDE SAFETY

Our employees face serious health risks when they unknowingly enter a field that was sprayed with any chemical. Just as you would not subject your family or employees to risk, we do not want to subject our employees to risk. Please consider the following:

If you used any chemicals on a field, please notify Highline. You may call the office or you can place a flag at the entrance to the field. Please note the day when it is safe to enter the field and what chemical was used.

Notification signs or flags are available free of charge at any Highline office.

If calling in during an outage, please notify Highline if the field was sprayed.

The initial and long-term effects of absorbing chemicals in the body are extremely hazardous to one's health. Please don't subject our employees to these dangers.



Before You Say Yes to Solar

If you are considering a photovoltaic “solar system” for your home, there is more to consider than promised monthly savings. Here are some of the many aspects to consider:

- Know all the costs, not just those for equipment and installation.
- Understand any “soft” costs, which may include permit acquisition, financing charges and “pass-along” marketing, advertising and research costs.
- Does my utility charge a monthly facilities charge?
- Thoroughly investigate the company: Is it backed by the Better Business Bureau? How long has it been in business? Is it licensed to do business in Colorado?
- Collect objective opinions about the pros and cons of installing a solar system.
- What happens when it’s cloudy? How does that impact energy supply?
- Are installers specially trained and certified to install solar?
- Is the work supervised by a master electrician?
- Who maintains the equipment and how much does that cost?
- Does the company carry major insurance for individuals working on my property?
- How does the system interface with my electric utility and its requirements?
- Should I buy or lease the system and what happens if I move?
- What are the safety issues surrounding solar?
- How is the power safely disconnected if needed?
- Does my utility require me to carry special insurance?

Please contact us with any questions about installing a new solar system. We are happy to walk you through the process to interconnect with Highline and provide you with a detailed payback analysis.



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Contact Tad at 970-854-2236
for more information