

# HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

*The Beacon*

NOVEMBER 2020



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facebook.com/HighlineElectric

**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 ASSOCIATION  
IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY  
PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER



Touchstone Energy®

## NORMAL, WHAT'S NORMAL?

BY DENNIS HERMAN GENERAL MANAGER



DENNIS HERMAN

I have begun to see a few prognosticators venture guesses as to when we will return from our pandemic world to something that resembles what we remember as normal. The experts who are willing to venture a guess think it will be near the end of 2021 when we can start to think of COVID-19 in the past tense. This timeline assumes the first vaccine approvals will be coming at the end of 2020. Manufacturing, distribution and administration of the vaccine at the level necessary to establish herd immunity will take most of 2021 to accomplish. I have also seen a few articles in the last few days indicating there are treatment protocols that have exhibited 100% success in the treatment of COVID-19 and are entering clinical trials. Perhaps one or more of these will hasten the projected timeline to normalcy. While I'm personally not thrilled with the potential of another year of living with this virus, I am encouraged to see glimpses of what could be the light at the end of the tunnel.

At Highline Electric Association, it has been our goal throughout the pandemic to minimize the impact of COVID-19 on our consumer-members as it pertains to your electric service. While we had to close our offices, cancel our annual meeting and adjust work schedules and practices, we strived to lessen the effect of these changes on our consumer-members.

While I'm on the topic of the abnormal, I want to make you aware of one more change coming from Highline that is out of the ordinary. Our members have become

accustomed to receiving a capital credit retirement in the middle of December. In fact, you have to go back 19 years to find a December that didn't include the mailing of capital credit checks. Now, before I get you too worked up, you can expect a capital credit check this year. All we're changing is the schedule. Rather than mailing checks in December, you received this year's check in mid to late October.

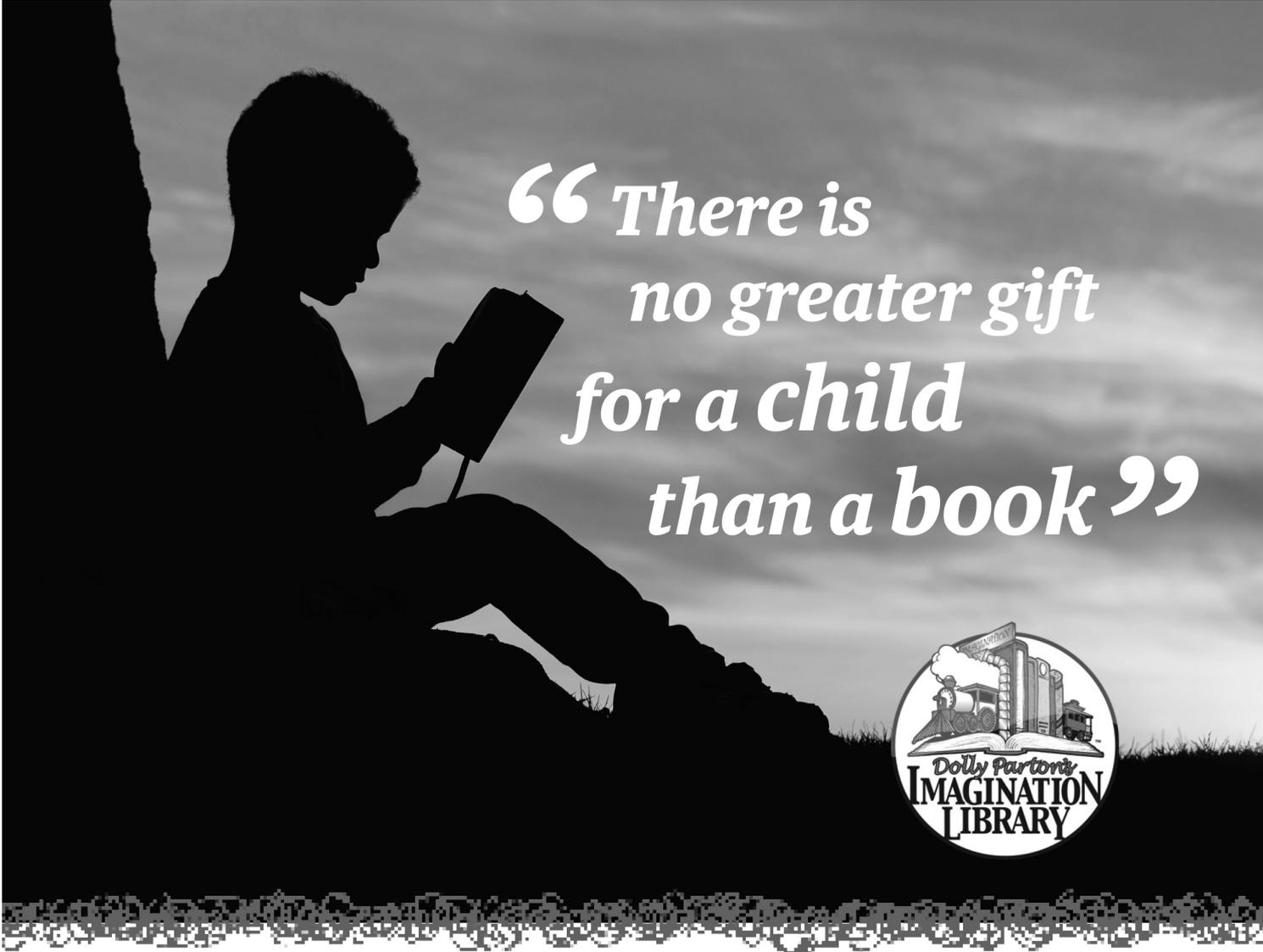
This change is not related to COVID-19. It just worked out better to mail checks in October this year given some issues with personnel scheduling at Highline. While it worked out a little better for us, we also felt like it would be a benefit to our membership to receive capital credit checks earlier this year. Hopefully having checks in hand by late October is helping your year-end planning and expenses.

This year's retirement includes Highline equity earned in 2005 and equity earned in Tri-State Generation and Transmission in 1998 and 1999. If you received electric service from Highline in 1998, 1999 or 2005, you should have received a capital credit retirement check for part of the margins allocated to you in those years. Please feel free to contact our office if you have any questions concerning this capital credit retirement.

I wish you all the best as 2020 draws to an end. Stay safe.

**HEA OFFICES CLOSED NOVEMBER 26 & 27**

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**



*“ There is  
no greater gift  
for a child  
than a book ”*



There is no greater gift for a child than the gift of learning from their own books. That's why Highline Electric Association, your Touchstone Energy Cooperative, is partnering with Phillips County Family Education Services Inc. to bring Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to Phillips County and to our youngest co-op members.

The Imagination Library, a book-gifting program administered by the Dollywood Foundation, mails one book each month to children from birth to age five at no cost to the families who register.

At Highline Electric Association, we believe every child should have the opportunity to succeed and can think of no better start than ensuring the children in our communities grow up in homes filled with books that inspire a passion for reading and lifelong learning.

For more details and to learn how to register for the program, please contact Phillips County Family Education Services Inc. at (970) 854-2595.



# Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Program Coming to Phillips County

Highline Electric Association, your Touchstone Energy Cooperative, is dedicated to supporting members of all ages. Our latest effort provides local children who may have limited access to age-appropriate books with the gift of learning. We are proud to partner with Phillips County Family Education Services, Inc., to bring Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to Phillips County and to our youngest co-op members. Through matching funds from CoBank and Basin Electric Cooperative, Highline secured \$2,400 to cover the first-year costs of the program. This amount is an estimation based on the number of children projected to enroll. Highline Electric Association and the members who own and are served by the co-op will support our community's future leaders, starting with the youngest generation.



HEA General Manager Dennis Herman presents Director Linda Jelden of Phillips County Family Education Services, Inc., with Imagination Library startup funds.

## Parade of Lights Brings Communities Together

Highline Electric has co-sponsored the Parade of Lights in Holyoke for over 20 years and in Sedgwick County for almost five. This year, Highline Electric and CHS Grainland are proud to co-sponsor the parades again with the local chambers of commerce.

Over the years each parade has grown with more participants, spectators and events to draw the community together. Each community comes up with its own activities and events for the evening that include everything from chili and hot chocolate to hayrack rides and free movies. Last year, the Parade of Lights in Holyoke had 15 entries and Sedgwick County had 21.

**Watch our website and social media for dates and information regarding this year's parades.** At the time this article was written the parades are scheduled to happen.



## Scholarships

Highline Electric, Tri-State Generation and Transmission and Basin Electric Power Cooperative work together to provide 13 scholarships to graduating seniors in our service area. The scholarships range from \$500 to \$1,000. In 2018, the Highline Electric Association Board of Directors voted to convert two of Highline's \$1,000 scholarships into renewable scholarships that can be redeemed by the recipient for up to four years if they maintain eligibility criteria.

**Please visit our website, [www.hea.coop](http://www.hea.coop), for applications and deadlines.**

# Youth Tour and Camp

Each year Highline Electric Association sponsors an all-expense-paid trip for two students to attend the Washington D.C. Youth Tour and two students to attend Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs. To be the lucky winner of the Washington D.C. Youth Tour or the Youth Leadership Camp, please complete the application form, which includes an essay component. The top two applicants will go to Washington, D.C., and two alternates will attend the Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs. Your entry must be received by December 18, 2020. Please visit our website, [www.hea.coop](http://www.hea.coop), for an application.

Due to COVID-19 canceling the 2020 camp and tour, Highline will be sending two 2020 delegates to Youth Tour for a total of four attendees and one 2020 Leadership Camp delegate for a total of two attendees.

## Anniversaries

Congratulations to the following employees who observe an employment anniversary in November:

**Chris McKay .....14 years      Eric Luedke ..... 7 years**



*Thinking about Energy Efficiency improvements?*

**Ask about our On-bill Financing Program!**

### Who can apply for On-bill Financing?

Anyone who pays their electric bill to HEA is eligible to apply for the low-cost loan, thus residential customers and businesses can take advantage of the opportunity.

### What's the catch?

Nothing that we can see. Investing in energy efficiency measures pays on-going dividends with lower electric (and other utility) bills. The low-interest loans and on-bill financing help HEA members finance these projects over time, while you begin to reap the energy-saving benefits and comforts of an energy efficient home or office as soon as the efficiency measures are complete.

**Visit [www.hea.coop](http://www.hea.coop) or call 800.816.2236 to learn more!**



## Don't Bake Up High Energy Bills This Holiday Season

**Avoid high energy bills and long cook times by following a few oven efficiency guidelines this holiday season:**

- Prepare and chop all necessary ingredients before you turn on your oven. This includes defrosting items in the refrigerator ahead of time.
- Consider using a smaller appliance. Often, you can use a countertop oven, slow cooker or microwave oven to reheat or cook small meal portions, which saves energy by heating a smaller space. Microwave ovens may also reduce cooking energy by as much as 80%.
- Preheat the oven to the exact temperature required. Preheating is not necessary for foods that cook for several hours.
- Leave the oven door shut as much as possible. Opening the door lowers the temperature as much as 25 degrees.
- If your oven is outdated, consider switching to an Energy Star model that has a convection feature. According to EnergyStar.gov, convection ovens use 20% less energy per month compared to a standard oven. Self-cleaning ovens are also more energy efficient because they have better insulation.
- When picking out cookware, try brass, glass and ceramic versions, which conduct heat more efficiently than other materials and can reduce cooking times.
- Regularly clean and maintain your kitchen appliances and cookware. Grime or grease buildup in your oven and using warped pots and pans can increase baking times and energy use.
- If you have a self-cleaning oven, the best time to use the feature is just after cooking a meal — the oven will still be hot, and the cleaning feature will require less energy.
- More is less. If possible, prepare extra portions of your meal and cook them together. Reheating leftovers uses much less energy than cooking from scratch.

**For more information about electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).**