

Power Pointz

news from
Garland Light & Power Co.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Scholarships Available

February 2018

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Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Tri-State Generation and Transmission, and Garland Light & Power are offering college scholarships to students in our service area. The scholarships are for 2018-2019 school year.

Basin Electric Power Cooperative, to which we are a member, located in Bismarck, ND, offers one \$1,000 scholarship to a qualifying senior whose family is served by Garland Light & Power. Tri-State Generation and Transmission, our power supplier in Denver, offers two \$500 scholarships. Garland Light and Power offers several scholarships ranging from \$500-\$1,000 to qualifying seniors and returning college students. Trade school applications are also accepted.

The scholarship program recognizes and encourages the academic achievement of students in Garland's area. It also serves as an investment in the economic future of rural areas. The scholarships must be used for educational costs, and the student must enter college in the fall of the school year for which the scholarship is given.

Applicants must be U.S. citizens and dependents of member system consumers or employees. Applicants also must be students enrolled or planning to enroll in a full time undergraduate or graduate course of study at an accredited, two or four year college. Scholarship recipients will be chosen based on a combination of SAT/ACT scores and overall grade point average, work experience, participation in school and community activities. A personal statement and written recommendations by a third party are also required.

Applications will be accepted until February 19, 2018 and winners will be announced by March 15, 2018. Your application must be returned to Garland Light & Power Office. You can pick up applications at our office or Powell and Cody High School.

WREA Offering Lineman Scholarship

As a member of the Wyoming Rural Electric Association (WREA), Garland Light & Power, will be accepting applications for a Lineman Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$3,000 to be awarded by WREA.

The scholarship was developed to promote careers in the electrical line work within the cooperative industry, and is available to any individual, including any recent high school graduate, that plans to attend a lineman school.

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The WREA will be awarding one or more scholarships each year. Scholarship applications must include an application form, resume of education and work experience and a transcript of grades. A transcript will not be necessary if, the candidate has not attended an educational institution in the three years prior to submitting the scholarship form.

Each WREA member cooperative will interview, select and submit one (1) candidate's name to the WREA for consideration by the WREA Board of Directors. The WREA Board will choose one or more recipient(s) for the scholarship no later than April 30, 2018.

The WREA Board of Directors may award an alternate scholarship if the original applicant selected is unable to use the scholarship.

You can pick up applications at our office or Powell and Cody High School. Completed applications must be returned to Garland Light & Power office by the March 1, 2018 deadline.

DAR HACKWORTH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Dar Hackworth Lineworker Scholarship was created in 2006 in memory of Dar Hackworth. Hackworth was born and raised in Ohio. In August 1997, he moved with his family to Powell, Wyoming where he became an electrical lineworker for Garland Light & Power. He became superintendent in 2000. He had been interested in music since he was young and became a talented musician, playing banjo and guitar with the bluegrass Gospel band, "Witness." Hackworth loved spending time with family and friends and time in the mountains, hunting, fishing, and riding horses. He loved his job and was highly respected by his peers in the industry. Hackworth lost his life in the summer of 2005 in a non-utility related accident while enjoying some of those things he loved most.

One scholarship will be awarded each year to a Wyoming resident interested in a career in the electric industry. The amount of the scholarship will be \$1,000.

You can pick up applications at our office or Powell and Cody High School. Completed applications must be returned to Garland Light & Power office by the March 31, 2018.



Valentine's Day
Wednesday, February 14

Why Does the Electric Co-op Collect a Service Charge?

Electric co-op members often ask why they have a bill, even when they haven't used any electricity. And what is that "extra" charge beyond the cost of the electricity itself? It may be called a service charge, access charge, basic charge or customer charge.

It's all about making sure your electric co-op stays financially viable and is ready to provide members with electricity when they need it. There is no incentive to charge more than is needed to pay out-of-town investors since co-ops are not-for-profit entities owned by the members.

And co-op management wants to make sure that there is money to cover the cost of the system that supplies the electricity to its members homes or businesses. In the past, part of the cost of poles, lines, meters, employees, equipment and infrastructure was included in the per kilowatt-hour charge members paid for using electricity.

That worked as long as all members in each rate class used similar amounts of electricity.

However, as more members add solar panels and others become more energy efficient, this system no longer works. The amount of electricity being used per household or business has dropped, but the costs for infrastructure, equipment and personnel has not dropped. And the cost of maintaining that infrastructure continues whether or not members use their vacation home this month or just want the electricity to be available when they arrive next month. By separating the charges and making sure that the basic charge pays for the fixed costs and the electricity rate is a pass through of the cost of buying the electricity to distribute to its members, the co-op can continue to serve its members and make the electricity they rely on available whenever they flip the switch.

Teaching Kids About Electrical Safety

One of parents' highest priorities is to protect their children. One way to do this is teaching them about safety around electricity. Safe Electricity recommends teaching kids about electrical safety at an early age. Important lessons include:

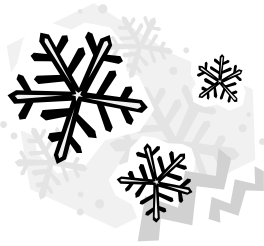
- Water and electricity do not mix. Children should never play with or use electronics around water. Make sure ground fault circuit interrupters are installed anywhere electricity and water could meet to help prevent shocks. GFI's detect and prevent dangerous situations where an electric shock could occur.
- The only objects that go into outlets are electric plugs. Sticking other items in an electric socket can lead to an electric shock or death. As a parent, you can help prevent this by having tamper resistant outlets installed. Tamper resistant electrical receptacles have a shutter system that only accepts electric plugs. Another option is to use simple outlet plugs. However these can easily be removed. Similarly, never stick fingers or objects into toasters or any other electrical appliance.
- Electric cords should be left alone. A curious child may put a cord into his or her mouth and could potentially suffer an electric burn. Additionally, kids should be taught to never pull a plug out of the socket by the cord. This could damage the cord.
- Electronics and their accessories must be handled with care. Encourage younger children to ask for help when they want to use an electronic device.
- Know how to call for help in an emergency. It's a good idea to include utility emergency number with other posted emergency phone numbers and instruct children how to call for help in an emergency.

Rebates

Tri-State G&T (our power supplier) offers an Energy Efficiency Products (EEP) program that helps member-owners save money and use energy wisely. The EEP program is aimed at promoting electric products and new technologies available to electric co-op consumers that represent a value for our members.

The program provides member-owners rebates for the installation of more efficient lighting, heating and cooling systems, and similar applications.

Rebates are available for the Energy Star rated appliances, such as electric water heaters, refrigerators, freezers, clothes washer and dishwashers. There are also rebates available for efficiency electric motors. Call of stop by the office to see if you qualify for a rebate on your new purchase.



LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE

This program provides assistance for winter heating bills. It is available for the months of November through May. The State of Wyoming accepts applications from October 1st through February 28th each year. Benefits are based on household size, income and type of fuel used as the primary heating source.

Crisis Assistance: This is a one time per program year benefit available to persons who are facing an energy emergency. The benefit amount is based on the amount needed to resolve this crisis, up to a maximum of \$400. Crisis funds can be used for deposits on new accounts, LP tank sets, and back bills. Crisis assistance is available from October through the middle of April. Back bills prior October 1st are the clients responsibility.

For a LIEAP application, call 1-800-246-4221.



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