

Power Lines



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Our Energy, Our Future

BY BRAD GASKILL, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Pressure is mounting in Congress to do something about climate change. While political debates in Washington, D.C., may seem far away, the outcome will have a direct impact on our cooperative — and on you, the cooperative member, and other electric consumers.



Brad Gaskill

Climate change is but one aspect of a looming energy crisis created by increasing demand and decreasing capacity to meet that demand. Experts now say some areas of the country will be short of power within one or two years.

And yet our elected representatives are not spending much time evaluating the issue. The energy supply issues, the desire by government to reduce greenhouse gas emissions quickly and the growing demand for power by consumers, are about to collide.

Some people say we can meet demand through efficiency and renewable energy. The reality is that we need all the efficiency and renewable energy we can get, but

that will not be enough.

To avert an energy crisis, the federal government must exercise true leadership, the same leadership that got Americans to the moon in the 1960s. Without that leadership — without a sound, responsible plan — government risks not only the reliability of our electric system, but also, literally, the ability of many Americans to be able to afford to pay their electric bill.

We, as electric co-op members and constituents, must call on elected officials to provide this leadership. That's why I want to encourage you to contact your elected officials now!

You don't need to be an energy expert to ask questions. Asking questions helps find the answers to solve the problem of balancing climate change goals with keeping your lights on and your electric bills affordable. Right now, members of Congress as well as state elected officials are hearing from lots of different interest groups that have ideas *[continued on page 9]*

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NEXT BOARD MEETING

May 27

Phone Answering Changes Completed April 1 for PVREA

For members' convenience, Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association has revised its phone answering procedures. When you call PVREA, the first thing you will hear is a message notifying you that your call will be recorded for quality assurance. After that, you will be given a choice to dial 1 to speak with a customer service representative, dial 2 for operations department for service questions or to report an outage, or dial 3 for the engineering department.

These changes took effect April 1. No fooling.

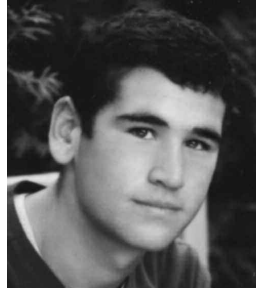




Levi Stockton



Hallie Harper



Zachary Nassar



Thomas Coleman



Michelle Moore

PVREA Announces 2008 Scholarship Winners

Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association is pleased to announce the 2008 scholarship winners. Six scholarships were given by Poudre Valley REA, two by Tri-State Generation and Transmission and one by Basin Electric Power Cooperative. Congratulations to all the winners.

Levi A. Stockton, LaPorte, received a \$1,000 scholarship from Basin Electric Power Cooperative. He is the son of Audrey-Lyn and Jerry Stockton. Levi attends Poudre High School. He will attend Colorado State University in Fort Collins, possibly studying environmental engineering or landscape horticulture.

Levi's family raises shire horses, and Levi spends much of his time working the horses for competitions. When not working the horses, Levi works at Creekside Garden Center in Fort Collins.

"I have learned that I really love working outdoors with nature," Levi said, "and I hope to be able to continue that kind of work with whatever I decide to study in college."

Hallie Elizabeth Harper, Longmont, received a \$1,000 scholarship from Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association. She is the daughter of William and Elizabeth Harper. Hallie attends Skyline High School. She will attend Colorado State University in Fort Collins, working toward a bachelor of science degree in management.

Hallie is a member of the Kicks n Bucks 4-H Club and has held many positions there, including president, secretary, reporter and high point coordinator.

"I think the future of our economy — agriculturally, socially and economically

— depends on collaborative leadership," Hallie said. "I plan on being a part of that team."

Zachary David Nassar, Longmont, received a \$1,000 scholarship from Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association. He is the son of David and Tracy Nassar. Zachary attends Silver Creek High School. He will attend the University of Colorado in Boulder.

Zachary earned his pilot's license when he was 17 and believes that flying helped him put high school classes, such as geometry and trigonometry, to practical use. The dedication, knowledge, skill, judgment, composure and responsibility necessary for flying has taught him how to apply education to real life.

"I feel the momentum of learning is on my side," Zachary said, "and I intend to apply it to everything I do."

Thomas Coleman, Loveland, received a \$1,000 scholarship from Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association. He is the son of Randall and Kelly Coleman. He attends Thompson Valley High School and plans on attending the University of Colorado in Boulder.

Thomas participates in tennis and track, as well as community service. He has volunteered at various places through the National Honor Society, including the senior citizen prom and Loveland heart painting. He has also volunteered at McKee Medical Center, helping at the children's center.

Thomas will study dentistry, which has been his ambition since middle school. "Having this goal for so long has helped me immensely in preparing myself for college," he said.

Michelle K. Moore, Loveland, received a \$1,000 scholarship from Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association. She is the daughter of John and Denise Moore. She attends Thompson Valley High School and will attend Colorado State University in Fort Collins, studying either microbiology or virology.

Michelle is a member of the National Honor Society, the Spanish Honor Society and the National Society of High School Students. She has done much volunteer work, including a mission trip to Peru to build a soup kitchen.

"I would like to be a part of a medical research team for finding cures for infectious disease," Michelle said. "I would like to use my knowledge to help find cheaper and easier cures for those less fortunate."

Hannah Adams, Windsor, received a \$1,000 scholarship from Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association. She is the daughter of Tim and Kendra Adams. Hannah attends Windsor High School. She will attend Colorado State University in Fort Collins, where she will study biological science.

Hannah played tennis and soccer in high school and was the athletic trainer for the football team. She was involved with student council and mock trial and started a Rotary Inter-Act club at school.

Eventually, Hannah would like to work for the Centers for Disease Control. "I would like to work with outbreaks of diseases in different countries and at home," she said.

Thomas Tiffany, Kersey, received a \$1,000 scholarship from Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association. He is the son

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Hannah Adams



Thomas Tiffany



Austin Bryant



Caitlyn Kauffman

PVREA Announces 2008 Scholarship Winners

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of Thomas Tiffany. Thomas attends Platte Valley High School and will attend the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley.

Thomas participated in marching band. The marching band placed third in state competition — the first time the band has made it to finals. Thomas also earned first place in drum line in state competition.

Thomas plans on owning a business in the Greeley area. “I want to contribute to the community,” he said.

Austin Bryant, Lyons, received a \$500 scholarship from Tri-State Generation and Transmission. He is the son of Jill and Don Bryant. Austin attends Estes Park High School and will attend the

University of Colorado in Boulder.

Austin is involved in football, golf, soccer and baseball, which have taught him about dedication, team play and sportsmanship. He is a member of National Honor Society and dedicates time to community service.

While undecided at this point about a career, Austin believes in hard work. “When I find the career I want, I will work my hardest until I reach the top,” he said. “Hard work and perseverance will lead you anywhere you wish to go.”

Caitlyn A. Kauffman, Berthoud, received a \$500 scholarship from Tri-State Generation and Transmission. She is the daughter of Chris and Sheila Kauffman. Caitlyn attends Falcon High School and

will attend Colorado State University in Fort Collins.

Caitlyn is a member of the National Honor Society. She volunteers at the local food pantry and Garden of the Gods Park. She is involved in marching, concert, symphonic and jazz bands, as well as wind ensemble as a trumpet player. She has been involved with the mock trial team, qualifying for the state championship. She has also competed in horse performance competitions.

Caitlyn wants to be a veterinarian and will study biomedical sciences. “I have always wanted to do anything I could to help animals,” she said. “My dream is to become a large-animal veterinarian.”

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Our Energy, Our Future

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about how to address climate change. No one is talking to consumers, however. We need a plan people can live with today while we deal with the climate change problem of tomorrow.

To make things easy, we have a website that will send an email for you. Go to www.ourenergy.coop and plug in your address. There you'll be able to ask a series of questions to your representatives in Washington. We're kicking this effort off with a basic but critical question: What are they doing to make sure we'll have the power we need in the future?

Far too often questions don't get asked of policy-makers until plans go wrong. We believe it makes sense to know the answers before the laws are passed. You can help your elected officials and yourself by having this conversation. The electric bill you save will be your own.

I look forward to visiting with you again.

THE FOUR Rs OF ELECTRICAL SAFETY

During May, we're helping to observe National Electrical Safety Month by reminding everyone about the four Rs of electrical safety:

- Respect the power of electricity
- Read and follow the operating instructions that come with electrical products
- Replace worn or frayed electrical cords
- Relocate appliance cords so they won't get stepped on and children can't pull on them

By following these four simple guidelines, you can help ensure electrical safety for you and your household.

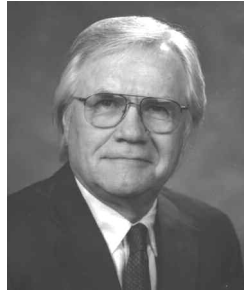
To learn more about home electrical safety, visit www.esfi.org, the website of the Electrical Safety Foundation International. Download the “Indoor Electrical Safety Check” and “Outdoor Electrical Safety Check” booklets to help you conduct an electrical safety audit of your home.

FROM THE BOARD

Co-op Means You Are an Owner

BY KEITH CROONQUIST, BOARD PRESIDENT

On March 15, 2008, you — along with all the other member-owners of Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association — held your annual meeting in Fort Collins to elect candidates to serve on your board of directors and to listen to the reports on the happenings at PVREA over the last year.



Keith Croonquist

Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association is a cooperative owned by those who receive electric service from it. You are a direct owner of Poudre Valley REA. Also, your board is composed of member-owners just like you. No outsider can be elected to the board.

One of the pieces of information shared at the meeting that personally concerned me was that, according to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association survey that was sent out to PVREA consumers last year, more than 70 percent of those responding do not equate themselves as member-owners of the cooperative. To them, PVREA is just another company to which a payment must be sent.

PVREA is not just another company.

Experts claim that a person must be exposed to something five to seven times before the brain incorporates it into memory. It is my attempt with this message to expose you to the fact that you are a member-owner of Poudre Valley REA. Every time you see an electric service truck with red bumpers and a PVREA logo on the door, remember that you own a part of that equipment, just as you are a part owner of the poles and wires that bring electricity down the street or road on which you live.



ARE YOU A WINNER?

If you see your account name in the Poudre Valley insert, you have until the last day of the month that the magazine is dated to claim your reward by calling PVREA at 970-226-1234. More than ever, it pays to keep informed about your electric utility.

Poudre Valley Offers Online Payment Option and More

With the upgrade to Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association's website, consumers now have the option to pay their electric bills online. This new option, which makes a routine task easier, is safe, secure and quick.

The first thing to do is to log on to www.pvrea.com.

Once you are viewing PVREA's home page, you will note that in the menu located on the left side of the screen is a tab entitled, **My Account**. If you click on that, you will see a drop-down menu listing four options. (Win* Jackie Weller)

The **Pay My Bill** option allows you to pay your bill online by either entering credit card information or banking information for paying with an online check. First-time users will have to register before entering data. (It sometimes takes 15 to 20 minutes before first-time users can use the service as it takes a little time to populate the system with your personal information.)

Once you have registered, you will have a personal identification and password so you can access your information anytime. The process either for making credit card payments or paying with an online check is the same as it is with most secure websites.

The second option on the home page drop-down menu is **View My Bill**. With this option, you may review your account details, including recent payments, meter readings and account status.

The third option on the home page drop-down menu is **View My History**. With this option, you may review your electric consumption history for the past year. The data is displayed in both spreadsheet style or in graph form, which allows you to track your own electric consumption trends.

You also have the option of entering a recent meter reading to determine your consumption to date. It will tell you how many kilowatt-hours you have used and what that means in terms of dollars and cents. It is a terrific way to get a handle on your electricity consumption.

The last option on the home page drop-down menu is **Lower My Bill**. With this option, you will be directed to other pages on the website that will provide you with a multitude of ways to save energy and keep more money in your pocket.

PVREA's customer service representatives emphatically want to convey that the new website bill-paying option is a great tool for PVREA's consumers ... and that you should use it.