

# WREN

MAY + 2020

WYOMING RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS

WYOMING RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS MAY 2020



**Most  
Important  
Issue**

## ANNUAL REPORT



## DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

*for*

## CARBON POWER & LIGHT

THIS ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS CARBON POWER & LIGHT'S  
ANNUAL REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP:  
REPORTS, FINANCIAL STATS, AND  
DIRECTOR CANDIDATE PROFILES ~  
MAKING THIS THE MOST **IMPORTANT ISSUE.**



Member Owned ~ Service Proud  
Your Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup> Cooperative   
The power of human connections

## CARBON POWER & LIGHT IS GUIDED BY A SET OF **SEVEN** COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES.

*We make sure our focus is on you – our Member-Owners*

# 1

### **VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP**

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

# 4

### **AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE**

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

# 2

### **DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL**

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, the members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

# 5

### **EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND INFORMATION**

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

# 3

### **MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION**

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership.

Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership

# 6

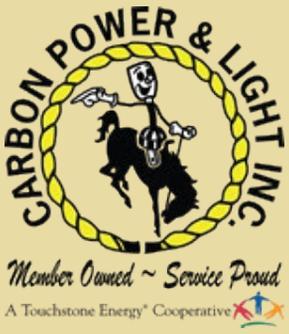
### **COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES**

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional, and international structures.

# 7

### **CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY**

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.



# CARBON LIGHT LINES

100 E. Willow Ave. • Saratoga, WY • 82331-0579  
307.326.5206 • 800.359.0249  
info@carbonpower.com  
www.carbonpower.com

## *Official Report and Director Elections*



# Inside

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# PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER'S JOINT REPORT

*Russell Waldner*

What a crazy time we are living in. 2019 was a good year for your cooperative, then came 2020.

We have made a change to the bylaws to allow guidelines for Director candidates that should help the nominating committees to qualify candidates with more information. We also currently are working to complete another change to the bylaws to allow for virtual meetings of the membership should issues similar to COVID-19 happen again. This year we will not meet in person for our 79th annual meeting and will have two annual meetings next year.

We will be having our Director elections by mail and your ballot is included in this most important issue of the WREN magazine. We will be drawing for prizes from the completed ballots we receive. Now you do not have to spend a wonderful Saturday in June in order to win a prize from your cooperative. Just mail in your ballot and you have a chance to win! One of the prizes will be \$500.00. If all ballots are returned that is a 1 in 4,172 chance of winning, better than any lotto and all you have to do is mail in your vote.

Please review the information included in this most important issue of the WREN magazine to get the statistics of Carbon's current operations.

We will be returning \$1,073,062 in capital credits through the mail starting the last week in June. This will pay amounts on the books

through a part of 2004. We are proud of our record to pay capital credits on a regular rotation representing at least 5% of the balance owed to our Member-Owners.

We completed 12 years of no lost time accidents and we are adding daily to that record. We work every day to be safe.

We are so proud of all our Employees' efforts to provide you our Member-Owners the outstanding friendly service you have come to expect from your cooperative, Carbon Power & Light, Inc.

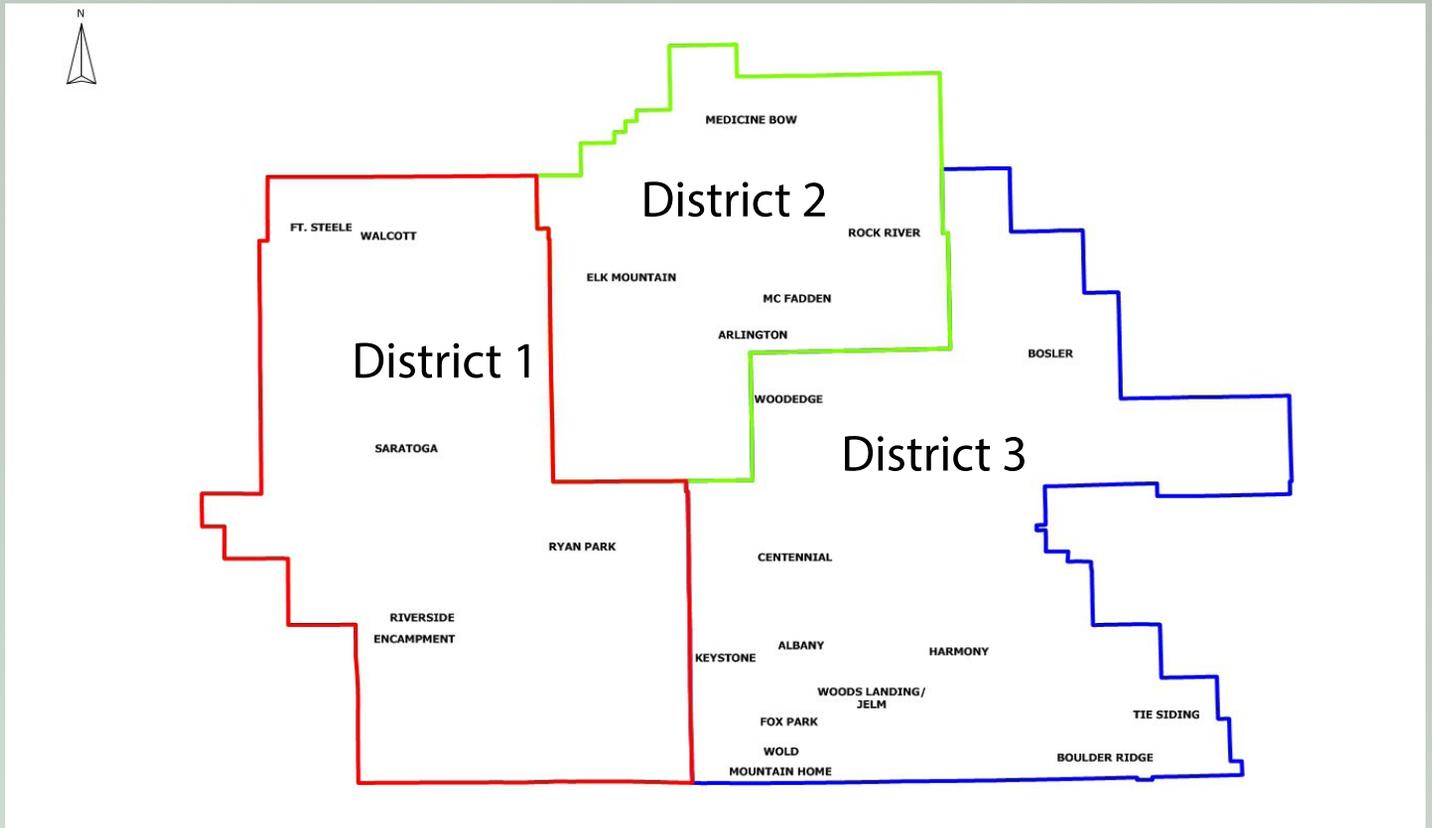
***Remember to mail in your ballot for a chance to Win!***



*Laurie Forster pictured with Kenny Curry receiving his Certificate for 10 years of serving on the Carbon Board at the 2019 Annual Meeting.*



# CARBON'S SERVICE TERRITORY



## District Board of Directors

### District 1 - 1,946 Members

Gary Jacobsen - Encampment  
Daniel Hodgkiss - Saratoga  
Laurie Forster - Saratoga - Incumbent

### District 2 - 354 Members

Shae Johnson - Elk Mountain  
John Page - Elk Mountain - Incumbent  
Kenny Curry - Rock River

### District 3 - 1,903 Members

Richard Clifton - Centennial  
Clay Thompson - Big Laramie - Incumbent  
Jim Rogers - Little Laramie

## Quick Overview

### 2019

6,360 Meters  
26 Employees  
121 Miles of Transmission Line  
1,675 Miles of Distribution Line  
182 Miles of Underground Line  
3.2 Member-Owners per Mile of Line  
\$0.12003 Residential kWh Rate  
657 kWh's/mo. (avg.) Used for Residential/Rural  
4,370 kWh's/mo. (avg.) Used for Irrigation  
1941 Year Incorporated  
Power Supplier - Tri-State Generation & Transmission

# DIRECTOR CANDIDATE PROFILES

## Nominating Committees Report

The 2020 Nominating Committee, in accordance with the Cooperative bylaws under Article IV, Section 3, were appointed by the Board of Directors. Appointees were:

### District 1

Joe Glode  
Rocky Fiedor  
Jon Nelson

### District 2

Bobby Heward  
Rodney Thornburg  
Gerald LeBeau

### District 3

Juanita Engen  
Orville Johnson  
Raymond Leach

The following is a report from the Nominating Committee Members who met in April 2020.

The Nominating Committees by majority vote, selected the following Member-Owners of the Cooperative as qualified candidates to serve on the Board of Directors for Carbon Power & Light.

### District 1

Laurie Forster  
David Fairbanks

### District 2

John Page

### District 3

Clay Thompson

## District 1

## Laurie Forster

District 1 Incumbent



Since my election by the Membership in 2008, I have learned a lot and believe that I have become an asset on the board. In 2010, I was awarded

my Credential Cooperative Director's Certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and have served on the Union Negotiating Committee several years. I have been board president since 2015. I have been fortunate to be able to attend numerous meetings at the State, Regional and National levels representing the Members of Carbon Power & Light. Through my travels I have learned so much about our Cooperative and other Cooperatives within the State of

Wyoming and throughout the country. Service expansions continue within the coop on both sides of the mountain. We are in an ever changing and challenging industry, with our electrical needs increasing locally and nationally. I am dedicated to my position to continue to stay educated and informed on these changes to help serve the cooperative and seek your support in my re-election. Contact me by email at [lforster@carbonpower.com](mailto:lforster@carbonpower.com)

## MISSION STATEMENT

Continually Communicate our Commitment to Community;

Plan Productively, Perfect our Potential, and be Passionate about our Member-Owner's Perspective;

&

Learn, Lead, and Light the way to a better quality of Life for our Member-Owners.

## District 1

## David Fairbanks

District 1 Candidate



I was born in Peoria, Illinois and grew up on a farm in Marshall County, which is North of Peoria by about 20 miles. I went to school in both the Peoria, and Chicago areas, graduating with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. I have worked in the oil and gas industry for about 15 year, the last 7-1/2 years with Sinclair Wyoming Refining Co. I married in 1996 to Catherine Glass, and we have 7 children and 4 grandchildren.

Sincerely,  
D. Fairbanks

If you would like to contact David by email please email: [davecat1996@gmail.com](mailto:davecat1996@gmail.com)

# DIRECTOR CANDIDATE PROFILES

## District 2

### John Page

District 2 Incumbent



My name is John Page, and I am seeking Nomination to the Carbon Power and Light Board of Directors. My wife and I have lived in Wyoming for a little over twenty years and in Carbon County since 2008. I served in the military and recently retired from Law Enforcement. I have served on the Elk Mountain Town Council and currently am the Public Works

Director for the town. This position with the Board of Directors is a very important role and affects the lives of all our members. I would like to continue Carbon Power and Light's progress of improving the quality of life for our members through service excellence and planning for the future of our community.

Thanks John



**Cindy Ballard and Linda York**

photo by Joe Parrie



**Tom Westring & Laurie Forster**

photo by Joe Parrie

## District 3

### Clay Thompson

District 3 Incumbent



My family and I live on a ranch in the Harmony area, and I have been fortunate to represent District 3 on Carbon's board. As I am writing this,

we are currently going through unprecedented events with the coronavirus. Our employees continue to work hard to keep our electricity on in the face of this pandemic because electricity is crucial for keeping our communities functioning. As a director, I am proud to be able to represent such a great Coop. Important advantages of a cooperative are having local control and local representation. We are working hard to keep

electricity affordable, embracing alternative forms of energy while ensuring reliability. I would appreciate your support to continue to represent you in District 3. If you would like to contact Clay by email please email: [cthompson@carbonpower.com](mailto:cthompson@carbonpower.com)



**Kirby Larson (on the right) helping out at Wyoming State Fair** photo by Joe Parrie

# 2019 MINUTES OF THE 78<sup>TH</sup>



## 2019

## Unofficial minutes of the 78th ANNUAL MEETING

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

Director Laurie Forster called the 78th annual meeting of the membership to order at 12:33 P.M. on June 22, 2019 at the Platte Valley Community Center located in Saratoga, WY. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance followed by a moment of silence for Peg Johnson, then the invocation was given by Director Jim Rogers.

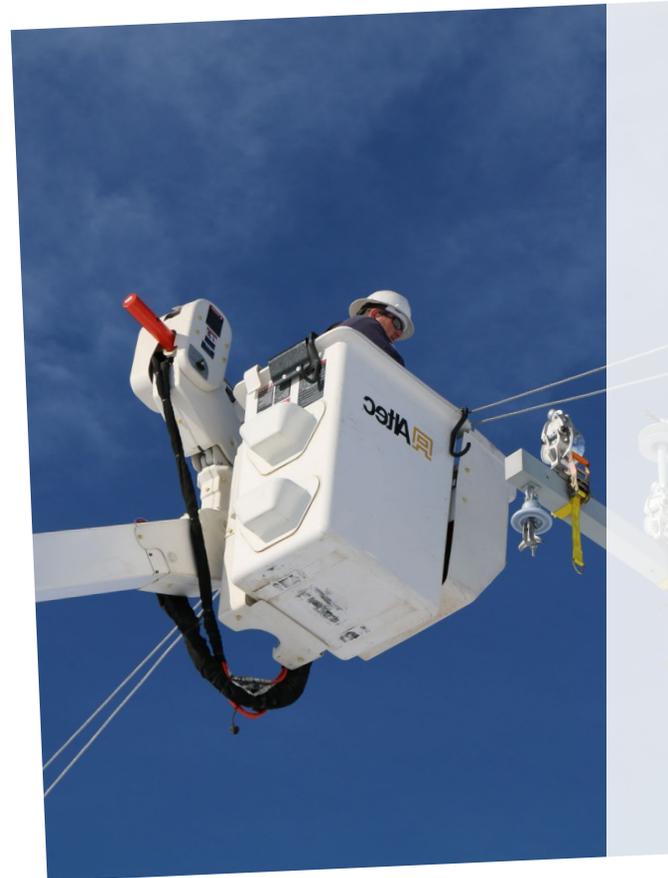
### **WELCOME:**

Director Laurie Forster welcomed the Membership and guests followed by introductions of the Board of Directors/spouses, Attorney and the General Manager.

### **OFFICIAL NOTICE OF QUORUM:**

Corporate Attorney Hank Bailey reported that a quorum had been met by the Member-Owners present. Mr. Bailey reported that the minutes of the 77th Annual Meeting of the Membership, held June 23, 2018, was published in the June edition of the Carbon Light Lines. Mr. Bailey asked for a motion to approve the amended minutes of the June 23, 2018 minutes. A Member-Owner from the floor motioned to accept the minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Members as presented. The motion was seconded and approved by the Membership.

### **JOINT REPORT BY PRESIDENT LAURIE FORSTER AND GENERAL MANAGER RUSSELL WALDNER:**



# MEMBERSHIP MEETING

President Forster and Mr. Waldner asked the membership to review their report. Member-Owners were encouraged to read the cooperative's publications; the WREN and the Carbon Light Lines. These two publications are vital in keeping the members up-to-date on issues that affect the day to day operations of the Cooperative. Mr. Parrie completed a slide show that entailed pictures of Carbon projects past and future.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Treasurer Daniel Hodgkiss reported on taxes paid by Carbon in 2018. Mr. Hodgkiss reported the annual audit would be taking place next week by Blodgett, Mickelsen & Adamson P.S. and that last year's audit results concluded no issues.

## **STUDENT CERTIFICATES:**

Certificates were presented to the 2019-2020 Scholarship recipients. Carbon's recipients were Noelle Peterson, Kieran Neville, Mattie A Stevenson, Sam Schneider, Mychaela Jackman and Kyleigh A Bingham. Tri-State recipients were Tiffany Bauer and Sean Stewart. Basin recipient was Mychaela Jackman

## **EMPLOYEE/DIRECTOR SERVICE:**

President Laurie Forster and Mr. Waldner presented certificates of service to the employees Trist Coffin and Matt Drake for 5 years of service, Bruce Manore for 20 years of service and David Cutbirth for 40 years of service. Mr. Waldner requested Mrs. Debbie Reichert to the stage and announced her retirement and thanked her for all the years of service. President Laurie Forster presented Director Kenny Curry for 10 years of service.

## **TRI-STATE REPORT:**

Carbon's Board representative for Tri-State, Director Richard Clifton, gave an

overview of WREA & Tri-State's operations over the past year. Director Clifton started off his report with three WREA points to discuss. Mr. Clifton reported there were two of Carbon's linemen interested in the International Program and they could be going to Bolivia. There is going to be a Cooperative Business class taught at the University of Wyoming that will help people understand what the cooperative business model is. It will be offered this fall. WREA has 13 kids from Wyoming in Washington DC right now at the Youth tour. Tri-State in CO is working hard with the Colorado Public Utility Commission is trying to govern them and Tri-State will comply. Mr. Clifton reported on the struggles that Tri-State is having with Guzman wanting to buy Tri-States assets and sell power back to Tri-State.

Director Clifton introduced the new CEO of Tri-State, Mr. Duane Highley. Mr. Highley thanked Carbon Power for starting their meeting with the pledge and an invocation. Mr. Highley was excited when he found out that the Carbon Logo was the exact Willie Wirehand he had been looking for to represent the west. Mr. Highley was very impressed with all Carbon is doing for the Scholarships we offer. He himself was a recipient of a cooperative scholarship. Mr. Highley stated he would do his best to keep reliable and affordable energy to Carbon's members. Mr. Highley reported he will make sure the electricity Tri-State supplies Carbon is reliable with the changes to the grid and with its transition to more wind and solar power.

## **ELECTION RESULTS:**

Attorney Hank Bailey reported that the Nominating Committee met in April to review the bylaws as they pertained to the process of nominating and electing Board Members. In April, the Chairman of those committees reported their

recommendations as follows:

District #1 -Incumbent Dan Hodgkiss from Saratoga  
District #3 -Incumbent Dick Clifton from Centennial

Since Directors in District in 1 and 3 are running unopposed for their respective District seats, they will continue to represent their District and serve another three-year term. The winner for District 2 for the next three-year term is Shae Johnson.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

No unfinished business was presented at this time.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

No new business was presented at this time.

## **PRIZES:**

Many great door prizes were given away to several lucky winners! Member-Owners who were present at the business meeting were entered in the drawings. One lucky winner walked away with \$500 CASH! Sadly, there were also a few missed opportunities at the annual meeting. Had Calobe Fletcher been at the business meeting, she would have won \$1,500 cash; James Schiefen would have won \$1,000 and Shawn Enriques would have won \$750. Mark R Gunnerson had registered for the meeting but must have left early, it was Eppie Esquibel, who was present at the business meeting and to win the \$500 cash drawing!

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

The 78th Annual Meeting of the Membership was adjourned at 1:46 P.M.

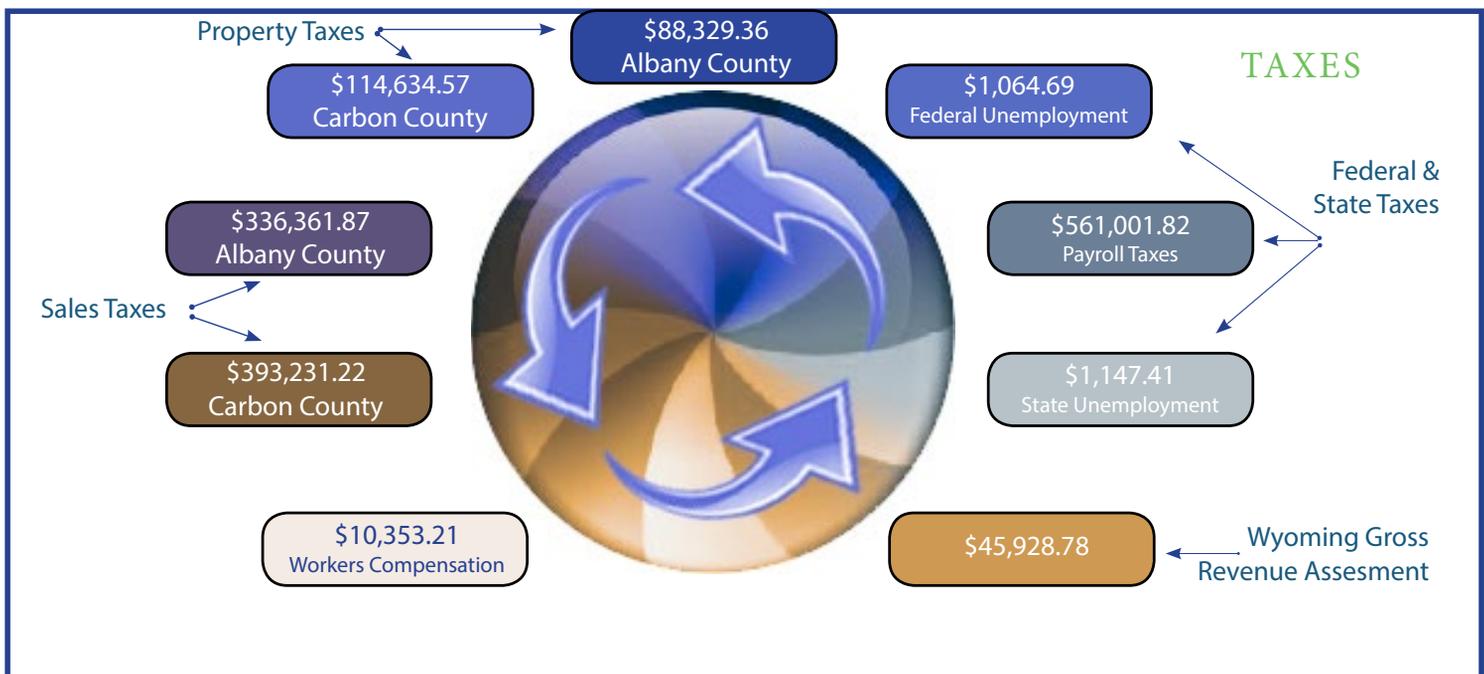
# 2018-2019 Financial Stats

Assets	2018	2019
Total Utility Plant	\$ 44,574,869	\$ 45,033,281
Less Depreciation	\$ 14,739,666	\$ 15,407,417
Net Utility Plant	\$ 29,835,203	\$ 29,625,864
Patronage Capital	\$ 10,448,075	\$ 10,550,793
Investments	\$ 5,187,801	\$ 3,255,946
Cash	\$ 540,293	\$ 456,756
Other	\$ 3,658,490	\$ 3,463,461
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$49,669,862</b>	<b>\$ 49,727,828</b>

Liabilities	2018	2019
Member Patronage Capital	\$ 25,433,720	\$ 25,938,637
Other Margins/Equity	\$ 4,123,677	\$ 4,401,809
RUS/CFC/FFB Liability	\$ 18,270,039	\$ 17,513,297
Accounts Payable	\$ 934,671	\$ 874,934
Consumer Deposits	\$ 120,962	\$ 93,286
Other Liabilities	\$ 786,793	\$ 905,865
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 49,699,862</b>	<b>\$ 49,727,828</b>

Revenue & Expenses	2018	2019
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 15,488,677</b>	<b>\$ 15,458,338</b>
Power Cost	\$ 8,855,603	\$ 8,609,093
Transmission Expense	\$ 53,369	\$ 110,061
Distribution Expense	\$ 2,300,431	\$ 2,355,597
Customer Service	\$ 658,604	\$ 692,919
Sales Expense	\$ 18,825	\$ 20,555
Administration & General	\$ 719,830	\$ 727,350
Depreciation	\$ 1,076,952	\$ 1,081,313
Tax Expense	\$ 46,506	\$ 46,115
Interest & Other	\$ 651,213	\$ 675,036
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 14,381,333</b>	<b>\$ 14,318,039</b>

Margins	2018	2019
Operating Margins	\$ 1,107,344	\$ 1,140,299
Non-Operation Margins	\$ 157,164	\$ 163,342
Allocated Affiliated Organization Capital Credits	\$ 431,705	\$ 478,894
<b>Net Margins</b>	<b>\$ 1,696,213</b>	<b>\$ 1,782,535</b>





# {SCHOLARSHIPS}

## Congratulations

Announcing the 2020 Carbon Power & Light, Tri-State G & T and Basin Electric scholarship winners. Carbon Power & Light awards \$8,000 in scholarships to High School students from Albany and Carbon Counties as part of its Commitment to Community Program. *The Board of Directors congratulate our member students and their families and wish them the very best in continuing their education.*

### Tri-State G&T \$500 Scholarship

### Basin Electric \$1,000 Scholarship



Memphis Smith  
Saratoga Middle H.S.



Reid Schroeder  
Encampment H.S.



Kaylyn Hunter  
Saratoga Middle H.S.

### Carbon Power & Light \$1,000 Scholarship



Richard L Seahorn  
Saratoga Middle H.S.



Riley Little  
Saratoga Middle H.S.



Lydia R Moore  
Rock River H.S.



Freddie Wagner  
Hanna Elk Mountain H.S.



Braeden A Spiegelberg  
Laramie H.S.



Alex Lake  
Laramie H.S.

# VOTING INSTRUCTIONS ~ 4 EASY STEPS

## DISTRICT 1 VOTING BALLOT

### Attention Member-Owners~

**Members from all Districts will be voting this year, but remember you can only vote for one Director in your District.**

**How do I know if I reside in District 1?** You are a Member-Owner from District 1 if you receive electrical service in or near **Ft Steele, Walcott, Saratoga, Ryan Park, Encampment and surrounding areas.**

Voting is a very important part of member participation in the democratic process of the Cooperative.

#### VOTING BY MAIL:

**1** -Mark your vote on the ballot below and place your ballot in the envelope marked "ballot envelope" and seal.

**2** -Place the ballot envelope in the postage paid reply envelope and seal. Both the ballot and business reply envelope are provided for you and are located in the middle of this magazine.

**3** -On the back of the Business Reply envelope, write your account number on the line provided. Your account number can be found on your bill at the top right hand corner second row. Then sign your name on the line provided and indicate your business title if applicable.

**4** -Mail the Business Reply envelope. Ballots must be returned in the envelopes as described above in order to be valid. Ballots must be received by 4:30 P.M. on Friday, June 26, 2020. Please allow sufficient time for delivery.

#### VOTING BY ABSENTEE:

Should Members decide to vote by absentee. The ballot box will be the drop box (payment box) in Encampment and in Saratoga.

#### WHO CAN VOTE?

##### **Single Membership:**

If a membership is single, not joint, only the Member whose name is on the account is registered and eligible to vote.

##### **Joint Membership:**

A joint membership with two or more names is entitled to only one vote. If one Member is away, the other can still vote.

##### **Businesses, Churches, Schools or Other Organizations:**

For memberships listed as businesses, churches, schools, or other organizations, only the authorized representative may vote on the ballot.

#### Validity of Ballots:

Valid votes shall be only those timely and properly received as outlined in these instructions. Ballots mailed-in are not valid unless returned in the two enclosed envelopes provided in this Notice.

#### Questions:

Call 800.359.0249 or 307.326.5206 Monday through Thursday, 7 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.



cut along dotted line

**Carbon Power & Light, Inc.**  
**The Official 2020 Voting Ballot**  
**District 1 Board of Director Election**  
Three Year Term  
SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2020

**To Vote:** Completely fill in the oval beside the name of the candidate of your choice and follow the "voting by mail" instruction as outlined above.

- Incumbent Laurie Forster
- Candidate David Fairbanks

# VOTING INSTRUCTIONS ~ 4 EASY STEPS

## DISTRICT 2 VOTING BALLOT

### Attention Member-Owners~

### Members from all Districts will be the voting this year.

The Director for District 2 is running unopposed. Member-Owners within District 2 still need to vote in order to be entered into our prize drawings.

**How do I know if I reside in District 2?** You are a Member-Owner from District 2 if you receive electrical service in **Elk Mountain, Rock River, Medicine Bow, McFadden, Arlington and surrounding areas.**

Voting is a very important part of member participation in the democratic process of the Cooperative.

#### **VOTING BY MAIL:**

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#### **VOTING BY ABSENTEE:**

Should Members decide to vote by absentee. The ballot box will be the drop box (payment box) in Rock River.

#### **WHO CAN VOTE?**

##### **Single Membership:**

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##### **Joint Membership:**

A joint membership with two or more names is entitled to only one vote. If one Member is away, the other can still vote.

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cut along dotted line



**Carbon Power & Light, Inc.**  
**The Official 2020 Voting Ballot**  
**District 2 Board of Director Election**  
Three Year Term  
SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2020

**To Vote:** Completely fill in the oval beside the name of the candidate of your choice and follow the "voting by mail" instruction as outlined above.



Candidate John Page

# VOTING INSTRUCTIONS ~ 4 EASY STEPS

## DISTRICT 3 VOTING BALLOT



cut along dotted line

### Carbon Power & Light, Inc.

## The Official 2020 Voting Ballot

### District 3 Board of Director Election

Three Year Term  
SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2020

**To Vote:** Completely fill in the oval beside the name of the candidate of your choice and follow the "voting by mail" instruction as outlined below.

Incumbent Clay Thompson

#### **Attention Member-Owners~**

**Members from all Districts will be the voting this year.** The Director for District 3 is running unopposed. Member-Owners within District 3 still need to vote in order to be entered into our prize drawings.

**How do I know if I reside in District 3?** You are a Member-Owner from District 3 if you receive electrical service in or near **Woodedge, Bosler, Centennial, Laramie, Boulder Ridge, Tie Siding and surrounding areas.**

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#### **VOTING BY MAIL:**

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Carbon Power & Light, Inc.  
Saratoga WY.

- Laurie Forster** Board President
- Jim Rogers** Board Vice President
- Gary Jacobsen** Board Secretary
- Daniel Hodgkiss** Board Treasurer
- Clay Thompson** Director
- Jon Page** Director
- Kenny Curry** Director
- Shae Johnson** Director
- Richard Clifton** Director

Carbon Power & Light is a not-for-profit, member-owned, member served electric utility cooperative serving approximately 4,000 Member-Owners with 26 full time employees. Approximately 6,200 meters cover a span of 4,500 square miles with an average of 3.2 meters per mile of power line in Albany and Carbon Counties.



Tiffany Moore photo by Joe Parrie



Nick Cary photo by Joe Parrie



# CARBON POWER & LIGHT

Annual Report to the membership

**Vote!**

DO NOT throw away  
your chance to win!!  
Member-Owners who mail in  
their vote for the election of  
Directors will be entered in a  
drawing for a chance to win  
**\$500.00** in prize money!

