

News source for Wyoming co-op owners since 1954

# WREN

Most  
Important  
Issue

WYOMING RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS MAY 2024



Photo by Joe Parrie

## OFFICIAL NOTICE of the

83<sup>rd</sup>

Annual Meeting of the membership  
of CARBON POWER & LIGHT

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

SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 2024

CARBON POWER & LIGHT'S  
83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting  
of the Membership

Platte Valley Community Center  
201 W. Elm St.  
Saratoga, WY  
10:30 A.M.

Complimentary Luncheon  
Bingo  
Energy Efficiency Information  
Capital Credit Checks  
Door Prizes  
Cash Give-a-Way

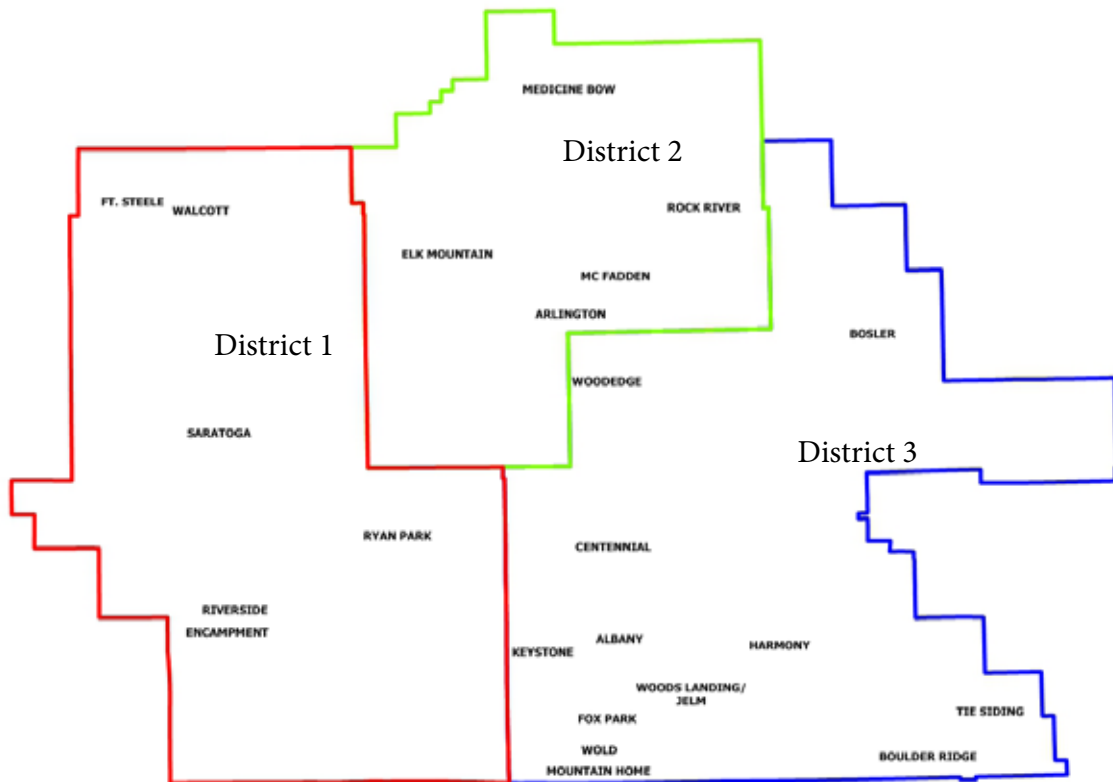
**SEE YOU THERE!**  
Details inside

Carbon Light Lines May 2024



Member Owned ~ Service Proud  
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

# CARBON'S SERVICE TERRITORY



## District Board Members

### District 1 - 1,997 Members

Gary Jacobsen - Encampment  
Roger Cox - Saratoga  
Debbie Reichert - Encampment

### District 2 - 344 Members

Shae Johnson - Elk Mountain  
Everett Summers - Elk Mountain  
Kenny Curry - Rock River - Incumbent

### District 3 - 1,994 Members

Joe Devine - Centennial  
Clay Thompson - Big Laramie  
Jim Rogers - Little Laramie - Incumbent


## Quick Overview

### 2023

6,703 Meters  
26 Employees  
121 Miles of Transmission Line  
1,685 Miles of Overhead Distribution Line  
211 Miles of Underground Distribution Line  
3.3 Member-Owners per Mile of Line  
\$0.12003 Residential kWh Rate  
705 kWh/mo. (avg.) Used for Residential/Rural  
3,312 kWh/mo. (avg.) Used for Irrigation  
1941 Year Incorporated  
Power Supplier - Tri-State Generation & Transmission





Member Owned ~ Service Proud  
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

# CARBON LIGHT LINES

May 2024



## INSIDE

President and Manager's Report  
Director Candidate Profiles  
Voting Information for all District  
2023 Annual Meeting Minutes  
Scholarship Recipients  
Financial Stats

# PRESIDENT AND MANAGER



*Jim Rogers*  
*President*

There is a sincere sense of pride associated with writing this report. That sense of pride stems from the fact that Carbon Power and Light Inc., your Rural Electric Cooperative is celebrating its 83rd Year of successfully providing distribution electric service to our Member-Owners. So...what is the "Cooperative" difference? Carbon Power and Light Inc., along with all other Rural Electric Cooperatives across the nation, adhere to seven guiding principles:

- **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.

- **Democratic Member-Owner Control:** Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their Member-Owners, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected Board of Directors is accountable to the membership. Cooperative Member-Owners have equal voting rights (one Member-Owner, one vote).

- **Member-Owner Economic Participation:** Member-Owners contribute equitably to and democratically control the capital of their Cooperative.

- **Autonomy and Independence:** Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their Member-Owners. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure the democratic control by their Member-Owners and maintain their Cooperative autonomy.

- **Education, Training and Information:** Cooperatives provide education and training for their Member-Owners, elected Directors, Managers and Employees so that they can contribute effectively to the development of the Cooperative.

- **Cooperation among Cooperatives:** Cooperatives serve their Member-Owners most effectively and strengthen the Cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

- **Concern for Community:** While focusing on Member-Owner needs, Cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by the Member-Owners.

One of the key elements vital to achieving the Cooperative's ties to its Member-Owners and its ability to adhere to the aforementioned principles is our monthly Cooperative newsletter called "Carbon Light Lines". During this past year, this newsletter has included articles informing you about the progress of:

- Our additions to our team and our long time employee that have met their goal of retirement.

- Tri-State our Cooperative power supplier and the challenges they face in maintaining reliable affordable power.

- We informed you about our possible consolidation that your Cooperative is analyzing to improve Member-Owner service and cost savings.

- The Cooperative newsletter and the statewide publication "The WREN Magazine" also provided you information specific to state, regional and national issues impacting the Cooperative's operation, such as the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) efforts to use their regulatory authority to regulate carbon dioxide (CO2).

As Member-Owners of Carbon Power and Light, you should be very proud the Cooperative's many achievements and of the governance role you have played over the past 83 years to make your Cooperative one of the best...we certainly are.

**We hope to see you at the 83rd Annual Meeting of your Cooperative.**



*Russell Waldner*  
*General Manager*



# DIRECTOR CANDIDATE PROFILES

## Nominating Committees Report

The 2024 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  
Mark Shirley  
Jon Nelson

District 2  
Bobby Heward  
Rodney Thornburg  
Gerald LeBeau

District 3  
Juanita Engen  
Dick Clifton  
Raymond Leach

The following is a report from the Nominating Committee Members who met in April 2024.

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 - 3 year term  
Open Position

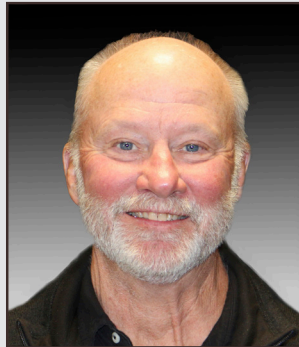
District 2 - 3 year term  
Kenny Curry

District 3 - 3 year term  
Jim Rogers

## District 1

## Shawn Brown

District 1 Candidate



*I worked in the coal mines for 37 years, retiring in 2017. During my career I had the opportunity to be involved in all aspects of underground mining, production, maintenance and planning. I believe that with the*

*experience I gained not only from the mining aspect but also on the personal level as well, will be very beneficial if I am appointed to the board.*

*Sincerely,*

*Shawn Brown*



Gary Jacobsen is retiring from the Carbon Power & Light Board of Directors. Thank you Gary for the 20 years you served the members of Carbon. We wish you the very best in your retirement.

# DIRECTOR CANDIDATE PROFILES

## District 2

### Kenny Curry

District 2 Incumbent



*My wife, Patti and I are lifelong residents of Albany and Carbon counties.*

*I reside in Rock River, Wyoming. I have been on the board since being appointed in September of 2008 and was elected to the board in June of 2009.*

*I have really enjoyed representing the members of District 2.*

*I attend each meeting with an open mind and try to*

*make decisions that are best for providing reliable and affordable electricity to our members. I value all of our employees very highly and will continue to have the best training and the best advanced and reliable equipment for them to do their job.*

*I look forward to the possibility of serving another term as Director. I will do my best to honor your vote. Thank you!*

## MISSION STATEMENT

**C**ontinually Communicate our Commitment to Community;

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

**&**

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

## District 3

### Jim Rogers

District 3 Incumbent



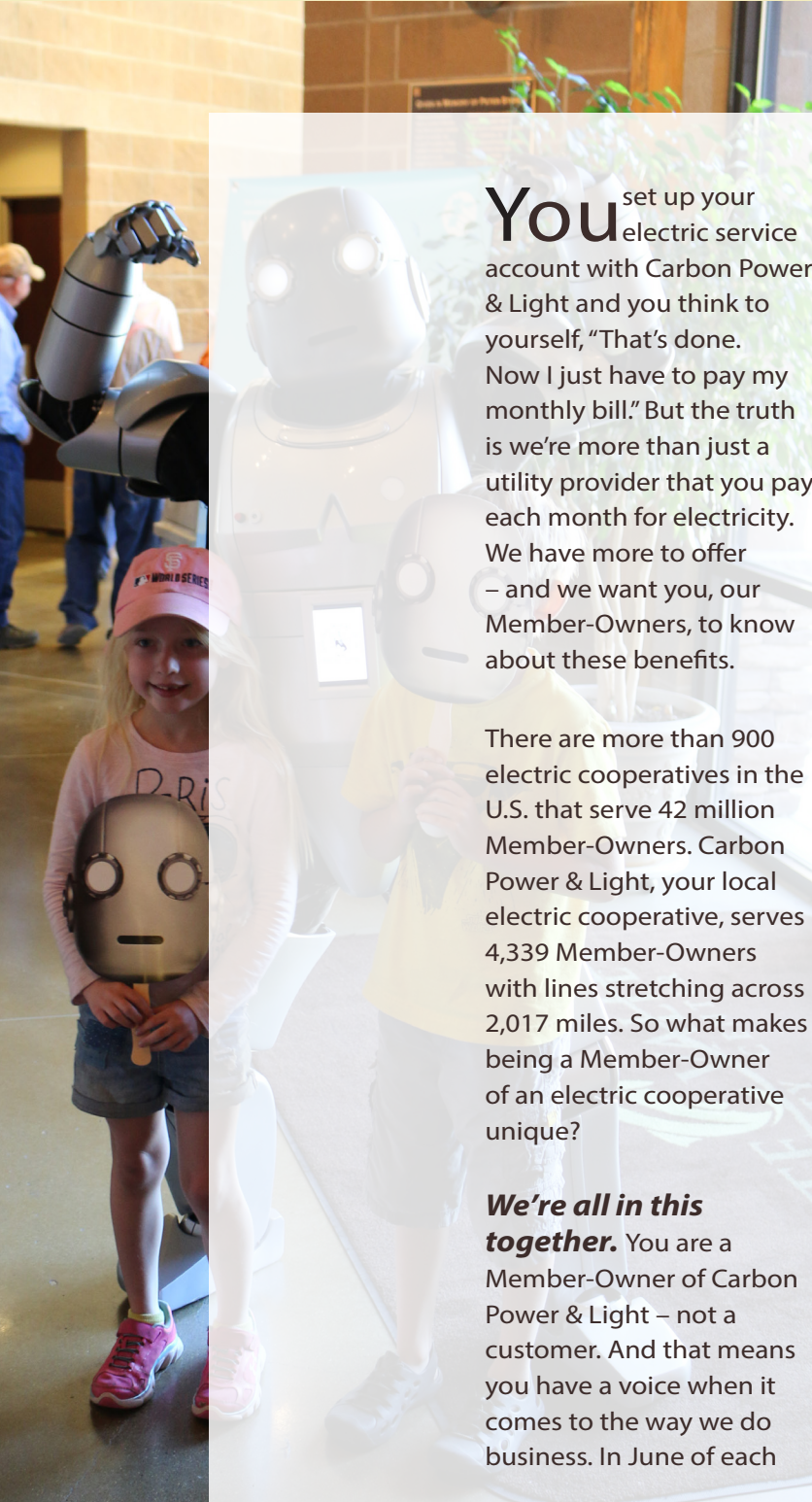
*I have served on Carbon Power and Light's Board for years. It has been a great experience for me, and I feel that I have listened and have answered the concerns of District 3's co-op owners, who have shared their thoughts with me.*

*Please elect me to be one of your representatives from District 3 for another three years.*

*Thank you,  
Jim Rogers*

# CO-OP MEMBER-OWNERSHIP

## Exploring the unique benefits of Cooperative Member-Ownership



**You** set up your electric service account with Carbon Power & Light and you think to yourself, “That’s done. Now I just have to pay my monthly bill.” But the truth is we’re more than just a utility provider that you pay each month for electricity. We have more to offer – and we want you, our Member-Owners, to know about these benefits.

There are more than 900 electric cooperatives in the U.S. that serve 42 million Member-Owners. Carbon Power & Light, your local electric cooperative, serves 4,339 Member-Owners with lines stretching across 2,017 miles. So what makes being a Member-Owner of an electric cooperative unique?

***We’re all in this together.*** You are a Member-Owner of Carbon Power & Light – not a customer. And that means you have a voice when it comes to the way we do business. In June of each

year, you have the option to vote for your Board of Directors. These directors play a key role in making important decisions for our co-op, which is why Member-Owners’ voices must be heard.

***We’re local.*** It’s likely that you know an employee of Carbon Power & Light. Our employees – your friends and neighbors – share the same concerns for our community that you do. Each year, Carbon Power & Light participates in community activities/ organizations, (4-H/ FFA clubs, school safety demonstrations, the Youth Leadership Program, scholarships, etc.). To learn more about our mission to strengthen our community, visit [www.carbonpower.com](http://www.carbonpower.com).

***We’re non-profit.*** Carbon Power & Light doesn’t offer profits to investors—we return money over and above operating costs to you, our

Member-Owners, based on electricity consumption. Annually, electric co-ops nationwide return millions of dollars to Member-Owners through this capital credits process. Last year, Carbon Power & Light Member-Owners received \$905,889.35 in the form of capital credits.

***We’re here for you.*** At Carbon Power & Light, our mission is to provide you with safe, reliable, and affordable electricity. We care about our Member-Owners’ quality of life, which is why our employees are continuously finding innovative ways to improve our service.

These are just a few facts about electric cooperatives that make us unique. For more information about Carbon Power & Light and the services we offer, visit [www.carbonpower.com](http://www.carbonpower.com).



# 2023 MINUTES OF THE 82<sup>ND</sup>!!



## 2023

## Unofficial minutes of the 82<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

### Call to order:

Director Shae Johnson called the 82<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting of the membership to order at 12:30 P.M. on June 24, 2023 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 those we have lost, then the invocation was given by President Jim Rogers.

### Reading of the Official Notice

Attorney Hank Bailey read the Official Notice of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting printed in the May edition of the cooperative's newsletter in the WREN magazine.

### Official Notice of Quorum:

Attorney Hank Bailey reported that a quorum was present with registered Member-Owners.

### 2023 Minutes:

Attorney Hank Bailey asked for a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the 2023 Annual Meeting of the Membership. A Member-Owner from the floor motioned to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and approved without dissent.

Joint Report by President Jim Rogers and General Manager Russell Waldner: President Rogers and Mr. Waldner

reported their written report was in the WREN and reminded everyone that Carbon has not had any rate increases since 2017. Mr. Parrie completed a slide show that entailed pictures of Carbon's new substations. Mr. Waldner inquired if there were any questions from the floor. None were asked.

### Treasurers Report:

Treasurer Debbie Reichert reported on the taxes paid by Carbon in 2022. Mrs. Reichert reported the annual audit would be taking place in July by Blodgett, Mickelsen & Adamson P.S. and that last year's audit results concluded no issues.

### Student Scholarships:

Scholarship certificates were presented to the 2021-2022 scholarship recipients. Carbon's recipients were Allison Bromley, Cora Schroeder, Peyton Munroe, Whitney Bennett, Mia Codallos and Iylie Mae Hobbs. Tri-State recipients were Rowdy Alameda and Hannah Lee. Basin recipient was Gabi Johnson.

### Service Awards:

President Jim Rogers and Mr. Waldner presented certificate of service to the employees; Mr. Jim McKinney for 20 years, Mr. Josh Saier for 15 years and Mr. Corry Juhnke for 5 years. Mr. Waldner presented the certificate of service



# MEMBERSHIP MEETING

on the Board to Directors to Director Shae Johnson for 5 years Director Clay Thompson for 15 years and Director Gary Jacobsen for 20 years.

## Tri-State Report:

Carbon's Board representative for Tri-State for 2021, Director Clay Thompson, reviewed Tri-State's operations over that year. Director Thompson engaged the crowd into telling him what the most important item to them was. Affordability, Reliability, Flexibility and Responsibility. Reliability won easily.

Director Thompson introduced the Chief Energy Innovations Officer for Tri-State, Mr. Reg Rudolph. Mr. Rudolph stated he would do his best to keep reliable and affordable energy for Carbon's members.

WREA report Director Kenny Curry introduced Executive Director for WREA Shawn Taylor. He reported on Lineman's Appreciation Day with the Governor Gordon. He talked about the Lineman Scholarship the WREA gives away annually. The Youth Tour that just got back from Washington DC. He then reported on the last legislations sessions that had impact on the Cooperatives.

## Election Results:

Attorney Hank Bailey reported that the Nominating Committees met in April to review the bylaws as they pertained to the process of

nominating and electing Board Members. The Directors in District 1 and 2 are running unopposed for their respective District seats. They will continue to represent District 1 and 2.

District 1 Roger Cox for a 3 year term and District 2 -Incumbent Everett Summers from Rock River for a 3-year term. Director Election results for District 3 are Incumbent Clay Thompson was elected for a 3 year term.

## Unfinished Business:

There was no unfinished business.

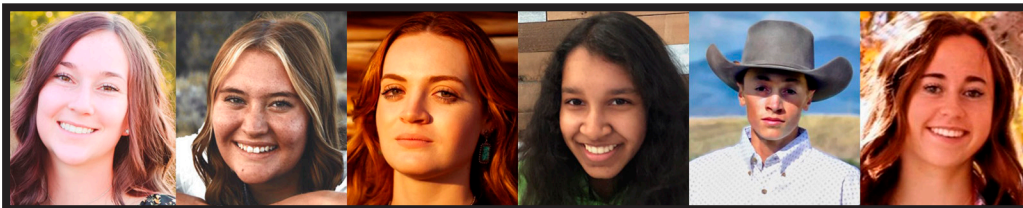
## New Business:

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 Troy Thompson been at the business meeting, he would have won \$1,500 cash; Jo A Cope would have won \$1,000 and Tom W Mickelson would have won \$750. It was Joe Remick, who was present at the business meeting and who won the \$500 cash drawing!

## Adjournment:

There being no further business on the agenda, the 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Membership was adjourned at 2:05 P.M.





## {SCHOLARSHIPS}

# *Congratulations*

Announcing the 2024 Carbon Power & Light,  
Tri-State G & T and Basin Electric scholarship winners.  
Carbon Power & Light awards \$18,000 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.*

### *Carbon Power & Light \$3,000 Scholarships*



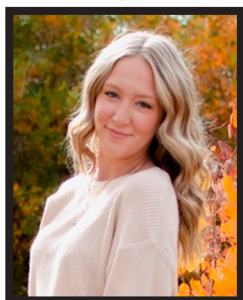
Makenna King  
Saratoga H.S.



Ryon Miller  
Encampment H.S.



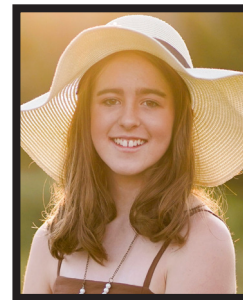
Mackenzie Priest  
Hanna Elk Mountain H.S.



Mikayla Alexander  
Rock River HS

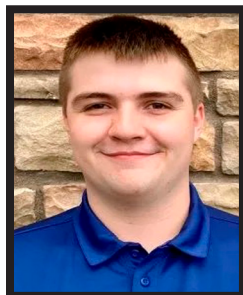


Addison K Forry  
Laramie H.S.



Marilee Williams  
Saratoga H.S.

### *Tri-State G&T \$500 Scholarships*



Logan Robinson  
Saratoga H.S.



Anna Peterson  
Saratoga H.S.

### *Basin Electric \$1,000 Scholarship*



Fischer Williams  
Saratoga H.S.



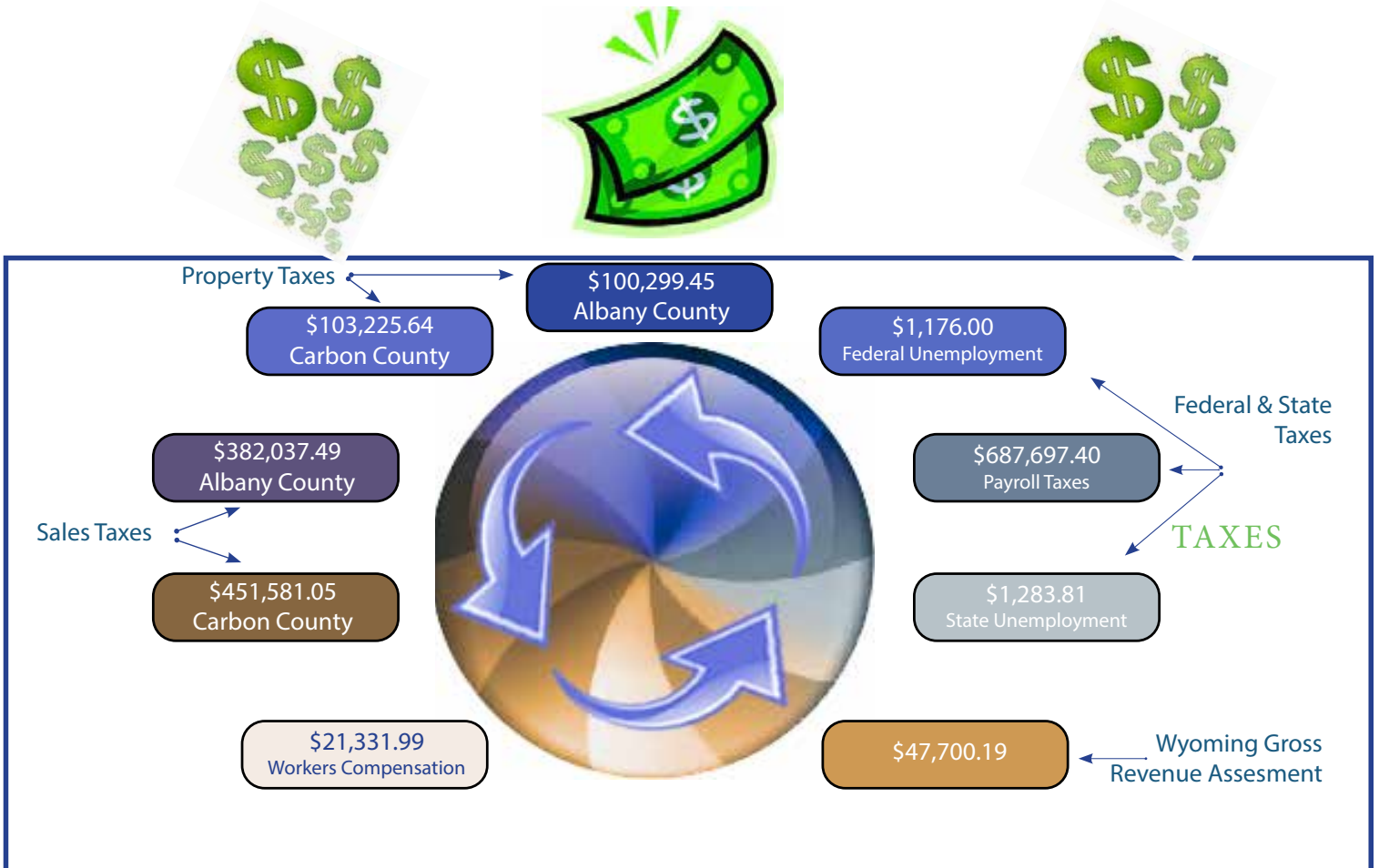
# 2022-2023 Financial Stats

| Assets              | 2022                 | 2023                 |
|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Total Utility Plant | \$ 56,097,201        | \$ 58,575,192        |
| Less Depreciation   | \$ 18,603,465        | \$ 19,577,847        |
| Net Utility Plant   | \$ 37,493,736        | \$ 38,997,345        |
| Patronage Capital   | \$ 10,573,008        | \$ 10,567,551        |
| Investments         | \$ 4,860,537         | \$ 4,981,694         |
| Cash                | \$ 324,656           | \$ 857,914           |
| Other               | \$ 3,774,221         | \$ 3,370,583         |
| <b>Total Assets</b> | <b>\$ 57,026,158</b> | <b>\$ 58,775,087</b> |

| Revenue & Expenses       | 2022                 | 2023                 |
|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Total Revenue</b>     | <b>\$ 15,900,063</b> | <b>\$ 16,076,859</b> |
| Power Cost               | \$ 8,415,142         | \$ 8,456,788         |
| Transmission Expense     | \$ 50,782            | \$ 61,087            |
| Distribution Expense     | \$ 2,571,449         | \$ 2,746,809         |
| Customer Service         | \$ 775,761           | \$ 848,972           |
| Sales Expense            | \$ 18,364            | \$ 17,182            |
| Administration & General | \$ 869,329           | \$ 910,043           |
| Depreciation             | \$ 1,220,936         | \$ 1,282,527         |
| Tax Expense              | \$ 36,984            | \$ 47,860            |
| Interest & Other         | \$ 711,820           | \$ 739,791           |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>\$ 14,670,567</b> | <b>\$ 15,111,059</b> |

| Liabilities              | 2022                 | 2023                 |
|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Member Patronage Capital | \$ 23,799,057        | \$ 24,329,954        |
| Other Margins/Equity     | \$ 7,840,969         | \$ 7,749,454         |
| RUS/CFC/FFB Liability    | \$ 23,099,952        | \$ 24,537,441        |
| Accounts Payable         | \$ 1,055,510         | \$ 856,641           |
| Consumer Deposits        | \$ 136,535           | \$ 85,659            |
| Other Liabilities        | \$ 1,094,135         | \$ 1,215,938         |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>\$ 57,026,158</b> | <b>\$ 58,775,087</b> |

| Margins   | 2022                | 2023                |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| Operating Margins                                 | \$ 1,229,496        | \$ 965,800          |
| Non-Operation Margins                             | \$ 127,243          | \$ 313,347          |
| Allocated Affiliated Organization Capital Credits | \$ 220,237          | \$ 123,898          |
| <b>Net Margins</b>                                | <b>\$ 1,576,976</b> | <b>\$ 1,403,045</b> |







## OFFICIAL NOTICE

FOR CARBON POWER & LIGHT, INC.'S  
83<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP

*Carbon Power & Light, Inc. invites you to the 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Membership that will be held at the Platte Valley Community Center, 201 W. Elm St. in Saratoga, Wyoming.*

*Registration begins at 10:30 A.M., complimentary lunch at 11:00 A.M., bingo at 11:30 A.M. and the business meeting will begin at 12:30 P.M. on Saturday, June 22, 2024.*

*The purpose of the meeting is for the election of Directors from each district and for the transaction of such other business that may come before the Membership.*

*Plan now to attend and make this the best Annual Meeting we have ever had.*

*Gary Jacobsen, Secretary*



## AGENDA

FOR CARBON POWER & LIGHT, INC.'S  
83<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP

Call to Order  
Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation  
Welcome and Introduction of Guests  
Establish a Quorum  
Approval of the 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes  
President and Manager Report  
Treasurer's Report  
Recognition of Scholarship Winners  
Employee & Director Recognition Awards

Tri-State Report by Senior VP & CFO Todd Telesz  
WREA Report  
Report of Board Elections  
Unfinished Business  
New Business  
Adjournment

*\*Door Prizes will be given throughout the course of the meeting.*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Carbon Power & Light, Inc.  
Saratoga WY.

**Jim Rogers** Board President

**Clay Thompson** Board Vice President

**Gary Jacobsen** Board Secretary

**Debbie Reichert** Board Treasurer

**Roger Cox** Director

**Everett Summers** Director

**Kenny Curry** Director

**Shae Johnson** Director

**Joe Devine** Director

Carbon Power & Light is a non-profit, member-owned, member-served electric utility cooperative serving approximately 4,400 Member-Owners with 26 full time employees. Approximately 6,676 meters cover a span of 4,500 square miles with an average of 3.3 meters per mile of power line in Albany and Carbon Counties.