

32nd year 9th Issue

October 2021

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October is National Cooperative Month. 1

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NEA will be in town with kid bags for Halloween and community trick or treating among business. We hope you join us on main street!



Since 1930, October has been designated as National Cooperative Month.

Your Cooperative, Niobrara Electric Association, held its first recorded meeting at the Niobrara County Court house in July of 1941; incorporation followed in October of that year and the Association's business has been being conducted uninterrupted with the exception of years 43' and 44', presumably do to hardship associated with WWII.

2021 business has been extremely fast paced compared to most. As we move forward in areas of line expansion, upgrades of technology, system stream lining, etc., we continue to work for our membership's best interest in value for dollars spent and reliability of service. We are "Owned by those we serve".



Recently NEA attended the Niobrara Health and Safety Fair where we educated attendees on electrical safety via a trailer mounted demonstration unit.

Because Wyoming has strong "Cooperation among Co-ops", we were able to borrow from our neighbor, Wheatland REA, their demo trailer for this educational experience.

In the adjacent photo, Line Superintendent Jason Fish conducts a walk through of Wheatland REA's demo trailer setup in preparation for Niobrara's demonstration day.

The arch of fire coming off of the mannequins' fingers is a powerful visual. In controlled environments, like our distribution line with all intact safety equipment, the current is invisible.

Absent from sight, the enormity of electricity's power is often misjudged or all together taken for granted. Demos like this bring the focus back on electrical safety.



Rough Digging on Radar Tower Project.

Some days the work is easier than others. In our expansive service territory, power needs to be run through a variety of terrain.

200 feet of 3 phase underground line recently went in for the Radar Tower site South of Manville.

NEA member Justen Miller with Miller Enterprises accomplished the digging task for NEA using his heavy equipment, making way for the service extension and upgrade.

A fair amount of planning is necessary for these types of projects. Locates, engineering, ordering/ material delivery (challenging in today's economy)

along with, equipment scheduling and crew availability all come into play. Finally, scheduling cut-in work to complete the process.

When digging to lay underground line (URD), a minimum depth of 55 inches was required.

Gravel is also required to bed line so the boulders don't cut the cable.

Particular attention is also required to ensure back filling goes smoothly, avoiding damage to the cable.



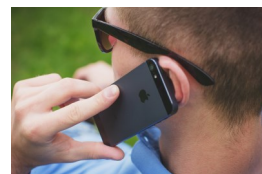
The children's attention was captured by Dylan Haas' demonstration of agility & skills by a line worker while being properly secured on a power pole during his climbing lesson at Wyoming State Fair.



Sarah Jo Goddard showed no fear while learning about pole climbing & safety during NEA's Day at Wyoming State Fair.

Please remember to call our office (307-334-3221 or 800-322-0544) with updated contact information when you change or add phone numbers, remove land lines for cell phones, and/or have a new resident on one of your services.

When we call with scheduled outage information or in emergencies, we need **CURRENT** and **CORRECT** names and numbers to best serve you.



nea@niobrara-electric.org

PO Box 697 Lusk, WY 82225

"This institution is an equal
opportunity provider and
employer."



Touchstone EnergySM

Office Hours

Monday—Thursday

7:30 am—5:00 pm

Friday 7:30 am—4 pm

Outages1-800-322-0544
or 307-334-3221

Phones are answered 24
hours a day.

Phones will be answered by
Niobrara Electric Association
during office hours and SRS
will take all other calls and
dispatch NEA personnel.

As a reminder on digging projects:

There are five steps to safer digging:

1. Pre-mark the proposed dig area with white paint or flags.
2. Call 811 or go online to submit your locate request before you dig. There is no charge for the service.
3. Wait the required amount of time (typically two business days).
4. Respect the marks and do not move any flags.
5. Dig with care. Avoid digging on top of or within 18–24 inches on all sides of utility marks, which may mean moving your digging project to another area.

For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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|-----------------|---|-----------------|----------------|
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| JD Wasserburger | 2 | Lusk, WY | Vice President |

Board Minutes

Management Report—FERC Approval of Tri-State Wholesale Rate Settlement discussed. Cost of Service Study coming. Service Orders review. Tri-State Letter of Support for Rural Community Assistance discussed. Homestead Funds, Donations, Guidelines addressed.

Director Wilson report on Tri-State business.

Director Keener report on NREA business.

Director Wasserburger replaced Andy Greer on WREA Board.

We are a member of

