



Niobrara Electric Association

24th year 1st Issue

February 2012

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**Enjoy your retirement,  
Sheldon!**



**Manager Albertson will be  
in the NEA office through  
the 2nd week of February.**

**Best wishes in the future!**



Join us in welcoming, John Blackstock to NEA. John is the taking over as Master Electrician, having started work January 9, 2012.

John received his Master License in 1982 and for most of the last 22 years, has commuted to Alaska where he worked as a Quality Control Inspector.

John was born in Washington D.C. and grew up in the Virginia area. He came to Wyoming in 1969, living in Casper since then and raising his family there.

The variety of work which the NEA Electrician Department covers appeals to John and he has eagerly begun acclimating to his new position.

Gardening is among John's favorite activities, as is leather braiding.



## NEA Line extension for Wyoming National Guard runway building project

Among the construction jobs keeping NEA Linemen busy this Winter was the line extension & construction project they completed in December for the Camp Guernsey Wyoming National Guard; who had built a new gravel aircraft runway in the Patten Creek area near Glendo reservoir.

Nearly 4 months of planning, ordering and construction went into the mile of new underground service. Littrel Construction out of Chadron, NE., ripped and plowed the site. Using their bulldozer, they plowed in cable and conduit simultaneously, at a depth of 4ft.



Thank you for the response so far in updating our records. However, we are still requesting all remaining members who have not yet phoned in or written in on billing stubs their current cell phone numbers, please do so. We want to be as efficient as possible in contact during both routine and emergency situations. We also encourage you to give us descriptions to accompany each of your meters, so that identification is simplified.



In January, NEA's 69 KV line switch installation was completed, just south of Meridian RD, off of HWY 85. The new switching gear (pictured above) allows NEA to open the line going to the Cheyenne River pump station without having to take an outage by killing the Lance Creek and Hat creek substations.

The planning and bidding phase took roughly two months for Line Superintendent, Rick Bridge, to assemble and finalize. Ward Electric out of Casper, then followed with the construction phase, running a 5 man crew to complete the project in the scheduled time frame.

In addition to the switching equipment installation, several new poles were set, replacing 13 rotted-out ones and 2 damaged by fire.

For aircraft safety, a Tanau ball was also placed on the line crossing HWY 85 while crew and equipment where on-site.

***Don't forget, applications for Basin Electric, Tri-State G&T and NEA sponsored scholarship are due in the NEA office by 5:00 p.m., Friday, February 24, 2012.***

***Other scholarship opportunities, with varying due dates, remain available on the NEA website.  
[niobrara-electric.org](http://niobrara-electric.org)***

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### Office Hours

Monday—Thursday  
7:30 am—5:00 pm  
Fridays 7:30 am—4:00 pm  
Electricians Department  
7:00 am—5:30 pm (M-Th)

**Outages** ....1-800-322-0544

or 307-334-3221

Phones are answered 24 hours a day. Phones will be answered by Niobrara Electric Association during office hours and the Niobrara County Sheriff's office will take all other calls and dispatch NEA personnel.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### District

John Hester President	1	Lusk, WY
John Bruch	2	Lusk, WY
David Keener Sec./Treas	3	Marsland, NE
Bill Wilson	3	Harrison, NE
Jack Hammond	1	Lance Creek, WY
Robert Shockley	3	Harrison, NE
Kenny DeGering Vice President	2	Lusk, WY
Andy Greer	1	Manville, WY
JD Wasserburger	2	Lusk, WY

It has been said, that when you truly enjoy your job, it is not work. I believe that is not only a true statement but, has been the case in my time at NEA. The last eleven plus years have been a wonderful, challenging time for me. It has also been said that a successful life is reflected in the number of friends a person acquires, and my experience here at NEA has allowed me to make innumerable friends and acquaintances, with colleagues, members and community folks. I would like to think that we (the entire NEA organization), have brought progress to the association and made life better for our membership in some small way.

NEA, for nearly seven decades, has been a work in progress and will continue to be the same for the foreseeable future. Its strength is in its membership and the quality of its Board and workers who never hesitate to go the extra mile to accomplish what needs to be done.

As I prepare to leave the organization, I will do so smiling and grateful for the opportunity to serve a great cause and salt of the earth people. I look forward to the challenges ahead for myself and my family and will continue the practice as I have in the office; the door is always open, the coffee pot is on and everyone is welcome. God-speed to all of you.

My sincere thanks,  
Sheldon Albertson

## Boardroom News

### November/December Board Meeting

- NEA Attorney, John Skavdahl, briefly discussed collections and gave an update on CoBank and RUS applications.
- Manager Albertson reported filing two securities agreements with the PSC concerning CoBank and RUS and presented a preliminary 2012 budget. Personnel issues were discussed.
- Directors Keener and Hammond reported on Tri-State issues. Director Keener also discussed NREA Annual Meeting and Director Greer discussed WREA events.