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In the May Newsletter, retiring board member John Bruch was credited with having served 20 years. It is correct that John served the last 20 years in District 2. However, he previously served from 1982-1991 as a Director in District 1, before having to step-down when he became a town of Lusk resident.

We wanted to give John full credit for both terms of service on the Niobrara Board of Directors.

The dry, warm and windy Spring helped encourage a number of our irrigators to request early turn on of their systems in April. If the weather trend persists, it will be a robust irrigation season.

Depending on Mother Nature, this year's fire season may prove prolonged and costly on many fronts. Thus far, NEA has only had 2 poles replaced due to fire from direct lightning strike or in the path of a grass fire. However, with an average cost of \$1200.00 to purchase and install a simple, single phase pole, low replacement numbers can still be costly and the dollars only increase in access restrictive areas and/or with three phase; Summer storms and the height of lightning season is still to come.

Membership participation in catching broken insulators, broken cross arms, downed power lines and other maintenance issues, improves our ability to deal with on-going and emergency maintenance in less time and with more efficiency. We encourage your calls and appreciate the information.





Top to bottom and Left to right: Apprentice Lineman Levi Clark, Journeyman Kurtis Towns, NE Line Foreman Doug Randall, Journeyman Brandon Arnold, Apprentice Lineman Rick Scott.

Recently, all NEA line crew completed their yearly Pole Top Rescue training. Should a co-worker become disabled and/or unconscious while working up a pole, the field training with a life-size mannequin is designed to prepare participants for proficiency in the art of rescue using only their knowledge and field equipment.

Pictured on the adjacent page and to the right are different stages of the process. A seasoned lineman can execute a rescue in less than five minutes; every minute saved in an emergency is important for the best outcome.



WHEN IT COMES TO ELECTRICITY,
STOP AND THINK ABOUT IT FIRST!

CAUTION: BEFORE YOU TOUCH ANY ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT, STOP AND CONSIDER THE DANGER.

- ALWAYS REGARD POWER LINES AS ENERGIZED, EVEN IF THEY ARE BROKEN OR LYING ON THE GROUND.
- HIGH VOLTAGE CAN MAME AND KILL.
- OUR LINEMEN ARE EXPERIENCE AND CARRY THE CORRECT EQUIPMENT; WORKING ON PARTS OF THE NEA SYSTEM WITHOUT THIS EXPERIENCE AND EQUIPMENT CAN RESULT IN DEATH.
- TAKE THE TIME TO CALL US. WE WILL RESPOND AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.
- LOOK UP AND LIVE!

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Touchstone EnergySM

Office Hours

Monday—Thursday

7:30 am—5:00 pm

Fridays 7:30 am—
4:00 pm

Electricians Depart-
ment

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 the Niobrara County Sheriff's office will take all other calls and dispatch NEA personnel.

Time flies when you're having fun! It's been four months since I arrived in Lusk, almost 6 since I knew I was headed this way, and I am finally getting to write an article for the newsletter. I want to start out by saying thank you to all the people who I have met that have been so welcoming. After I had made the decision to take this job, I was asked by many friends and neighbors "why there?" and I could only answer that the job looked like a good opportunity and the community looked like a good place to raise our family.

In the time that I have been here, I have been fortunate to meet many of the area residents and spent some time in the local businesses and have had only positive encounters with all. After spending some time travelling around the system and sightseeing after work, I have found that this area has many unique and beautiful things to see. Also, it is within a reasonable drive to many of the areas that we would like to explore as a family.

As this newsletter reaches your doorstep, the rest of my family will be arriving to start our new life here. I know that they will begin to be involved in the community and meet many new people and I am sure that they will have many positive things to say also.

Over the coming months, I plan on addressing industry and company related topics. If you have any suggestions, questions, requests, or just want to chat, feel free to call or stop by the office. I look forward to meeting you.

Ken Ceaglske, NEA General Manager

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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President

John Bruch 2 Lusk, WY

David Keener 3 Marsland, NE

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Bill Wilson 3 Harrison, NE

Jack Hammond 1 Lance Creek, WY

Boardroom News

March Board Meeting

- Board approved Guidelines 201/201A, 301, 503 & 801.
- NEA Attorney Joe Stecher discussed collections, collection procedures and Guideline 33.
- Line Superintendent Rick Bridge and Manager Ken Ceaglske reported on the Cottonwood project, ONEOK project, continued training on the meter technician, AMR projects, outages, 69kv Hat Creek line issues, near misses involving high load movers, linemen issues, new line construction, contractor use for long lines, potential new load out west and DOT regulation.