



25th year 6th Issue

July 2013

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**Happy Independence
Day!!!**

Thursday, July 4th, 2013 the
NEA will be closed in honor of
the holiday.

If you didn't make it to this year's Annual Meeting - judging by the numbers many of you didn't - here is what you missed.

We ate a fantastic meal, prepared by Terri Goddard and her team. Louie Hammer won a whole home surge suppression system, numerous members received door prizes ranging from gift cards to Walmart, Cabela's, local merchants as well as regular Visa gift cards for purchases wherever one chooses, to electric items from NEA vendors who donated electric cords, saws, a TV and much more. The winning ticket for the \$500.00 cash drawing was not present so, next year it will increase to \$600.00.

Incumbents Jack Hammond, Kenny DeGering and David Keener each were re-elected to the Board of Directors to represent their respective district for another three (3) year term.

Business, old and new, was discussed and reports were given by Tri-State CEO Ken Anderson, WREA Executive Director Shawn Taylor, NEA Manager Ken Ceaglske, NEA Secretary/ Treasurer David Keener & NEA Board President John Hester. Scholarships were announced and awarded to winners & those in attendance gave brief statements of acceptance.

Long-term Director Jack Hammond was recognized for his forty (40) years of service; Sean Howe and Lee Potter were awarded their five (5) year service pens.

*We are seeking your input for next year's Annual Meeting. If you have thoughts on how to improve attendance, we want to hear about it. **Annual Meeting is intended for our member's benefit.** What would the membership like to see happen with Annual Meeting? What do you want out of this yearly event? Call us or write us at the NEA headquarters: 800-322-0544 or 307-334-3221, PO Box 697 Lusk, WY 82225.*

NEA 68th Annual Meeting pictures



Upper Left: NEA Master Electrician Brian Keithly and WREA Executive Director Shawn Taylor in line for supper.

Top Right: Retired NEA Director John Bruch with wife, Pat Bruch.

Lower Left: Boone Montana wearing his "koozie boots." The koozies were given out by Keith Emmer-son from Tri-State G&T.

Bottom Right: Scholarship Winner in attendance with their award certificates. Ian Zerbe, Meggan Federle, and Zachary Stephens.



ATTENTION.....

WHEN YOU WRITE A CHECK, MAKE SURE YOUR SPELLED OUT, WRITTEN AMOUNT MATCHES THE DOLLAR NUMBER AMOUNT YOU WRITE DOWN. THIS IS A CONSTANT ISSUE THAT NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED, AS WE ROUTINELY HAVE CHECKS COME IN THAT DO NOT MATCH IN THESE TWO AREAS; IT CREATES PROBLEMS FOR YOU GETTING YOUR BILL PAID CORRECTLY AND FOR US POSTING CORRECTLY.



Here are Jack Skavdahl, Maddie Meidell, Alexis Griner, all of the Panhandle School and Grace Skavdahl, from the Pink Schoolhouse, answering questions for their History Day performance titled When the Lights Go Out-REA. They enjoyed learning about the history of rural electrification. The students interviewed local residents Joe Nunn, Millie Wasserburger and Harold Dunn about their memories on the process of bringing electricity to Sioux County. Matt Edwards and Doug Randall took the time to talk to them about the job of a journeyman. Not only did the four gain a lot of knowledge about electricity in our area, but they also placed third in the state competition! Their teachers are Mrs. Tara Dunn and Mrs. Amber Wilkins.



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Touchstone EnergySM

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-F)

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.



Niobrara Electric Association General Manager Kenneth Ceagske proudly receiving his MIP certificate.

CEO Kenneth H Ceagske has completed an intensive program in electric utility management with the University of Wisconsin, - Madison.

The Robert I. Kabat Management Internship Program (MIP) is a series of workshops offered by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in conjunction with the University of Wisconsin. The program guides participants through all facets of the electric utility industry, including the many changes occurring around the nation.

Kenneth H Ceagske is one of only a few electric utility CEO's [management staff] that will graduate from the Management Internship Program this year.

MIP participants go through three 10-day sessions designed to challenge and educate participants in new, innovative management techniques. Participants leave with a better understanding of what consumers want and how to ensure they get it.

By also covering the unique principles that govern the operations of electric cooperatives, the program helps the co-op analyze other business ventures it may want to enter as well as enhancing the core organization.

Only rural electric cooperative CEOs and top level management participate in the program. This allows greater emphasis of study, on management challenges and the aspects of consumer-ownership that cooperatives enjoy. Participants learn focus on member value as part of day-to-day decision making.

Courtesy of Madison WI press release, Feb. 2013

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District

John Hester	1	Keeline, WY	President
Andy Barnette	2	Lusk, WY	
David Keener	3	Marsland, NE	Sec./Treas
Bill Wilson	3	Harrison, NE	
Jack Hammond	1	Lance Creek, WY	
Jim Dunn	3	Harrison, NE	
Kenny DeGering	2	Lusk, WY	
Andy Greer	1	Lance Creek, WY	
JD Wasserburger	2	Lusk, WY	Vice President

Boardroom News

May Board Meeting

- General Manager Ken Ceagske discussed two new hires, PSC field visit, Federated Insurance walk through, Oneok #7, and auto payments. Discussion was also held on a donation to the Harrison pool using unclaimed capital credit funds.
- Director Hammond reported on Tri-State business, Director Greer reported on WREA business and Director Keener reported on NREA business.