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LIEAP is a state and federally-funded program that helps people pay home heating bills November through June. The program is open to homeowners and renters. It helps cover the costs of electricity, natural gas, propane, wood, diesel heating oil, coal and pellets when these are used for heating a home.

Applications for LIEAP program are available beginning October 1, 2014 and are accepted until February 28, 2015.

Application forms and information are available by clicking the link below:

[2014-15 LIEAP Application Instructions and information](#)

To get specific information about your application or to ask that an application be mailed to you, call: 1-800-246-4221.

Whenever possible, NEA likes to show community support and participate in cooperative minded events. An opportunity presented itself recently at the Lusk Elementary School.

"In recognition of National Dads to School Day, Lusk Elementary and Middle School students celebrated with "DUDES and DONUTS." Over 300 donuts were served to kids and their "Dudes". The employees at the NEA and several community members came to assist with this effort by sitting in as a child's or several children's "DUDES". The morning was a huge success!" According to Dory Pfister, Guidance Counselor at LEMS who provided the accompanying picture.

Around the serving line are Wyoming Line Foreman Jason Fish, Lineman Jeff Sinkular, Apprentice Rick Scott and Roxanne Fish.





Recently, all NEA linemen recertified in pole top rescue. Pictured above, engaged in demonstrating the safe retrieval of an incapacitated line worker, is Jeff Sinkular, who recently joined the Coop. Jeff has been a Journeyman lineman since 2004. He has worked in Wyoming in the past, but spent the last 9 months in Alaska. He and his family are happy to be in Wyoming now and look forward to enjoying all the area has to offer. Welcome, Jeff!



We are pleased to present Julie Hageman as the newest member of the NEA office staff.

Julie has begun taking over the Billing Clerk duties and has been working the front desk and phones, as well.

A recent newly wed, Julie and husband, Theron, were married in September and make their home in Jay Em.

- Want to see your NEA bill the day it is generated and have access to your account 24/7?
- Don't want to rely on the Post Office to deliver your payment by the due date?
- Want the convenience of paying your bill over the phone or having it automatically drafted from your bank account?

Get signed up with the SmartHub website on your PC!

<https://niobraraelectric.smarthub.coop/#login:>

Contact the NEA office if you have any questions concerning the SmartHub. The Billing Department is happy to assist.

Office: 1-800-322-0544 or 1-307-334-3221



The cool of the Fall season is upon us and along with it an upswing in the weather conditions that cause interruptions in power. We encourage members to prepare for the occurrence of power outages.

If you use a generator, make sure it is properly installed and ventilated. Every year, in the US, there are deaths from improperly ventilated generators. Air flow to adequately disperse exhaust from your generator must be accounted for. Leaving the unit outside the home is an obvious answer, but if it must be within a confined space, make sure to pipe out exhaust. The NEA Electrician department installs double throw switches to ensure our linemen's protection from back feed. If you are installing yourself we still encourage you to contact us about proper installation. If you want NEA to install a generator with a double throw switch, please contact the office at 307-334-3221 or 800-322-0544.

We appreciate members calling in reports of damaged equipment. We have a sizeable territory and extra eyes on our equipment can be quite helpful in locating the source of outage trouble.



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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.

As I type this, it's already snowing in the Black Hills. Just a reminder that it's been a year since NEA was hit by an early fall snow/ice storm, followed closely by a second one. This seems to be Mother Nature's way of proving that all things are temporary.

Through the storms we lost over 400 poles and miles of line. We are getting close to a final total on the direct damages and repairs, around \$650,000. Of that FEMA/NEMA helped with some of the damage costs from the first storm, about \$45,000. The rest of the damage costs were paid for by using up the last of our RUS loan funds and some savings we had on hand. Those loan funds had been planned for some major line rebuilding like we had done with the Cottonwood Road or Lusk-Manville projects; but we had to delay the work. The good news, we did rebuild about 15 miles of line that may have made it onto a future work plan that won't need to be done for 30 or 40 years, the rest of the poles were in areas where it was damaged in short stretches, 1-10 poles, that may still be in need of future plans.

Since the storm, some of the less noticeable problems have been catching up with us. Little things like conductors that have stretched from the ice load, sometimes sagging more than a foot lower than before, have reduced clearance at road and driveway crossings. Insulators and wire ties that were stressed finally breaking and causing outages and blinks. Other bits and pieces have been damaged causing similar annoyances.

I've been hearing predictions of another long, cold, snowy winter; I just hope the moisture doesn't come with the cold so it doesn't freeze on our lines. If it does bring the ice with it, rest assured that the NEA crews are ready, along with our neighboring co-op crews to make the needed repairs and get the lights back on.

NEA Manager Kenny Ceaglske

Boardroom News

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

August Board Meeting

- Director Hammond spoke regarding Tri-State business. Director Keener discussed NREA business and Director Greer shared WREA information.
- Purchase of trencher was approved, as was landscaping and concrete work at headquarters for drainage issues.
- Attorney Skavdahl spoke on collection matters.
- Line Superintendent Rick Bridge gave an operations report with continued updates on multiple construction projects underway.
- Manager Ceaglske gave the managers report.