



26th year 9th Issue

October 2015

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Safety Tips</i>	1
<i>Pole Top Rescue</i>	2
<i>Parking Area Revamp</i>	3
<i>Manager's Message</i>	4
<i>Boardroom News</i>	4

#### LOCAL BUSINESSES PARTICIPATING IN THE CO-OP CONNECTIONS ®

**SAME AS IT ONCE WAS** - 10% off store items.

**HERREN BROTHERS** - 10% off True Value items not otherwise marked for discount.

**THE FINE GRIND LLC** - 10% off.

**MILLER SOAP COMPANY LLC** - 10% off products (does not include shipping)

**COUNTRY CORNER HAIR SHOP** - 10% off products.

**LICKETY STICHT QUILT SHOP** - Free pattern with purchase.

Help us recruit local business by encouraging your favorite business to contact us to learn about joining the program. There is no charge to the business and all advertising is done through us - it is a **FREE** service to connect businesses and members for a mutual benefit!

#### For Safety Sake, Monitor Electrical Cords and Appliances.



- Appliances that generate heat like televisions, microwaves, and decorative lighting should always be given an extra space for good air circulation. Allow room for air movement to avoid overheating. Appliances that are designed to provide heat should be closely watched and kept away from combustible material and plastics.
- Locations with running water like sinks and bathtubs should not be surrounded with electrical appliances. Don't operate electrical devices while wet or standing in water.
- A misplaced fuse can lead to disastrous consequences. Basic maintenance and replacement will help to avoid blowups. The correct fuse must be used. Using the wrong fuse leads to strained wiring, resulting in damages to wires that could lead to fires.
- Have a circuit breaker installed to promote electrical safety. A circuit breaker will protect electrical circuits more effectively than fuses, and will provide more control over electrical power flow. NEA has licensed Electricians available for your home electrical needs.
- Frayed or cracked electrical cords should be replaced. Never staple or nail electrical cords, rather use tape or twist ties to secure their placement.





Top Left: Journeyman Jeff Sinkular

Top Right: Journeyman Levi Clark

Bottom Left: Journeyman Justin Huston

Each year NEA linemen recertify and demonstrate competency with Pole Top Rescue.

A sizable portion of our line crew's work is accomplished while up a pole. Because any number of things, from electrocution to a diabetic incident, could cause a lineman to become unresponsive/incapacitated each climber depends on his fellow worker to be skilled in rescue techniques.

A leverage system using a hand line and a screwdriver are set above the unresponsive/incapacitated person by the rescuer, the individual being rescued is secured to the improvised system and their climbing belt is cut free so they can be safely lowered to the ground for treatment.

It is a simple system, but it takes a lot of practice to master.



To address safety and drainage issues, the employee parking area at NEA has undergone a transformation.



As we go to publication, the dirt work is nearing completion and we hope to have concrete poured in mid to late September.

[www.niobrara-electric.org](http://www.niobrara-electric.org)  
[www.facebook.com/NiobraraElectric](https://www.facebook.com/NiobraraElectric)



NEA NEWS is a publication of Niobrara Electric Association, Inc

PO Box 697

Lusk WY 82225

Phone: 307-334-3221

Fax: 307-334-2620



**Touchstone Energy<sup>SM</sup>**

## 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)**

**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.

It's been almost a year since Tri State gave us the news on the western source that will serve to allow us to split up the load on the NEA system, and provide back up to the rest of the system in an emergency. To date, they have got an approximate route through territory that starts near the Dave Johnston power plant near Glenrock, travels through Rocky Mountain Power territory to end in NEA's system west of Lance Creek along the county line. They have been contacting the landowners along that route and working with them on easements and specific routing.

This line was proposed many years ago after the blizzard in the late 90's that caused a week long outage and, had it been in place, would have shortened that to just a few hours for the line switching to restore the transmission line and would have allowed for crews to focus on the distribution lines, the ones that serve your homes and ranches. For some reason the plan died off in the years that followed, depending on construction philosophy or budget at Tri-State, it could be that NEA would have had to cover the entire cost of the line since it only would benefit us, estimated at \$35 million in today's dollars. Growth from across the entire southeast Wyoming area, in NEA territory as well as Wheatland and Wyrulec's area has pushed the need for the line into a regional issue. That growth has come from all types of customers, from residential, ag, irrigation, commercial, and oil and gas.

One of the factors in this line, and line construction in general, is right of way access. With the oil boom "feeding frenzy" on, the expectation for the prices of those easements are rising. The oil companies come in with deep pockets and, at least when oil was selling high, would pay whatever it takes to get their equipment in place. That is a challenging model to try to keep up with. Historically, we followed the model of neighbors helping neighbors, with many of the original lines possibly built on a handshake and an "anything to help my neighbors and grow the power system out here" attitude. As clumsy as a power line on your property may be sometimes, for most of us, it took a neighbor allowing a line on their property to get it closer to ours. With some of our lines stretching 60+ miles, sometimes it was a lot of neighbors.

When the oil company looks at their costs for right of way, pipe, or other items, they look at how far they can go and still make a profit for shareholders or owners, who most likely are far from here, with little to gain or lose from these issues, as long as there is a return on the investment. For us the idea is how much cost can we prevent, so we don't have to pass them along through our rates to our members, you folks reading this, while maintaining a safe and reliable system.

Manager Kenny Ceaglske

## 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

### August Board Meeting

- Director Greer reported on WREA business.
- Director Hammond reviewed Tri-State business.
- Director Keener spoke concerning NREA business.
- General Manager Ken Ceaglske gave the Board an Operations report including safety training, upcoming sub maintenance, and a busy fall construction schedule, with many new services. He also spoke on policy updates, open employment positions and preliminary budget and rate discussions.