

26th year 7th Issue

August 2015

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Outage Reporting & LIEAP</i>	1
<i>Membership Survey & Irrigation Disconnects</i>	2
<i>Co-op Connection ® Card & Service Anniversaries</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.

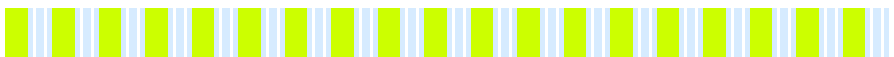
Help us recruit local business by encouraging your favorite business to contact us to learn about joining the program. There is no charge to the business and all advertising is done through us - it is a FREE service to connect businesses and members for a mutual benefit!

In August, every member was mailed a list of their services with specific information identifying each individual service. We sent this SERVICE LIST FOR USE IN OUTAGE REPORTING so you have all the necessary information available to you at once. We hope you've hung the list by your phone or some other obvious place for use the next time you need to report an outage or other service problems.

Calling to report an outage...



Yes, I have my meter number.



We are rapidly approaching cool weather and home heating issues/weatherization may be on your mind. LIEAP may be able to assist.

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. If you do not qualify for energy assistance, you may still be eligible for weatherization assistance.

Applications for LIEAP program are available beginning October 1, 2015 and are accepted until February 29, 2016.

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

A dual mailing of a SERVICE LIST FOR USE IN OUTAGE REPORTING and a MEMBER-SHIP SURVEY were mailed together in early August. We hope you received both items.

If you have a meter change from here on out, you will be able to see it by looking at your current bills. The bill will list the new meter & the old meter below it. Simply update your list with the new meter number. If you never received your service list, look on your September bills for the numbers or call and speak with, Julie, to obtain a new service list.

If you never received your paper copy of the Member Survey, call and ask for, Twyla. If you prefer the convenience of submitting the survey online, go to www.facebook.com/NiobraraElectric or www.niobrara-electric.org (look under LINKS).

A survey of the membership has not been done for quite some time - we would very much like to have your feedback on **your** cooperative! Please take the time to consider the content of the survey and provide us with thorough answers. We will be closing the online survey at the end of September. We hope to have all the results compiled in early October.

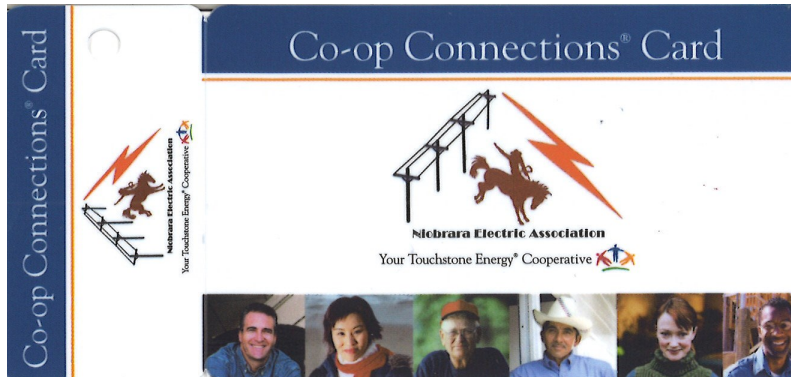


Another irrigation season is coming to an end. The official end of season disconnect on irrigation systems is on Monday, November 2nd.

If you know that you will not be running in October, please call and let us know so we can disconnect your irrigation earlier, saving our linemen time in November & saving you an extra month of facility charge (\$60.00).

If you know that you will be running during the month of November, you must call the office and make us aware so you are not disconnected on the official disconnect date.

Making extra trips is time consuming and costly, so help us avoid them by making a phone call if you know you are not a part of the November 2nd disconnect group.



If you aren't making use of your **FREE** Co-op Connections® Card, you are missing out on savings!!!

The savings opportunities are not only local, they are also **NATIONAL**.

Back in April, NEA provided every member with their own key fob and card. We continually send out cards with every new membership, we also provide an educational sheet explaining the program. If you need a replacement card, stop in the office or call and ask for one.

Go to healthysavings.coop or call 800-800-7616 for more information on health-related providers nationwide and www.niobrara-electric.org to search through 26,000 online shopping opportunities. A Cash Back Mall and Coupons.com are additional ways to save with Co-op Connections.

Search "Co-op Connection" in the App store or Google Play to download your free smart phone app.

We strongly believe in sharing value and bringing members and businesses together. We appreciate every local business that participates!!!

Two Niobrara Electric Association Board of Directors and Attorney celebrate anniversaries



Left to Right: Kenny DeGering, 10 years of Service; David Keener, 20 years of service; John Skavdahl, 40 years of service.

www.niobrara-electric.org

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 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.

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, I'm going to emphasize on outage again. The new system that we have will give us the power to serve you by collecting all of the historical data starting now and into the future. We will be able to analyze what areas are performing poorly, and if there is a pattern of problems we will be able to focus our attention to the specific issues.

The trade for this will be the need for you to call in on outages with your meter number on hand. The Sheriff's office only has limited access to account specifics, so if you have multiple services it is more difficult for them to find the right location without the meter number. The NEA office has the capability to look up your account by many options. The meter number is still the best way though as there is only one location any meter can be and that helps the crew make sure they are in the right place when they get there.

We have been called to services where the problems end up being on the member side of the meter. The linemen were given rough directions and if the equipment is good when they arrive at that location, it leaves a question in their mind if they are at the right one. They end up spending the extra time to be sure it was the right place. If they get directions like this for example, "...second gate past the green barn, then left for a ways," did they miss a gate? We do charge for calls that are not on NEA's equipment and this can add up in these type of situations. My best advice out of all of this is to check your main breakers when the power goes out, get your meter number, and call it in.

Tri-State G&T continues to work on the new line that will feed into the west side of our territory. Right now, it doesn't look like much, but there will be an Open House held in Douglas to introduce the project to the potential landowners that the line will cross. They have a basic route plan and will be working on the design and right-of-way acquisition in the next few months. I will report at a later date on the activity that happens at the Open House. The service date is still set for late 2017.

This line will allow us to split the NEA system in two separate parts during normal operations, and have a backup from a different direction if one of those should fail. Future planning for that western area could also include feeding some of that area from a different station in place of Lusk Rural, decreasing exposure and increasing reliability.

Kenny Ceagslske

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

July Board Meeting

- Director Greer reported on WREA business.
- Director Hammond reviewed Tri-State business.
- Line Superintendent Rick Bridge discussed a safety inspection, issues at Pants Butte road and the new vehicles in service.
- General Manager Ken Ceagslske gave the board an update on personnel, FEMA and west load line update.