

Niobrara Electric Association

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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.

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

FINE GRIND—10% Off 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!



The picture above and the one inside (pg. 3) show our crews working on a reliability project tied to the new water wells in Harrison, NE. The Town of Harrison has had the generator located downtown for many years, and we have put it to use when extended outages would affect the town.

The new wells were outside the area that could be served by the generator, so we had to add switching poles and reroute the way the line feeds to accommodate the area that the wells were in as well as the north side of town. Even with the changes, it still takes some time to get crews on site to do the switching and start the generator. Depending on the cause of the outage, it may work better to send the crew out to repair the damage and restore the whole system instead of starting the generator and then make the repairs.

Some of the work to install this was done "hot" (with the lines energized) as you can see in the picture of the three bucket trucks shown above. The linemen are in full protective equipment and there is cover up on the lines to keep the crews safe. One pole change required they shut the power off for a few hours to work it safely, as seen in the picture on page 3 of the insert.

Unfortunately, the generator system got a chance to be tested shortly after the work was completed, when the lines got iced and broke a few poles on the part of line that would feed the north side of town, so we couldn't use that part of the feed and those locations were left without power until the lines could be repaired.

Overall, It did perform well. As load has been added to the generator area over the years, it does approach maximum capacity at times. Because of this, when the generator is in use, please do what you can to conserve energy—every little bit counts. Even at that, there may be times where we need to "take turns" serving different parts of town to avoid damage to the generator.

Incumbent Directors Up For Re-Election in 2016:

District 1 Jack Hammond

District 2 Kenny DeGering

District 3 David Keener

IMPORTANT DATES:

January 28th - Board of Directors appointed Nominating Committee members.

Appointed Committee Members are: Ken Dixon, Denzel Coffey, Lee Lamb, Cheryl Lund, Stan Rennard, Dan Hanson, Jon Woodrum, Rodney Gray and Donald Mack.

February 17th - Nominating Committee meets at NEA office, 5:30 p.m.

The Committee meets for the purpose of nominating qualifying (confirmed member of cooperative, who resides within the area serviced by the cooperative and receives service from the cooperative in the district he or she is to represent) members to serve NEA's three districts.

Nominations are published in service area newspapers the following week and will be posted at headquarters and on our website & facebook page until Annual Meeting in May.

Cooperative Members become Board Members by choosing to run for election, via Nominating Committee or by petition. Service on the Board requires commitment of time and an understanding of responsibility to the membership with decision making on everything from infrastructure expenditure to legislative debate.

Nominations can be made by petition of 15 or more members acting together. Nominations by **petition must be submitted to NEA office no later than March 20th** to be printed on the ballot.

Annual Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 19th.

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NEA has several new hires we are happy to introduce:

Jim Pontarollo, Apprentice Electrician
William Smith, Apprentice Lineman
Brent Juergens, Apprentice Lineman
Doug Lytle, Warehouse Coordinator







STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint-filing-cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

REMINDER TO SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS:

Have your applications into NEA no later that 5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 22nd.

Applications can be downloaded from our website, picked up at Sioux County High School or Niobrara County High School, you can get them from the NEA office.



www.niobrara-electric.org
www.facebook.com/NiobraraElectric





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Touchstone Energy Office Hours

Monday—Thursday

7:30 am—5:00 pm

Fridays 7:30 am— 4:00 pm

Electrician 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.

Good news for most folks for 2016, rates look to be stable for the year for most rate classes. Due to a change in the way we are billed from Tri-State, and the way our loads are most of the year, we should be seeing very little change overall in our cost of power. We are looking at a slight increase in the irrigation rate, and some minor cost shifts from the energy charge to the fixed charge on some rates to more accurately reflect where our costs come from.

You will also note some new employees wearing the NEA logo. Two of those are replacements due to employee's that have left us, and two are new positions within the co-op that were added to improve our ability to complete work on the system. Doug and Jim have been around Lusk for years. William and Brent are recent arrivals. As you see them be sure to welcome them to the area.

As I look forward into 2016, I plan on finishing up our next 4 year work plan, and begin implementing some of the suggested work. So stay tuned for the announcements of what major line projects we will be starting with, as well as continuing the pole testing and change outs and improvements in NEA equipment and facilities. Tri-State will continue to work on the western source into the NEA system. Although there may not be much visible activity, know that they are lining up the right of way, engineering and design. I wouldn't anticipate much visible activity until 2017.

As noted earlier in the newsletter, if you have interest in running for the board, please get in touch with Twyla or me. We will get a candidate interest form out to you to submit to the nominating committee.

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

Nov/December Board Meeting

- Director Greer reported on WREA business.
- Director Hammond reviewed Tri-State business.
- Director Keener spoke concerning NREA business.
- Manager Ceaglske reported personnel updates, approved a proposal from DeCoria, Maichel, and Teague for audit services, continued discussion on positive margins, rates, and upcoming budgets.
- Line Superintendent Bridge reported on Harrison line upgrade and recent outages and equipment changes.