

27th year 4th Issue

May 2016

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Join us for the 71st Annual Meeting of the NEA membership on May 19, 2016 at the Sioux County High School.

Registration at 5:00 p.m.

Supper at 6:00 p.m.

Business Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

\$20.00 Energy credit applied to attending Member's account. (Limit one per member)

Door Prizes, Scholarship Winner Recognition, NREA, WREA and Tri-State leadership reporting and discussion on current events in the industry.



The Niobrara Electric Association is proud to take part in the sponsorship of Niobrara County High Schools FIRST Robotics team. Rawhide Robotics is a high school aged robotics competition that is called the ultimate Sport for the Mind. High-school student participants call it "the hardest fun you'll ever have." Under strict rules, limited resources, and an intense six-week time limit, Rawhide Robotics students are challenged to design a team "brand," hone teamwork skills, and build and program industrial-size robots to play a difficult field game against like-minded competitors. Examples of the build restrictions are that it can't weigh more than 120 lbs, have a perimeter greater than 120 inches, and stay under the height of 4'6". It's as close to real-world engineering as a student can get.

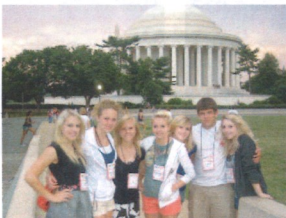
The robot is currently a part of the physics and robotics classes at NCHS as a project based learning focus. Exposing students to real world problems and solving them with the skills they have learned in the classroom. Rawhide robotics would like to invite local professional mentors to lend their time and talents to guide their team. Niobrara Electric is happy to support our local kids, especially in the fields of robotics, computer science, and automation. If you would like more information or would be interested in helping with the robot please feel free to contact John Thayer at thayerj@lusk.k12.wy.us.

Article and photo courtesy of John Thayer

WIN A FREE TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

Three campers will be selected to serve as Nebraska's Ambassadors to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. To be eligible for this year's camp you must:

- currently be in the 9th, 10th, or 11th grade
- be sponsored by a Nebraska Rural Electric Association member-system
- complete the application form on the back and return it to your local electric system.



WHY SHOULD I APPLY?

Now that you know this isn't just another camp, you may be asking yourself, "should I go?"

You should if you have:

- Leadership potential
- An awesome personality
- A strong academic record
- An interest in meeting new people

If you are interested in applying for this all-expense paid trip, complete the application form and return it to your local electric system.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Niobrara Electric Association
Box 697
Lusk, WY 82225
307/334-3221
www.niobrara-electric.org

Niobrara Electric Assn. Presents



NREA YOUTH ENERGY LEADERSHIP CAMP

JULY 11 -15, 2016

**NEBRASKA STATE 4-H CAMP
HALSEY, NEB.**

2016 YOUTH ENERGY LEADERSHIP CAMP APPLICATION FORM

Name _____ Age _____ Current Grade _____

Address _____ Phone number (____) _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Name of parents or guardian _____

Sponsoring rural electric system _____

Return your application to the NEA office by May19th. If you have questions, call and speak with Twyla, 800-322-0544 or 334-3221.

Have you looked on Co-op Connections website for local area discounts? If not, you may not realize that the **Arby's** in both Wheatland and Douglas have 22 oz. drink with purchase offer, **Ash's Sales and Service** offers \$20.00 off appliance, **Bear Creek Originals, LLC** has 10% discount on spirit-wear, **Best Western Torchlight Inn** offers 10% discount, **Buffalo Lodge & Grill** has a free fountain drink with meal, **Cheyenne Coffee Company** has 10% discount, **Chugwater Chili** has 10% off in store and website purchases, **Consolidated Manufacturing Enterprises** offers 10% off on select purchases, **Country Girls Embroidery** has 10% off purchases of \$50.00 or more, **Drube Supply/Hardware Hank** has 15% discount on Carhart clothing, **Frenchman Valley Cooperative** has .03 discount per gallon of gas or diesel at the pump & \$25.00 gift card with the purchase of four new tires, **Hobo's Closets** offers 10% discount on room rent for six months with a six month agreement, plus one month rent free if pre-paid for six months, **Howshar Hardware** has 10% off all VALSPAR paint, **Laramie Peak Motors** offers 5% conditional discount on all mechanical repairs-parts and labor, **Micke's Family Restaurant** has 10% discount on Wednesday's "all you can eat" chicken fried steak. Free coffee, tea or soda with purchase of meal, **Murel's Great Treasures** offers 10% off any purchase, **Picture This Photography** \$25.00 off your photographic disc, **Register Cliff Pharmacy** 15% discount on all non-prescription items (excluding "Simply Creative" items), **Roy's Tree Service** has 10% discount on all jobs, **Sherard Realty, Inc.** offers sellers a 1/2% off listing commission and for buyers a \$100.00 in Platte CO. Pride certificates, **Simply Creative** gives \$5.00 discount on purchase of \$30.00 to \$50.00 and \$10.00 discount on purchases over \$50.00, **South Street Pharmacy** has 15% discount on all non-prescription items (excludes "Posie Patch" items). **Taco John's** gives free Churro with any combo meal, **Teel Gun Works** offers \$25.00 discount on purchases over \$500.00; \$50.00 discount on purchases over \$1500.00, **The Pie Tin Bakery & Catering** offers either free delivery (up to 100 miles) or free qualified dessert (up to 300 people) for full service catered events, **The Posie Patch Flowers & Gifts** offers 10% off on any one item per purchase. Limit one discount per week, **The Sharp Shop of Wheatland** gives a 5% discount on all sharpening over \$50.00, **Wheatland Alternative Health Center** offers a \$30.00 off multiple bookings scheduled in advance (minimum 3 bookings), **Wheatland Country Store** offers 15% off one regular priced clothing item per purchase (excludes Wrangler #'s 13MWZ, 31MWZ and 936DEN), **Wyoming Pure Natural Beef** has a free 1# package of hamburger with purchase of \$40.00 or more offer, **Wheatland REA** gives a 10% off of Compact Fluorescent Light Bulb purchase. **Same As It Once Was** offers 10% off purchase, **Country Corner Hair Shop** gives a 10% discount on products, **Rough n Refined** (was the Find Grind) offers 10% off purchase, **Miller Soap Company** gives a 10% off order (does not include shipping) and **Herren Brothers** offers a 10% discount on select products.

(You must present your Co-op Connections card at the time of purchase)

Check out all local, regional and national discounts on-line at www.connections.coop

www.niobrara-electric.org

www.facebook.com/NiobraraElectric



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Touchstone EnergySM

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.

This newsletter should be arriving at about the same time as your annual meeting notice. Please either hang on to that notice and plan to attend the meeting, or ask around to folks you know that might be coming to Harrison on the 19th and give them your proxy card. If you do the proxy card option, be sure to sign it with the name that your account is in for it to be a valid proxy. I look forward to seeing many of you there. Last year we had a great turnout over in Lusk. I look forward to seeing many of you in Harrison this year. We'll have the usual financial presentation, as well as upcoming projects, updates from our state wide association, and the CEO of Tri State G&T will be there.

We need to be sure to do our best to meet the quorum to have an "official" meeting. We've had a few years where we were close to not making it. How can you help? Watch for your annual meeting notice mailing. If you are attending, bring your own notice with, and ask your neighbors if they are attending, if not, see if you can be their proxy.

If you do not plan to attend, please fill out the proxy card and get it to someone who will be there. Any one member is allowed to be a proxy for up to 5 others if they have the proper proxy cards. This year's meeting doesn't have any contested races, or major issues, but I'd hate to see us get into a situation where we need quorum and can't make it. A few coops in the state have had the issue of not making quorum in past years. We have been close, but never missed. I do want to thank the dedicated members that show up to support the NEA in this business function of your electric coop.

In response to the survey, we've changed up the attendance gifts a bit, it's WREA's 75th anniversary, so we have a cookbook of selected recipes from the WREN magazine, as well as a bill credit for \$20 for each member that is in attendance.

Spring is also on the way, with that means more activity in the pastures and back country. Please keep an eye open when working near NEA lines and poles. Winter brings many stresses to our lines, including ice and wind that can cause insulators, poles, or anchors to break or come loose. The wind and ice that we saw in March did the obvious damage of breaking some equipment causing outages, but it has also damaged some less critical parts that we continue to see minor issues with. If you see something that doesn't look right, please keep yourself and any livestock a safe distance away, and notify the office as soon as you can.

General 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

February Board Meeting

- Director Greer reported on WREA business.
- Director Hammond reviewed Tri-State business.
- Director Keener spoke concerning NREA business.
- Manager Ceaglske reported on monthly financials, HVAC replacement at the office, 4 year work plan items, and donation requests.
- Line Superintendent Rick Bridge spoke about safety training, recent outages, radio communications assessment and job hazard analysis.