

28th year 5th Issue

June 2017

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#### CO-OP CONNECTIONS LOCAL BUSINESS PARTICIPANTS (CHECK WEBSITE FOR REGIONAL AND NATIONAL DISCOUNTS):

- Herren Brothers True Value
- Same As It Once Was
- Country Corner Hair Shop
- Rough and Refined
- Miller Soap Company
- Bloomers

Niobrara Electric, together with Tri-State Generation & Transmission, offers many different rebate options to its members. Go to our website [www.niobrara-electric.org](http://www.niobrara-electric.org) and look under Services/Products for more information.

Please remember that these incentives are only available for MEMBERS of Niobrara Electric, and units/items must be installed within Niobrara Electric's service territory in order for it to be qualified for an incentive. Also, incentives must be applied for within 120 days of installation of unit/item. If you have any questions regarding rebates or for application of rebates please call NEA and ask for JoAnn.

#### Irrigation Motor Rebates...

- Applies to the installation of a new premium efficiency motor with a minimum of 10 horsepower, which is to operate at a minimum of 15% load factor or for a minimum of 3 months each year. Motors less than 10 horsepower qualify if the aggregate for a single application, which requires all motors to operate, is at least 10 horsepower.
- The Member System and Member Customer must certify that the motor is new and neither re-wound or moved from another location.

#### Water Heater Rebates...

- Program requires a minimum size of 30 gallons capacity.
- Program includes heat pump water heater (unit that utilizes direct exchange from a ground source or air source heat pump).
- Must be Energy Star rated.

#### Air-Conditioner Rebates...

- Must be Energy star rated.
- Minimum equipment size is 1 ton.

#### Appliance Rebates...

- Must be Energy Star rated
- Refrigerators and Freezers (must be 7.75 cubic feet or greater)
- Clothes Washers/Dryers
- Dishwasher

#### Efficiency Standards:

Energy Star Rating - The following Energy Star rating criteria shall be used to qualify split-system air-conditioners for an efficiency incentive. A complete list of qualified equipment is available at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) (Products -> heating and cooling.)



#### A WELCOME ADDITION...

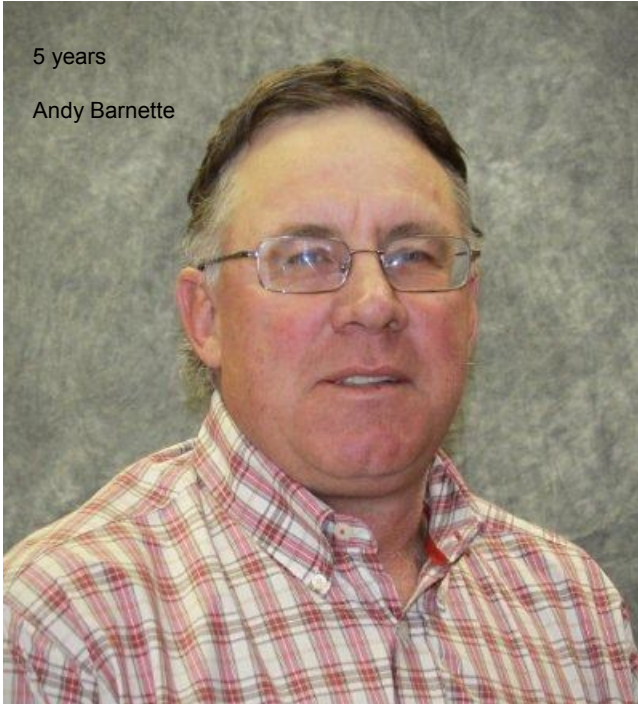
Our Nebraska crew has a new bucket truck. The new rig replaces a 2006 truck that had been spending too much time in the repair shop, effecting work.

Among the improvements in the new bucket truck is the increased reach. Between the height of the truck and the addition of 10 feet on the boom, many more working feet are obtained. Overall the unit's design will allow more hot work to be performed.

This 4 wheel drive, single man bucket is an Altec unit on a freightliner chassis. As an industry, we are moving away from pickup frames for durability and reliability.

5 years

Andy Barnette



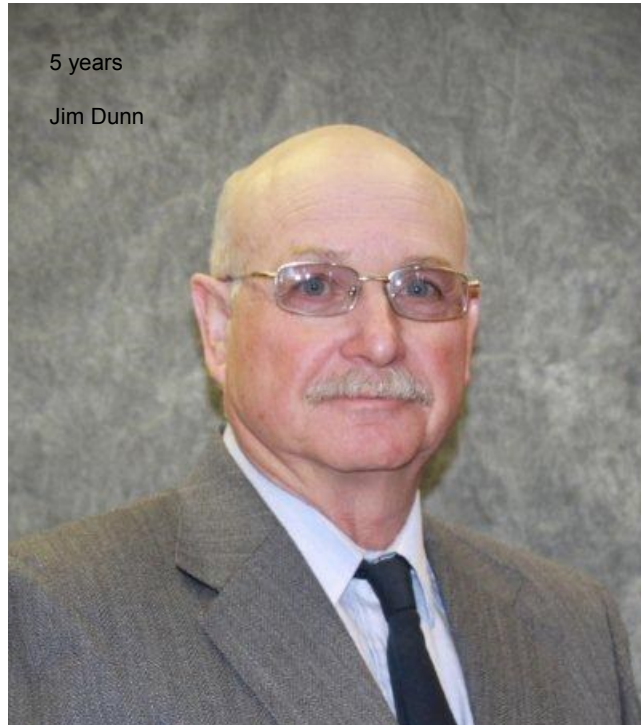
## Three NEA Directors reach service milestones this year.

NEA has 9 Board of Directors. Each Director is elected to a 3 year term (voted on by the Membership at Annual Meetings).

Andy Barnette (District 2), elected in 2012.

5 years

Jim Dunn



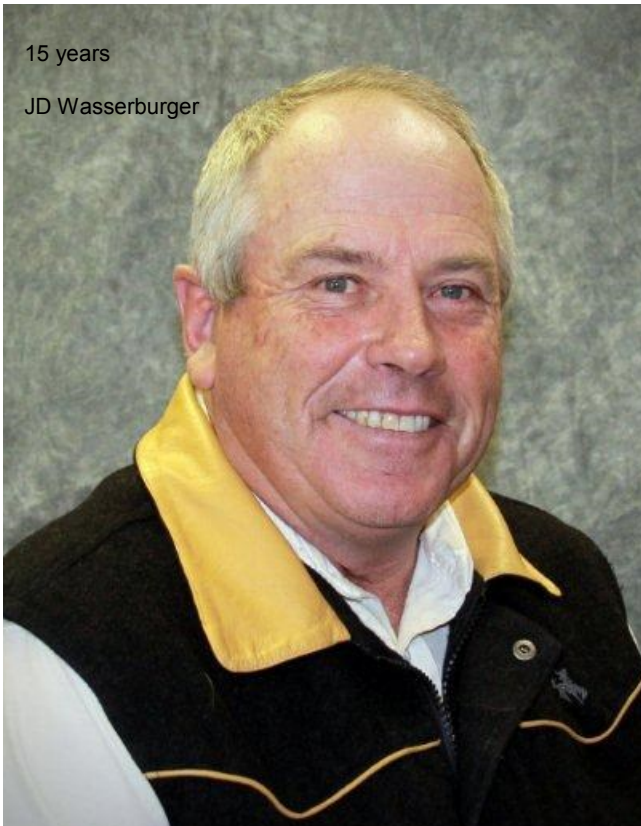
Jim Dunn (District 3), elected to the Board in 2012.

JD Wasserburger (District 2), elected to the Board in 2002 and is currently serving as Vice President of the Board.

**Thank you for your service, Gentlemen!**

15 years

JD Wasserburger



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



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

## 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)**

**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.

Summer is here and with that come the thunderstorms. There are a few risks to the electric system when these storms hit us. One of them is the high wind or tornados that can bring poles and wires to the ground. When the linemen fix one of these problems, the cause is fairly obvious, and so is the repair. They can feel pretty confident that they should have all the customers back on.

The other major risk to the system is the lightning. This past weekend we had quite a light show. The problem with the lightning is that the damage is from the high voltage and current in the strike, and the cause of the outage (the lightning strike) goes away before we get on site. Lightning strikes are capable of tripping our breakers on the line, as well as the fuses on the transformers on the same line. So the linemen go out and reset the line breaker and think they have everybody back on, with no major damage found, when in reality there are more fuses blown down the line. This is why we do call backs on outages to a few customers on the line to see if anything is still out. We don't call every service, and sometimes it is tough to know if it is the residence or a well site or some other unoccupied location. In some of these cases, we may have to move on to the next outage. This can set up a location for an extended outage. If you ever wonder if you've been out too long, or if you see your neighbors are back on and you are not, be sure to check back in with us.

When reporting an outage, please try to check your meter and get the number off of it. If it is an outage on the co-op side of the line, your display will not have any numbers where the reading should be. Also, take a look at your main breakers to be sure it isn't a simple reset (turn them all the way off, then back on) to get your power back on.

It is also good information for us to know if your neighbors are out, too. While not always a guarantee, many times neighbors are fed from the same main line and that can help the crews out. From there, a phone call to the office to report your power outage, we will get the crew headed out to get your power back on.

If you can, also report the meter number of the location without power. It is a big challenge for us to route the crews with only a name, especially if it is to go to "XYZ Ranch" and they have 10 services in their name. Even more of a challenge when it is the hired hand calling in to report an outage at their house, when the service is in the name of "XYZ Ranch" not the hired hand. A meter number is unique to that location on our system and the crew can pinpoint what locations are without power.

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

## April Board Meeting

- Director Greer spoke concerning WREA business.
- Line Superintendent Rick Bridge spoke about the radio system, and gave a Lance Creek work plan update, followed by NEA's tree trimming plans.
- General Manager Kenny Ceaglske informed the Board of one truck purchase and discussed summer help. A survey for Tri-State was also administered.