



**Niobrara Electric Association**

28th year 4th Issue

May 2017

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**CO-OP CONNECTIONS LOCAL BUSINESS PARTICIPANTS.**

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


**(CHECK WEBSITE FOR REGIONAL AND NATIONAL DISCOUNTS)**

Want to be a Business Participant? Call our office for more information.



**Journeyman Levi Clark (left) and Apprentice Charles Kleinberg (right)**

**Bypass Construction Project at Van Substation Completed**

 <p>Niobrara Electric Association A Timberline Energy Cooperative The Power of Cooperation</p>	ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED	Standard U.S. Postage Paid Lusk, WY Permit No. 28
P.O. Box 697 Lusk, WY 82225		
<b>NIOBRARA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.—PROXY</b>		<b>REGISTRATION AND PROXY APPOINTMENT FORM INSTRUCTIONS</b>
<p>I hereby appoint _____, a member of Niobrara Electric, as holder of my proxy, conferring upon the holder, full power of substitution. Said holder or substitute for me and in my name to vote at the Annual Meeting of Members of the Niobrara Electric Association, Inc., to be convened at the Niobrara County Fairgrounds in Lusk, WY on the 18th day of May, 2017 at 7:00 p.m., for the election of a Board of Directors and also on such other matters as may lawfully come before the meeting, and at any adjournment of said meeting, thereby confirming all acts and things my proxy may do or cause to be done in relation thereto.</p>		<p>We encourage you to come to the annual meeting May 18, 2017 at the Niobrara County Fairgrounds, Lusk, Wyoming, at 7:00 p.m. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. If you will be attending the meeting, please bring this entire card so that you may be properly registered. If you are unable to attend, appoint your proxy.</p>
<p>Member's Signature: _____ Date: _____</p>		<p>To complete the Proxy Appointment Form™</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Remove proxy appointment form to the left.</li> <li>2. <b>WRITE IN THE MEMBER'S NAME TO VOTE FOR YOU.</b> If a member is not designated, any duly registered member at the annual meeting may exercise the proxy appointment form.</li> <li>3. Sign and date the proxy appointment form.</li> <li>4. Give it to the member voting for you, or bring or send the proxy appointment to the Niobrara Electric office.</li> </ol>

## What is a Proxy and what do I do with it?

Annual Meeting is just a few weeks away and your Annual Meeting Booklet is in the mail. This booklet is important, **please don't throw it in the trash!**

When you can't make it to Annual Meeting, you can still be a part of the process by using your proxy. A proxy conveys authority to your chosen representative for voting and it's counted in attendance.

The last page of the booklet serves as your proxy on one side and your registration on the other. If you are not attending, send your completed proxy by mail to the NEA or with your designee. If you are attending, bring your registration.

The proxy has been perforated for convenience. Tear it off and fill it out.

- Legibly write in the member's name you are designating.
- Sign your name and fill in the date. The proxy must be signed and dated to be valid.
- Give your proxy to your designee or deliver it to the NEA office.

No ballot voting is planned for this year's meeting, but proxies are still important for attendance, to assure we make quorum and can conduct business.



Apprentice Brent Juergens (left) and Journeyman Jeff Sinkular (right).

Many industries use the slang term shoo-fly or shoe-fly, depending on the source you consult, for a temporary bypass (electrical line, railroad line, highway road, etc). At the Van Substation, NEA line crews have completed a new shoe-fly on our system.

Substation Maintenance is a high priority and scheduled shut down for re-glassing (new insulators) and other upgrades is planned for this coming winter in the Van Sub.

When the bypass construction was completed in April, the addition gave the co-op a better ability to keep a continuous power feed to our Nebraska members and others around the Van Tassell area when the substation is disabled for planned or unexpected repair(s).

Actual hours of outage time this bypass may save cannot be fully known yet, but history assures us that outages caused by problems in a substation can be lengthy. We believe this valued improvement will make a positive difference for both consumer and linemen.

Niobrara Electric Association's 71st Annual Meeting of the Membership

Thursday, May 18th at the Niobrara County Fairgrounds

Registration 5:30 p.m.

Dinner 6:00 p.m.

Business Meeting 7:00 p.m.

[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

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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.

Recent Presidential actions have helped slow some of the upcoming issues that may have caused electric rates to change drastically. The actions to reverse the Clean Power Plan show the intent of taking another look at the EPA's plans for our most abundant, reliable and lowest cost fuel source.

The process to go from where we are to where we will be, is going to take some time. It is not as simple as signing a document and the world changes. There will be research and rule making, and the respective reviews of all of that before we get to the end product, which will hopefully be a system that protects the environment, without undue burden on the ratepayers, and utilizes technology that can be developed and used at utility scale.

Even as I type this, there are projects, sponsored by G&T level companies, to explore ways to reduce pollutants or utilize the carbon-based outputs from the plants for something productive. Most of these are still in the development stage, using only a fraction of the potential input that is available, time will tell if they can be scaled up to handle the full output of a power plant. There are also utilities out there using other byproducts of the plants for useful things, anywhere from excess heat from the steam that leaves the turbines for industrial heat sources to using the ash produced by the plant as an additive to concrete and carpet.

There are also other factors in the works at the power supply level that are changing the world we live in. The costs for some of the renewables has been coming down, with the development of various technologies. Last year nearly 25% of Tri-States power supply was from renewables including hydro, wind and solar. There is an upper limit somewhere with how much you can rely on any of these due to the variable nature of them, but the G&T's are utilizing sources outside of coal where it makes sense.

Kenny Ceagske

### **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

### **March Board Meeting**

- Director Hammond reviewed Tri-State business.
- Director Greer shared WREA business.
- Director Keener spoke on NREA business.
- General Manager Kenny Ceagske discussed West load updated. The Annual Audit Report was presented, the board approved a capital credit retirement of \$147, 266.
- Rick discussed recent outages, the radio system improvements, and the work plan project by Lance Creek.