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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



Above, Journeyman Justin Huston working a mock rescue of an unconscious line worker 25 feet in the air using only his climbing tools to make a controlled, pole top descent of the 180lb mannequin to the ground crew waiting below.

Right, Apprentice Will Smith watching and waiting his turn to demonstrate his ability to perform a rescue.

Hurt man rescue proficiency testing is undertaken every year at NEA.

Whether rescue is done using an aerial lift or by climbing, all line crew members must be able to demonstrate competency.

No one wants to have to use it, but they are each prepared should the situation call for it.



**Our office will be closed on Monday, September 4th for the holiday.**



## Grassroots

Having territory in both Nebraska and Wyoming, NEA is a member of the Nebraska Rural Electric Association and the Wyoming Rural Electric Association. Both statewide associations are working Grassroots programs to educate and activate members on important issues at the state and federal levels.

James Dukesherer, Grassroots Coordinator at NREA, recently spent time at NEA speaking with employees and directors. He broke down looming and reoccurring issues at the legislative level affecting cooperatives & public power. He also spoke on recent successes in keeping harmful legislation at bay.

Issues ranging from broad band development to retail choice are directly effecting Nebraska's public power today. Constant education of members and legislative representatives is challenging but critical and has proven to make a powerful difference.

Members' voices are the heartbeat of the Grassroots movement. Be heard; go to [nrea.org](http://nrea.org) and [workingfor-nebraska.org](http://workingfor-nebraska.org) to learn more. In Wyoming, go to [wyomingrea-action.org](http://wyomingrea-action.org) and watch our NEA Facebook page for information and notices when calls to action are announced.

Your questions and comments on cooperative issues are welcomed.





Apprentice Brent Juergens (top left) and Journeyman Jeff Sinkular (bottom left) performing climbing pole top rescue.

In this photo, apprentice Charles Kleinberg works the bucket controls to perform a hurt man rescue from the bucket truck's lower control panel.



[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**

**6:00 am—4:30 pm (M-TH)**

**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.

Another question from the membership...

"It seems like we are doing a lot of rebuilding of line. How long do you think until we've got them all done?"

That's a great question. NEA has about 2300 miles of line. The life of a pole is in the 40-60 year range. If you do the math on that, we should be rebuilding about 40 miles per year, or about 750 poles, just to be on a continuous cycle.

Most of our work plan projects are about 10-15 miles at this point, since we are rebuilding the major three phase lines. Once we start to work on the single-phase lines we will be able to do more line for the same investment.

We also test about 10% (about 4000) of the poles on the system every year. Out of these, about 150-300 test in poor to bad shape and get replaced in the few years that follow. We replace some that are take-off poles for new services or poles where we upgrade the transformer, meter loop, or other equipment, and weather takes its toll on things as well. Back in 2013 we had the "opportunity" to catch up on about 400 poles in a short period of time.

So, in the end, the rebuilding of the system will never be "done". If you are the type of person who likes to look for the end of a major restoration project, the power line business is a restoration project that will never be complete. The best you can hope for is to stay up at a pace that doesn't fall too far behind.

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

### **Board Meeting**

- Manager Ceaglske spoke about the Lance Creek-Manville rebuild progress, Podolak outage repairs, west load, PSC updates, and the Harrison shop.
- Director Keener reported on NREA business.
- Director Greer reported on WREA business.
- Director Hammond reported on Tri-State business.