



29th year 11th Issue

December 2018

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NEA will be closing at 3 pm on Christmas & New Year's Eve. We will be closed all day on Christmas & New Year's Day.



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

2019 Scholarship Applications are available on our website, in the high schools and at our office, beginning January 1st.

Due date for applications for the Basin Electric (WY High School only), Tri-State G&T and NEA's Traditional and Non-traditional scholarships is Friday, February 22. Applications must be received in our office by 4 p.m. on the 22nd.



If you have questions or concerns, call 800-322-0544 or 334-3221 and speak with Twyla.

Eleven WREN magazines are put out each year. January is the excluded edition. One important thing happening in January is:

Nominating Committee appointment by the Board of Directors.

We will be posting Nominating Committee information in the local papers and on our website and social media. If you are interested in being a **candidate for the Board of Directors**, you will need to fill out a **Candidate Interest Form**.

Stop in our office if you prefer to speak directly with someone.

The Committee will be meeting in February to nominate for the Board of Directors. This is the first step and an important part of our starting work on 2019 Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 16th at the Niobrara County Fairgrounds in Lusk, WY.

Membership participation is what makes a Cooperative great—please plan to be a part of the 2019 Annual Meeting.



We are Happy to announce Kacy Jo Bailey has joined the NEA team.

In November, Kacy hired on and is training to take over Bookkeeping. You may already know Kacy as she is a local resident of Niobrara County and worked previously at the Lusk State Bank. We welcome Kacy and look forward to introducing her to you in person at the Annual Meeting in May.

The 12 DAYS of SAFETY

- Never use lighted candles near trees or boughs
- Keep poisonous plants out of reach of children and pets
- Keep trees away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources
- Make sure your tree has a stable platform
- Choose an artificial tree that is labeled fire resistant
- If using a natural tree, make sure it is well watered
- Check holiday lights for fraying, bare spots, gaps in the insulation or excessive kinking in the wire
- Turn off all tree lights and decorations when not in use
- When putting up decorations, use a step stool or ladder to reach high places
- Designate a sober driver
- When preparing a meal, wash hands, utensils, sink and anything else that touches raw meat
- Reheat leftovers to at least 165°F

Happy Holidays.

NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL
nsc.org

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW MUCH DOES THE PROGRAM COST?

These discount benefits are provided at no cost to you.

DOES EVERYONE IN MY FAMILY NEED AN INDIVIDUAL CARD FOR THE HEALTH DISCOUNTS?

No. One card may be used by you and your immediate family.

I JUST RECEIVED MY CARD.

WHEN CAN I START USING IT?

Right away! Just present your card at a participating provider to receive a discount at the time of purchase. Make sure to show them the back of the card for easy processing.

I'VE LOST MY CARD. HOW CAN I GET A REPLACEMENT?

Please contact Niobrara Electric Association at 800-322-0544 or 307-334-3221.

HOW ARE THESE DISCOUNTS DIFFERENT FROM TRADITIONAL INSURANCE?

This plan is not insurance; it is a benefit discount offer. The card provides immediate discounts at the participating provider of your choice. Upon presenting your card, you will pay the discounted price at the time of service. There is no paperwork and no limit to the number of times you can use the card. These discounts are available only at participating providers. Please discuss the program discounts with health-related provider prior to services rendered or purchases.

CAN I USE MY CARD WITH MY CURRENT INSURANCE BENEFIT TO REDUCE MY COSTS?

No, your card cannot be used in conjunction with insurance. However, you can use your card for products and services not covered by your insurance plans. The card will even help in the "doughnut hole" of Medicare Part D.

WHERE CAN I GET A LIST OF PROVIDERS THAT ACCEPT THE CARD?

The Co-op Connections card is accepted at more than 100,000 health-related providers nationwide. Find participating locations at HealthySavings.coop. Visit www.niobrara-electric.org to search through 26,000 online shopping and local business discounts.

CAN I FIND OUT THE DISCOUNTED PRICE OF MY PRESCRIPTIONS BEFORE GOING TO THE PHARMACY?

Yes, if you know the name, strength and quantity of the medication, you can find the discounted price of the medication by visiting rxpricequotes.com or calling 800-800-7616. You will receive the best price available to you through this program. On occasion, pharmacies will price a particular medication lower than the discount rate provided by the card. If that occurs, you will receive the lower price.

To learn more about Healthy Savings, call 800-800-7616 or visit healthysavings.coop.



Always mention the corresponding network or show your card back to receive your discount.



Prescriptions

By using your Co-op Connections card, you will receive a 10% to 85% discount on prescription drugs at over 60,000 national and regional pharmacy chain stores including CVS, Walgreens, Walmart, Target and many more.



Dental Care

Save 20% to 40% on most dental services including orthodontics, periodontics and endodontics.



Vision

Get 20% to 60% savings on eyewear.



Hearing Aids

Discount of 35% off hearing aid prices at more than 2,000 Newport Audiology Center locations.



Lab Work and Imaging

Savings of 10% to 60% off usual charges for MRI, CT and other lab procedures.



Chiropractic

Take advantage of 30% to 50% savings on diagnostic services and treatments.

**HumanaDental
ACCESS**

**COAST TO COAST
VISION**

Newport Audiology Centers
Hearing Aid Sales, Services and Exams

**UHS CHIROPRACTIC
network**

Disclosures: This is not insurance nor is it intended to replace insurance. The plan does not meet the minimum creditable coverage requirements under the Affordable Care Act or Massachusetts M.G.L. c. 111M and 956 CMR 5.00. This plan does not make payments directly to the providers of medical services. The plan member is obligated to pay for all healthcare services but will receive a discount from those healthcare providers who have contracted with the discount plan organization.

For a full list of disclosures, visit <https://connections.carrythecard.com>. Discount Medical Plan Organization: New Benefits, Ltd., Attn: Compliance Department, PO Box 671309, Dallas, TX 75367-1309.



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



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"This institution is an equal
opportunity provider and
employer."



Touchstone EnergySM

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)

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.

Some time ago, you may recall discussion on the Clean Power Plan (CPP), regulations that were effectively driving safe, reliable, and low-cost coal baseload plants out of the market through excessive and sometimes impractical regulations. The EPA has proposed a replacement rule known as the Affordable Clean Energy rule (ACE). The new rule offers regulation that stays within the bounds of the generation stations, rather than ultimately reaching well outside the fence and regulating efficiency at locations that are outside the control of the generators. It also looks to require the use of reasonable and proven measures to reduce carbon output, not use some unproven pie in the sky technology of unknown cost.

The industry is changing. Technology that was once very expensive is coming down in price. Natural gas has gotten noticeably cheaper. Solar and wind are maturing to a level where prices are more reasonable and stable, even though they are still subsidized. Battery storage, while still expensive, is becoming more reasonable. Older baseload coal units have reached their economic life limits and have been dismantled. Utilities try to squeeze just a little more output from existing units where practical. However, many of the newer technologies like wind and solar have times of limited output. Coal plants still cover that need. The new ACE rule helps give a little direction to a reasonable path with consideration to reasonable rates and a reliable future.

As you can see on the front page of the newsletter, the time for the Annual Meeting and director elections is starting to come into view. If you have interest in the nomination committee or becoming a director, please get in contact with me, Twyla, or one of your directors.

Wishing you and your families a Merry Christmas and the best for the upcoming new year

Kenny

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 Minutes

- Operations report updated the board on high load moves and the associated line rebuilds, contractor work and safety topics
- Manager Ceaglske reported on TSGT irrigation education opportunity, large load activity, and some territory issues.
- Director Hammond shared Tri-State business.
- Director Keener shared NREA business.

