

29th year 2nd Issue

March 2018

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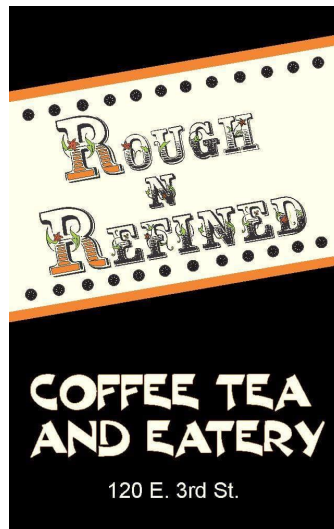
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Results of the February 20, 2018 Nominating Committee Meeting: Incumbent Directors Andy Greer, Andy Barnette and Jim Dunn were nominated for another three year term. We appreciate the committee's fulfillment of this important step in our yearly, bylaw required, portion of Annual Meeting preparation.

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



Many thanks to our Co-op Connections
Business Partners!

Each of these businesses has chosen
to continue their discount & savings to
Co-op members in 2018.

Show your Co-op Connections card
and save money!

2018 Irrigation General Information Letter is coming out soon. Please read your irrigation paperwork carefully.

Mid-March, you will be receiving the yearly irrigation letter. The normal irrigation season is May 1 through October 31. In the past, there have been some consumers who have requested to be turned on for April instead of waiting until May. We can meet such a request **IF** we get a bank letter or the pre-payment(s) required in the office and processed at least a week **PRI-OR**.

The linemen will connect any services that are ready on April 2nd. If you do not inform us in time for the Monday, April 2nd turn on date, you will be charged a trip fee (\$60.00 plus mileage @ \$1.07 per mile) to connect on any other work day in April. The next scheduled turn on date will be the traditional date, May 1st.

Connection of Account

NEA will not connect any irrigation account without a prepayment or bank letter of guarantee. The electric service will be kept in the landowner's name in the event of a lease agreement. Connected accounts will be required to meet 100% of annual minimum charges.

Prepayment

The prepayment will be based on your three highest billings from the previous irrigation year or the annual minimum charge times three, whichever is greater. **The prepayment must be received, in the office, by April 10, 2018.** After receiving prepayment, service will begin on May 1, 2018. NEA will retain this prepayment until the service is disconnected on October 31, 2018. The prepayment will be applied to the final bill and any credits will be returned to consumers by November 30, 2018.

Bank Letter of Guarantee

You have the option of obtaining a bank letter of guarantee rather than paying the prepayment. The bank letter of guarantee will be based on your three highest billings from the previous irrigation year or the annual minimum charge times three, whichever is greater. **The bank letter of guarantee must be received, in the office, by April 10, 2018.** After receiving the letter of guarantee, service will begin on May 1, 2018.

Idle Systems

Please notify NEA prior to April 10, 2018 if you do not plan to operate your irrigation system. An idle service charge will be applied if you do not want the lines and services removed.

Maintenance on customer side equipment

Any services disconnected for maintenance on your equipment during the irrigation season will be required to meet National Electric Code prior to reconnection of the service. This includes getting an electrical permit and a fused disconnect at the metering point.

New Irrigation rate effective 1/1/2018

Irrigation

Monthly Facility Charge (6 months)	\$150.00
Demand Charge/kW	\$ 20.00
Energy/kWh	\$.04800

Nebraska Rural Electric Association

Each year member-systems of the Nebraska Rural Electric Association (NREA) accept applications from area high school students to attend the NREA Youth Energy Leadership camp at State 4-H Camp in the Halsey National Forest.

As a member system, Niobrara Electric Association participates in the camp each July by sending an employee to serve as a camp counselor and a high school student, when we have an applicant.

The Youth Energy Leadership Camp is established as an operating rural electric system and provides a "hands-on" approach to member-owned businesses. The students will join high school students from Nebraska and Wyoming.

The popular 5 day camp is set up to give young people a better understanding of the legislative process, electric power generation and the rural electric program. The goal is to offer a program that challenges participants educationally, recreationally and socially. Three campers will be selected to serve as Ambassadors to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

The state 4-H camp is located in the Halsey National forest, near Halsey, Nebraska. Recreational activities include basketball, volleyball and canoeing. A highlight of the camp involves a tour of the Kingsley Hydro Station at Lake McConaughy and Gerald Gentleman station, a coal-fired power plant at Sutherland, NE.

Camp expenses and transportation for our selected applicants are provided by NEA. High school freshmen, sophomores and juniors whose families are customers of NEA may apply. Applications from interested students must be turned in to NEA by May 17, 2018. Dates for this year's camp are July 9-13, 2018.

2018 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 _____

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

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.

It's the time of year when we at the coop start looking at the scholarships for the students nearing graduation and getting ready for Annual Meeting and capital credits retirements for the year. All of this actually does relate to each other. The Annual Meeting is when we hand out, or mail out shortly after, the capital credits retirement checks. These go out to all members that were on the NEA system as of a certain year, in this year case, 1992, and speaks to Cooperative Principle #3 Member Economic Participation.

In other words, in any given year, you buy ownership in the coop from past members by rotation or payment of capital credits. Some of the past owners are still members, and others have left the system. As you can imagine, some of the folks that were here in 1992 have moved out of the area and have not left us with current information on their address. Another scenario would be those that get their capital credits checks and just don't cash them for one reason or another. In both of these cases, the dollars that do not get claimed are allowed by state statute to remain in the hands of NEA as long as they are used for community benefit. This money is placed in a safe but growing investment fund and is used to provide donations to local organizations and also provides for the money that is used for the scholarships. We have been able to provide many scholarships over the years to local high school graduates, as well as adult non-traditional students. This is just one of many ways that the NEA fulfills the 7 cooperative principles, in this case, #7, Concern for Community.

Cooperative Principle #2 is Democratic Owner Control. This is also the time of year when I start to promote your involvement in the local control and responsibility of the cooperative. Annual Meeting is coming up on May 17 in Harrison, NE. This is the opportunity to hear about how your cooperative is doing financially and operationally, and to hear what we have planned for next year. Though many of our past elections have been uncontested, it is a chance to vote for the board members that represent you. It is also a great opportunity to get to know some of the staff and the board members. Not to mention, a great time to get out and visit with neighbors that make it out there as well. I'll be sharing more on the Annual Meeting in the months to come. Hopefully, we have better weather than last year!

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 Room News

- Manager Ken Ceaglske reviewed financials, addressed nominating committee, statement of non-discrimination and west load growth activities.
- Line Superintendent Rick Bridge reported on Lance Creek work plan, recent crew activities and meter replacement.
- Director Greer updated everyone on WREA business.
- Director Hammond gave a Tri-State business report.
- Director Keener spoke on NREA business.