



30th year 11th Issue

December 2019

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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
- Miller Soap Company
- Bloomers

## NEA was happy to represent at Donuts With Grown-ups.



Charles Kleinburg with Marcus & Andre Broberg (top) & Jarit Krejci with Logan Furnish (right) sharing some time and enjoying donuts.



Doug Lytle and his family, Katie, Nic & Addie, enjoying some quality time together at school, accompanied by donuts.

The Lusk Parent Group is behind this yearly “time to connect” event. Not all students have consistent grown-ups in their lives so, NEA employees without their own kids attending LEMS, step in to the moment and share some time together over a donut. While other NEA employees spend the time at school with their own children.

## Our best wishes, Kenny Ceaglske, on your new path.

It is with mixed feelings that I write my last official newsletter article. I have accepted a position at a co-op in Wisconsin that puts our family closer to parents, siblings, nieces and nephews along the Minnesota-Wisconsin border, and with that, excitement for rekindling the relationships back home. At the same time, it means letting go of all that I have come to know here at the NEA.

It seems like yesterday when I arrived here in 2012, hard to believe nearly 8 years have passed. It has probably been the most fun and exciting 8 years of my life, getting to know the NEA system, members, staff, and board. We made it through drought, fire, blizzards, floods and most everything that nature could throw at us in that time. All the while, the steady perseverance of the “wild west” keeps us moving forward, trying to make things just a little better than the day before, despite what Mother Nature thinks!

Memories of helping put out a brush fire, swatting at the grass and yucca plants with an old pair of coveralls that we soaked in a stock tank (heavy, but it was the best thing we could find), or visiting with members that had been out most of a week and having to break the news that it could be another day or two until we could get the crews headed that way. Only to hear the reply that they would be OK for another day or two, they had enough water to get by. Getting the news about the first ONEOK station and the changes it would make to the NEA system, then getting another, and in the days before I type this, working on the next two stations for ONEOK, and another for Bridger Pipeline. Pretty amazing, all in all.

I know that my work here has produced many improvements to the facilities, electric system, and hopefully for the staff and members. I also know that I would never be able to accomplish all of the things that we have without the steady support of good staff, board and membership. It is with that knowledge that I feel safe that the NEA will still be in good hands as I leave. There is a part of me that will never let go, and I will be watching from Wisconsin. I look forward to seeing the growth and improvement continue on into the next generation of management and through the growth that is coming in the near future. These are exciting times indeed.

My wish for all the NEA family is to continue forward in safety, good health, and prosperity through the years. I am honored to have been able to be a part of it all and will cherish the friendships and memories.







## Winter Is Back. Tips For The Season:

### **Treat Frostbite Immediately.**

Use first aid to help someone who may have hypothermia or frostbite. Online and classroom courses are available at workplaces and other organization National Safety Council.

### **Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning.**

Carbon monoxide detectors save lives. Every year, over 400 people die and 50,000 are treated for carbon monoxide poisoning. The most common symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are often described as “flu-like” - headache, dizziness, weakness, upset stomach, vomiting, chest pain and confusion.

**Before You Drive.** Clean your car’s external camera lenses and side view mirrors. Remove dirt, ice and snow from sensors to allow the assistive-driving features like automatic emergency braking to work.

Sourced NSC

Our office will be closed for the  
Christmas and New Year's  
celebrations.



nea@niobrara-electric.org

PO Box 697 Lusk, WY 82225

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



**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.

As you can see in the left column, our published office hours are from 7:30 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 7:30 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. on Fridays. This schedule allows employees every other Friday off. We split the office staff and line crews into two groups so one group gets one Friday and the other, the next. Our Electricians work a 4/10 schedule and are off every Friday.

This schedule works well for employee morale and for scheduling personal appointments. For members who wait until Fridays to handle NEA business however, the individual they call to speak with or stop in to see may be on a Friday off. In order to best serve our members, we ask you to consider making those calls or stopping by earlier in the week. If you are needing contact with an employee that works in the field (line crew member, superintendent, staking, etc) morning visits will net you best results as contact throughout the day may be hit and miss.

We are all here to serve our members everyday of the week. Please never hesitate to call or stop in regardless of the day. Just keep in mind that you may be best served by calling ahead and scheduling an appointment and/or making contact early in the week.



### 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	
Neal Wurdeman	2	Lusk, WY	
Andy Greer	1	Lance Creek, WY	
JD Wasserburger	2	Lusk, WY	Vice President

#### Board Minutes

- Manager Kenny Ceaglske discussed policy updates, new personnel and ONEOK Lusk station construction topics.
- Line Superintendent Rick Bridge spoke on safety topics, digger truck purchase and work plan progress.
- Director Keener spoke on NREA business.
- Director Greer spoke on WREA business.
- Director Hammond spoke on Tri-State business.