



30th year 1st Issue

February 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
- Rough and Refined
- Miller Soap Company
- Bloomers

## NEA DISTRICTS AND DIRECTORS.

Niobrara Electric breaks down our service area into three districts. The eastern district includes all of our Nebraska & South Dakota service territory. Our central district covers the Lusk & Van Tassel area, up into Weston County and down to our border in Goshen County. Our western district encompasses Manville, Lance Creek and all the service area to our border in Converse county. Our districts are represented by elected Directors who have residence in their respective districts.

Currently, Directors Jack Hammond (West, District 1), Director Kenny DeGering (Central, District 2) and David Keener (East, District 3) are serving on the Board and are up for election in 2019. Both Jack Hammond and David Keener have agreed to run for re-election. Kenny DeGering has chosen not to run again.

Since Director DeGering will not be running for re-election, the Nominating Committee will need to submit another candidate or candidates from District 2 to fill the position. If you want to be nominated for a board seat, contact any member of the Nominating Committee or contact the office to get a candidate interest form.

See map on page 3 for districts.

## NOTICE OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Board of Directors of Niobrara Electric Association, Inc. has appointed the following Members of the Association to serve on the Nominating Committee for the purpose of nominating Members to stand for election to the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting to be held **May 16, 2019**.

District No. 1 – Richard Ladwig, Ken Dixon, and Denzel Coffey (Brad Reese, alternate)

District No. 2 – Cheryl Lund, Stan Rennard, Dan Hanson (Rod Nelson, alternate)

District No. 3 – Jon Woodrum, Rodney Gray and Donald Mack (Jack Buhr, alternate)

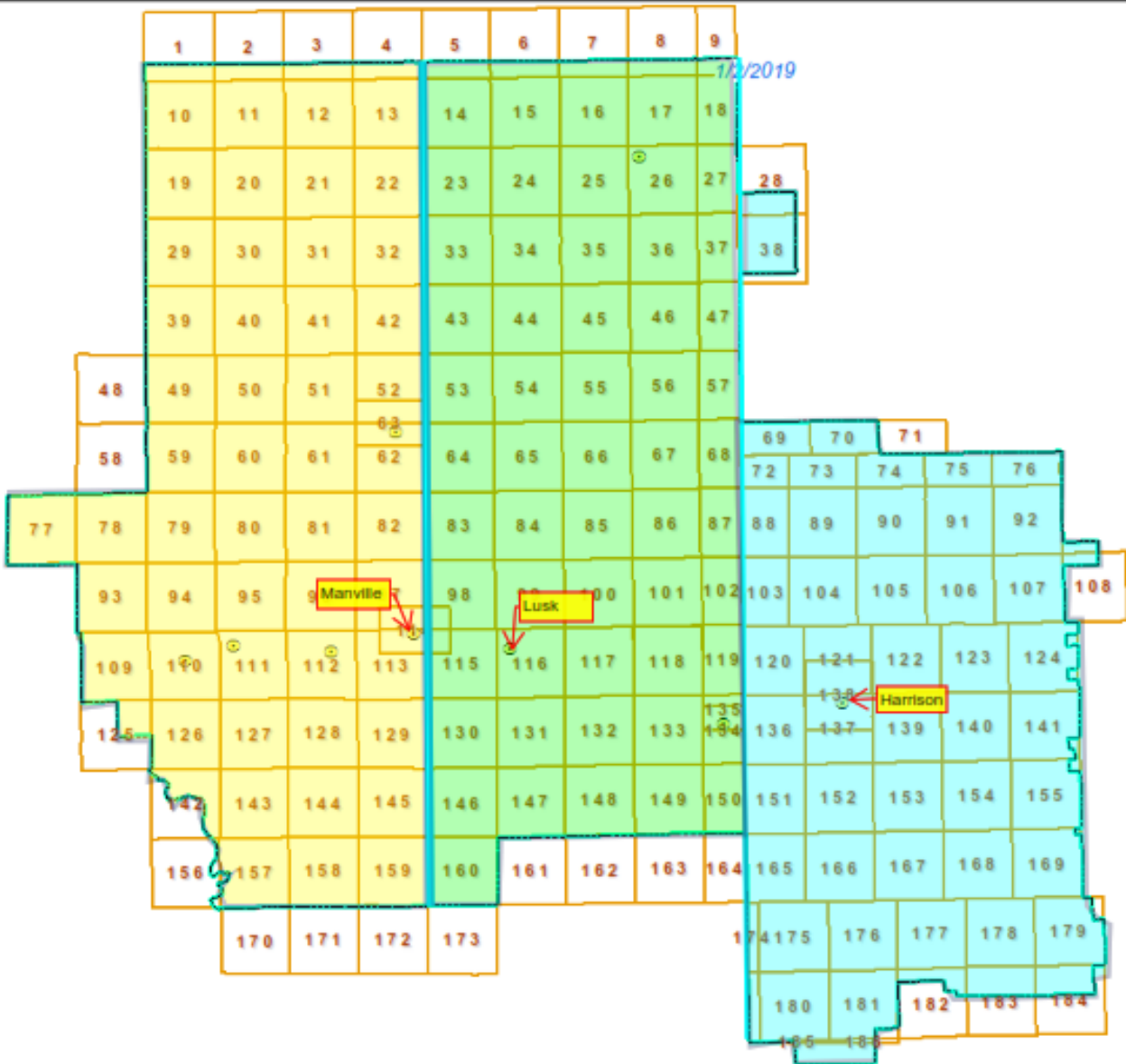
The Nominating Committee will meet at the Niobrara Electric Association Office, 3951 US Highway 20, Lusk, WY at 5:30 p.m. on **February 20, 2019**.

If any Member of the Association has any comments or suggestions, contact a member of the Nominating Committee located in your district prior to said meeting date.

Further nominations may be made as follows:

By any fifteen (15) or more Members acting together may make other nominations by petition. Nominations made by petition must be received by the Secretary at least thirty (30) days before the annual meeting date so that the nominee(s) by petition may be included on the printed ballot.

## Niobrara Electric Districts



Yellow District 1, GREEN District 2 and BLUE District 3

Reminder to submit Scholarship Applications to the NEA office no later than 4:00 pm February 22nd.



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 we head into 2019, we are working on plans to rebuild much of the line between our Van Tassell Substation in Nebraska, to just a few miles west of the town of Van Tassell. The old line that feeds that area has been troublesome when foul weather strikes, and the fact that in 12 miles of line, it is visible from the road for two crossings, but never for long, makes it especially difficult to patrol. Often when the weather has been the cause with rain or snow, it means that we are travelling on soft ground, risking damage to the pastures or to our vehicles. The design work is almost complete and the new line will follow Highway 20 for much of the route. This new line will improve reliability in that area, and make patrolling and repair on the line much easier should there be problems.

Another major project in the works for 2019 is an additional transmission line north out of the Podolak Substation behind the office. The new ONEOK Elk Creek Pipeline that is just east of Lusk will be going on line shortly and we need to add additional capacity to support their loads and other future loads to the north. The design of this line will also add a redundant line that we can tie into should there be problems between Lusk and Kirtley Road, this will become more useful as we plan for repair and replacement on the existing lines in that area in the future. Expect to see activity between Lusk and Kirtley Road starting in late summer.

We also have plans to start the migration from the existing meter system to a more modern one; this transition will take 5-10 years to get across the whole system in a manner that doesn't break the bank.

Depending on oil prices and activity, we may be headed into a significant build on the west end of the system as well. Time will tell on that one.

As you have seen earlier in the newsletter, we continue to get closer to annual meeting, including director elections. If you have interest in becoming a director, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee, Twyla, or me.

Looking forward to a great 2019,

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 associated line upgrades, the recent Federated Insurance safety review of the facilities and the upcoming Van Tassell work plan project.
- Manager Ceaglske updated the Board on possible new large loads, policy updates, training opportunities and WREA legislative activities.
- Director Hammond shared Tri-State business.
- Director Keener shared NREA business.