

30th year 4th Issue

May 2019

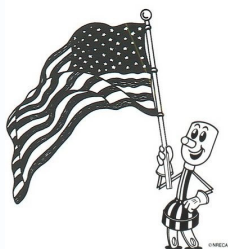
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CELEBRATE OUR
AMERICAN FLAG
ON JUNE 14TH.

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



Excellent turn out for the 74th Annual Meeting!!!

In person registrations totaled 151. Additionally, 59 proxies were recorded. We enjoyed the highest attendance in Lusk as far back as any current employee could remember. Quorum (115) was easily met and the business meeting and elections followed a savory meal provided by Hickory Creek Catering.

Paper ballot voting with three candidates on the ballot resulted in Neal Wurdeman being elected as the new District 2 Director. David Keener (District 3) and Jack Hammond (District 1) were re-elected by acclamation.

Kim Christiansen GM & Executive Vice-President with NREA, Shawn Taylor Executive Director with WREA and Joel Bladow Senior Vice President with Tri-State G&T each addressed industry issues. NEA General Manager Kenny Ceaglske, NEA President John Hester and NEA Secretary/Treasurer David Keener gave their respective reports and took questions from the crowd.

Five employees received service awards: Chris Rejda 30 years, Twyla Barker 25 years, Julie Hageman 5 years and Charles Kleinberg 5 years.

Many of the scholarship winners were in attendance. Each were recognized with their awards and gave a brief description of their educational plans.

Door prizes were plentiful and the grand prize of \$1100.00 was not claimed, as the winner was not present. The prize money will increase for next year.

Faith Nunn, Trevor Merava, Jebb Ginkens, Peyton Kottwitz, Sadie Sturman, Jack Skavdahl, William Fish and Dylan Miller.

Scholarship Winners

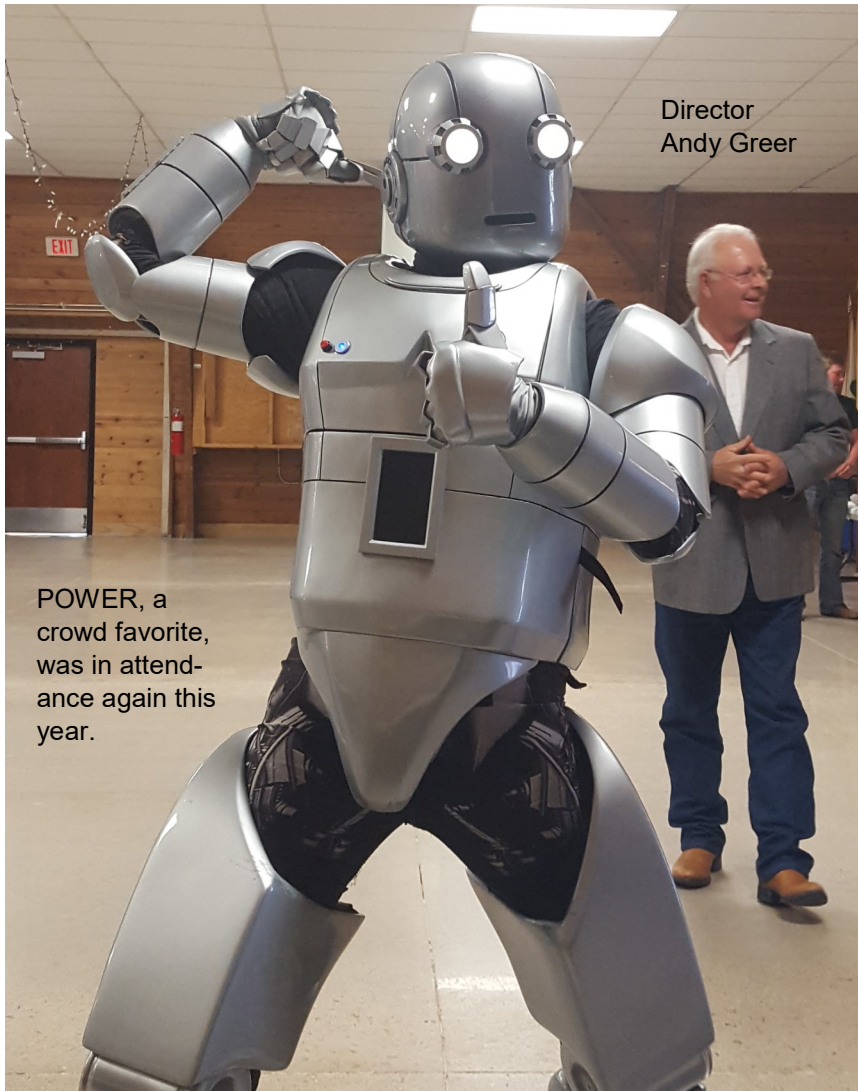


Linemen Charles Kleinberg, Chance Wilder and Austin Francis



Directors with door prizes





nea@niobrara-electric.org

PO Box 697 Lusk, WY 82225

**"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.

Wow! I said it at the meeting and I'll say it again. Thank you to all of the members that were able to make it to the meeting! It was exciting to see the level of involvement in electing a new board member and to see people involved in one of the factors that make cooperatives different from Investor Owned Utilities (IOU).

Another major difference between the IOU's and Co-ops, is the member ownership in the Co-op and the way that the ownership of the cooperative rotates as time passes. Members that invested in the system were paid back about \$300,000 in capital credits. It was no small feat to return the level of capital credits back to the members that we did. It definitely helped that Tri State increased the amount that we pass through, but NEA returned more than ever as well.

The money that is in member ownership (commonly referred to as member equity, capital credits or patronage capital) is money that is used for much of the improvements in the system, and represents your ownership in the system that delivers the power to your house. The money that was paid back this year was for those of you that had service with NEA in 1991-1993. If you were not at the meeting, the checks were mailed to you.

At year end, any excess revenue is set aside in the names of the members that paid in, proportionate to what they paid for service. This set aside is only a paperwork function, the real cash is actually used for many of the projects, material, and equipment that makes up the system, (hence, partial ownership of the system). Those expenses are accounted for over time, but the cash is needed today to pay for them. In time, typically 25-35 years, the next current members "buy" the system from the previous members through capital credits. That system is what makes us a cost based, not for profit cooperative.

In the IOU world, most of the expenses that go into the system can be applied to the "rate base" which has a built-in return on investment that is "profit" and is returned to the investors. The investors, in most cases, are out of area, non-customers that have no stake in the costs or interest in the local economy.

General Manager Kenny Ceagske

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

An abbreviated organizational meeting was held. There were no changes to officers. Other discussion was held on scholarship for Coop Class at UW and easements.

No Director reports were given.