

30th year 4th Issue

May 2019

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#### 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

We are voting this year so plan to attend on May 16th at Niobrara County Fairgrounds. Bring your booklet to the meeting for registration or send your proxy card.

#### 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



Survival shelter using rock, rope and a tarp.

A winter survival class was recently put on by our Co-op neighbor, Wheatland REA.

Rick Bridge, Jason Fish and Matt Edwards attended the two day event and came back with praise for the class and looking forward to a purposed follow up class, Back Country First Aid.

"Very eye opening; a lot of practical stuff we could use," said Line Superintendent Rick Bridge.



Making do with what you have is a lesson we all learn; and in Wyoming weather, you can easily be caught off guard.

Pictured left, Linemen draped in garbage bags. When you don't have a rain slicker, a garbage bag will work.

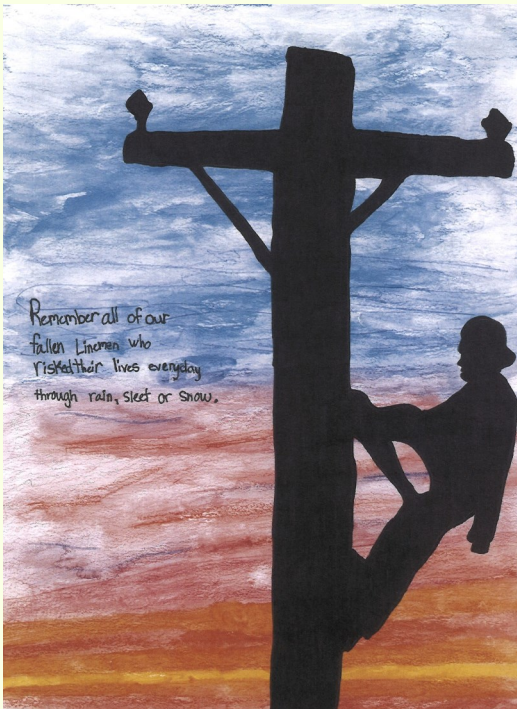


We celebrated Lineman Appreciation in April. Thanks to our Linemen for all you do!!!



Top row, left to right: Journeymen, Levi Clark, Justin Huston, Charles Kleinberg, Jason Fish, Will Smith, Matt Edwards and Rick Bridge. Not pictured, Brandon Arnold.

Bottom row, left to right: Apprentices, Chance Wilder, Austin Francis and Coy Boland.



Congratulations to this year's Cody Hotline School Drawing winner, Emmalee Guymon.

Emmalee is a 5th grader at Flaming Gorge School. Her drawing will be on the t-shirts worn by this year's class of Line workers attending Cody Hotline School.

This drawing contest is held every March and advertised in our WREN magazine.





Journeyman Will Smith (left) and Apprentice Austin Francis (right) working on the Van Substation Rebuild.

The Van Substation has been undergoing an upgrade.

Much of the substation upgrade was in replacing 1960's equipment and took several weeks to accomplish. Importantly, the old glass in the sub was replaced with a polymer, to alleviate tracking (term for when insulators go bad).

New breakers, a very welcomed addition, were added to allow opening the whole circuit (3 phases) when there is a fault condition on the line. This opening will help protect electric motors and other user equipment. Finally, lightning damage was addressed by adding a dyno sphere for protection.

This was a sizeable project and great learning experience for our crew, especially the apprentices who didn't have a lot of substation experience prior to this upgrade.



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"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.

This newsletter should be arriving at about the same time as your annual meeting notice. Please either hang on to that notice and plan to attend the meeting or ask around to folks you know that might be coming to Lusk on the 16<sup>th</sup> and give them your proxy card. If you do the proxy card option, be sure to sign it with the name that your account is in for it to be a valid proxy. I look forward to seeing many of you there. We'll have the usual financial presentation, as well as upcoming projects, updates from our state-wide association, and Tri-State this year.

We need to be sure to do our best to meet the quorum to have an "official" meeting. We've had a few years where we're close to not making it. How can you help? Watch for you annual meeting notice mailing. If you are attending, bring your own notice with, and ask your neighbors if they are attending, if not, see if you can be their proxy. If you do not plan to attend, please fill out the proxy card and get it to someone who will be there. Any one member is allowed to be a proxy for up to 5 others if they have the proper proxy cards. This year's meeting does have an election for District 2, candidate information is in the annual meeting notice. I do want to thank the dedicated members that show up to support the NEA in this business function of your electric co-op.

Spring is also on the way (if the snow ever stops), with that means more activity in the pastures and back country. Please keep an eye open when working near NEA lines and poles. Winter brings many stresses to our lines, including ice and wind that can cause insulators, poles, or anchors to break or come loose. The wind and ice that we have seen in the past few months didn't do much damage significant enough to cause widespread outages but may have caused damage to some less critical parts that may present an issue in time. If you see something that doesn't look right, please keep yourself and any livestock a safe distance away and notify the office as soon as you can.

Kenny Ceagslske

### 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

- Line Superintendent Bridge reported on work plan jobs, outages and other new services.
- Manager Ceagslske spoke about Fair sponsorship, oilfield growth and other new large loads.
- Director Hammond shared Tri-State business.
- Director Keener shared NREA business.
- Director Greer shared WREA business.