

30th year 8th Issue

September 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

With school back in session, we want to mention that NEA is always interested in educating our future members. Education starting with what it means to be a cooperative and ending with how to respect the power of electricity.

We always attend the Niobrara County Health Fair in October and we love to come to the schools. By the time this newsletter is in your hands, we will have already attended the Niobrara Health and Safety Fair, held in late August.

Please never hesitate to contact our office if you know of an event Niobrara Electric should attend for educational or safety purposes. Our power supplier, Tri-State G&T is also very active in education. Michelle Pastor is administrator for both the Story Behind the Switch and the NEED (National Energy Education Development) programs.

For more information use the link below or you can contact our office for hard copies. Information has also been sent to the area schools.

www.tristate.coop/NEEDApplication

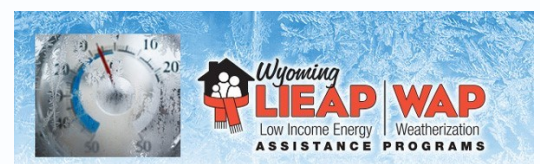
www.tristate.coop/storybehindtheswitch



Youth Tour Camper using the Van de Graaff generator used in the Power Behind the Switch program.



The cold weather season is quickly approaching. Be sure to contact LIEAP if you have energy concerns.



<http://dfsweb.wyo.gov/economic-assistance/lieap>



Wyoming State Fair 2019

(Above and Left) Austin Francis helping a young climber experience this part of line work.

(Below) Doug Lytle & Kenny Ceagske at the WREA/CO-OP tent.





State Fair participation is one of our favorite outreach and community involvement opportunities each year. The final Saturday of the Fair is generally Niobrara Electric's day to represent at the WREA tent.

Our Warehouse Coordinator, Doug Lytle, managed ten pages of contacts with Fair goers this year. Which means he had a lot of interaction with people who showed interest in our electric Co-op!

Apprentice Austin Francis was on hand to demonstrate a lineworker's clothes, PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) and other tools. A safety trailer is on-site all week at the WREA/CO-OP booth and Austin worked extensively at it. Pole climbing is always a draw and Austin helped with eager climbers to give them the experience of sinking a gaff into a pole, leaning out and having a climbing belt hold them.

The last Saturday is also parade day. For the last several years, General Manager Kenny Ceaglske has also been representing the Co-op; In the booth, riding or walking in the parade and waving and throwing candy to the delight of little sugar junkies awaiting the procession.

Above photo: Austin Francis and Kenny Ceaglske



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"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.

The State Fair in August seems to indicate the end of the summer and the beginning of fall. As we head into fall, it becomes the season for schools, kids and sports. As each passing year goes by, if you follow the same student, you get to see the growth in skills and abilities, new interests and the path towards their independence and maturity.

It is like that in the electric industry, also. On the same week as the fair, we send lineman and staff to the Cody Hotline School to teach, learn, or administer the school. This is a hands-on learning environment for linemen from across the region to share knowledge and for development and growth in their skills. It seems to signal the end of summer and heading into fall for us as well.

The line trade uses an on-the-job apprenticeship training method to bring linemen up. Typically, a new lineman goes to a school that can be as short as a few months to as much as two years. From that schooling, they learn some of the basics of the trade. After they are hired by a co-op, like NEA, they go through a series of additional study materials and hands on training with experienced journeyman linemen. After four years of this training, they come out on the other side as a qualified journeyman.

Most co-ops in the US and many of the investor owned utilities use the same system and recognize each other's standards. As co-ops, we all do our part to support the industry as a whole. NEA typically has at least one apprentice on staff, and as of this article, we have three, two first year, one second. Of the 6 journeyman linemen we have on staff, 4 of them completed their apprenticeship here with NEA. Two of our journeymen "topped out" elsewhere, but have made NEA home. Like the students at the schools, it is fun and exciting to see the apprentice linemen work their way through the steps into the classification of journeymen and then see them continue to grow in the industry.

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

Board Minutes

- Manager Kenny Ceaglske reported on safety training, staffing, recent tornado outages, work plan progress. Also, Tri-State FERC application, ONEOK project, metering and the west loads.
- Director Keener spoke on NREA business.
- Director Greer spoke on WREA business.
- Director Hammond spoke on Tri-State business.