



31st year 11th Issue

December 2020

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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

Good news regarding rates from our power supplier.

At NEA, we strive to operate in the most efficiency and member focused manner possible while staying within all the rules and regulations that our industry must abide by. Purchasing power and rates to our members are among the pressing concerns we deal with on a continuous basis.

On that front, a bit of good news has been announced by Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association's board of directors. They have adopted a goal to reduce wholesale electric rates for member utilities by 8% by the end of 2023.

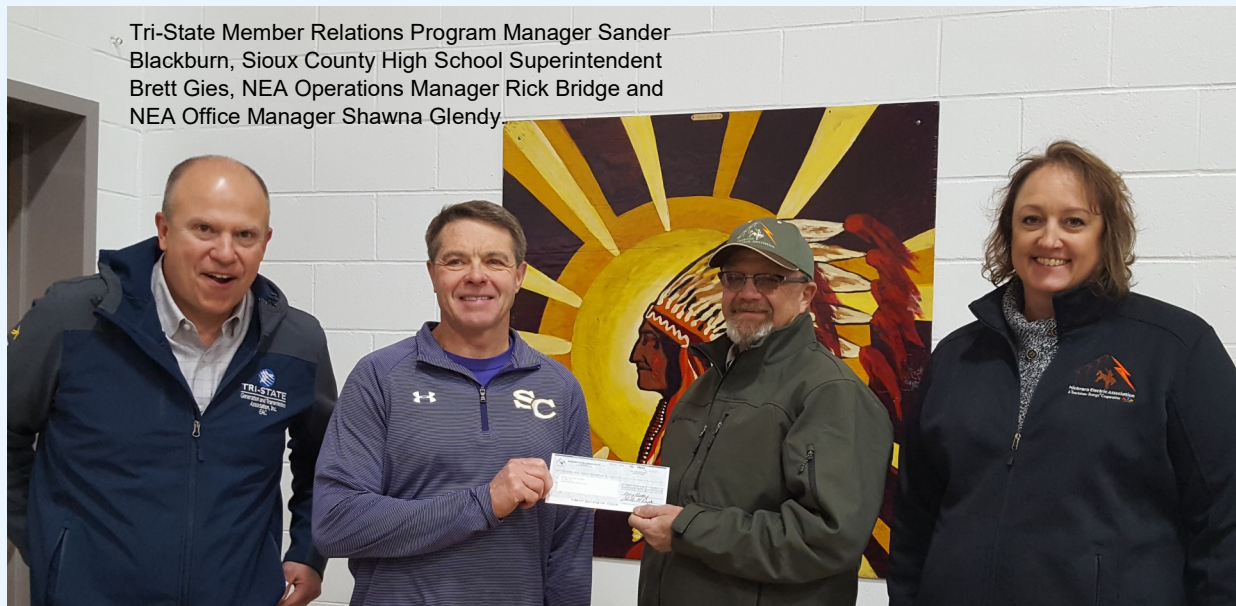
Alien Mc
Tri-State will implement its 8% wholesale rate reduction goal over the next three years. Wholesale rates have been stable for the last four years and rates remain stable in 2021.

This is welcome news, as wholesale rate reduction means NEA is better positioned to keep our member rates low. There will not be a pass along rate adjustment scheduled for 2021.

2021 Scholarship information for graduating seniors, college students and non-traditional students are currently on our website and in both Niobrara & Sioux County High Schools.

Applications are due by February 19, 2021.

If you have questions, call our office and ask for Twyla.



Tri-State Member Relations Program Manager Sander Blackburn, Sioux County High School Superintendent Brett Gies, NEA Operations Manager Rick Bridge and NEA Office Manager Shawna Glendy.

In mid-November, Niobrara Electric Association's management team traveled to Sioux County High School along with Tri-State Member Relations Program Manager Sander Blackburn. Together, they handed Brett Gies a rebate check for \$30,314.50k.

Much needed improvements to the school's heating and lighting systems, completed this year, qualified for energy efficiency rebates. Both Tri-State G&T and Niobrara Electric participated in the rebate effort.

In addition to the sizeable rebate, which has already been an offset to unexpected financial burdens facing the school, the long-term outlook is for the school to continue seeing benefits from the conver-

sion in terms of energy savings and quality of work and learning environment for staff and students.

Sioux County Schools Superintendent Brett Gies expressed his appreciation and explained the numerous ways the upgrade has already benefited the staff and students, including proper ventilation, heating/cooling and automatic light shut off when rooms are vacant.

NEA began the process for the school to achieve the upgrade by donating time and materials to convert from existing single phase to three phase service.

Three phase power was run, starting at Fire hall and going up the street in front of the school and then

bored in underground, crossing the street and then finishing at a correctly sized pad mount transformer in front of the school building.

Being a part of a rebate this large and assisting in an upgrade with such favorable impact on our members is definitely an exciting event that NEA is proud of.

Did you know you can receive your monthly bills electronically?

Benefits include: reduced costs for NEA, reduced waste and faster/reliable delivery.

Contact Julie in our Billing department for more information.



The new 69 KVA transmission line coming out of Podolak substation (directly behind the NEA headquarters building) and running north to Kirtly road is set to finish construction by March. One side of the paralleled circuit feeds Kirtly and the other side feeds Cheyenne River.

As published in more detail on the last page of the November newsletter, the alternative feed involved in this new construction has been a member driven project.

Pictured are the steel pole's concrete foundations (5' across & up to 30' deep). The foundations were finished in November. The 70' to 90' Steel poles will be secured into the foundations in December and then the project can be completed.



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 SRS will
take all other calls and dispatch
NEA personnel.

Nominating Committee will meet in February 2021 to start the Annual Meeting process by making nominations for the NEA Board of Directors. Watch our social media, SmartHub notifications or our website for postings regarding Nomination Committee and Annual Meeting.

Candidate interest forms are available at the NEA office.

We do not publish a newsletter in the month of January so look for our next newsletter in February.



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

- Rick Bridge gave an Operations and Safety Report—no accidents or close call. The new truck would be here end of the month. He asked and received approval to upgrade the substation capacitors at Oneok 7, Van Tassel, 20-Mile and Hat creek.
- Director Keener spoke on NREA business.
- Director Greer spoke on WREA business.
- Director Wilson spoke on Tri-State business