



31st year 2nd Issue

March 2020

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>New Meters</i>	1
<i>Nominating Committee</i>	2
<i>Youth Energy Leadership Camp</i>	3
<i>Watch For Wires/Board Minutes</i>	4



#### 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

## NEW METERS TO HELP US SERVE YOU BETTER

Referring back to our November 2019 issue, Niobrara Electric Association will be installing new, automated meters over the next few years to increase the efficiency and reliability of our electric system. Improving the efficiency of both operations and electricity delivery can help us keep down costs for members.

The decision to upgrade our metering system came mostly due to the fact that our current system of almost 12 years old, is obsolete and failing. We are no longer able to troubleshoot problems through a customer service representative or get replacement parts for our equipment as those parts are no longer being made.

The new platform we will deploy is the Landis & Gyr Gridstream Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system. This has come with an intensive field study done by our provider Landis & Gyr to strategically place all equipment (collectors, routers, and meters) in a place that will ensure proper communication to gather meter reading information.

With the new automated meters, Niobrara Electric will be able to read meters remotely from the co-op's headquarters, remotely connect and disconnect services at the time of request, detect any meter tampering or power theft, and have faster restoration times as we will be able to pinpoint areas affected by outages and respond quicker. Remote meter reading will save us time, labor, and money.

The new technology can help us monitor the electric system in almost real-time. We can use this information to make the process of delivering power much more efficient. Members can also expect to experience fewer blinks, surges, and spikes as a result of the upgrade. The metering products we have selected have met all FCC requirements. Data retrieval is limited to no more than 1% of each day.

The meters, which provide hourly information about power use, will help consumer members understand how and when they are using electricity. Armed with this information, Niobrara Electric's customer service representatives will be in a better position to help members address billing inquiries.

At Niobrara Electric, taking advantage of new technologies is one more way that we are looking out to better serve our members.

REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE  
NIOBRARA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.  
LUSK, WYOMING 82225

The nominating committee appointed for the purpose of nominating Directors for Niobrara Electric Association, Inc. for three year terms, met at the office of the Association on February 19, 2020 at 5:30 p.m., pursuant to Notice.

The members of the Committee were as follows:

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

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

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

The following members of the Nominating Committee were present:

<u>Ken Dixon</u>	<u>Cheryl Lund</u>	<u>Donald Mack</u>
<u>Denzel Coffey</u>	<u>Dan Hanson</u>	
<u>Richard Ladwig</u>	<u>Rod Nelson</u>	

The Nominating Committee selected Richard Ladwig as Chairman, who presided at the meeting.

Motion was made by Denzel Coffey that the following named Members:

<u>District 1</u>	<u>District 2</u>	<u>District 3</u>
<u>John Hester</u>	<u>Joel D Wasserburger</u>	<u>William Wilson</u>

be placed in nomination for Directors of Niobrara Electric Association to serve three (3) year terms, seconded by Donald Mack, and carried.

The meeting was adjourned.

/s/ Richard Ladwig

Chairman, Nominating Committee

The NEA Board has selected a new General Manager. The new GM will start work here in March. Look for more information in the April newsletter.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION  
CONTACT YOUR LOCAL ELECTRIC UTILITY**

Niobrara Electric Association  
Box 697  
Lusk, WY 82225  
307/334-3221  
[www.niobrara-electric.org](http://www.niobrara-electric.org)

**YOUTH ENERGY LEADERSHIP CAMP  
APPLICATION FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Age \_\_\_\_\_ Current Grade \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of parents \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of your sponsoring rural electric system  
\_\_\_\_\_

**NEBRASKA RURAL ELECTRIC  
YOUTH ENERGY  
LEADERSHIP CAMP**



**July 20-24, 2020**

High school students, grades 9 - 11  
Nebraska State 4-H Camp - Halsey, Neb.



If you are interested in applying for this all-expense  
paid camp, complete the application form and  
return it to your local electric system.

**WIN A FREE TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.**

Three campers will be selected to serve as  
Nebraska's Ambassadors to the  
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's  
Rural Electric Youth Tour in 2021.

YELC is not just another camp. Youth Energy Leadership Camp or YELC is a hands on, activity filled experience for CO-OP member teens who want to meet their energy driven counterparts from other CO-OP/PPD service territory in NE & WY.

While making life-long friendships, and learning about the electric industry, attendees will also solve issues in workshops, hear presentations and see demonstrations from regional experts on rural electric industry issues. They'll also go canoeing, play sports, enjoy a banquet/dance and tour the Gerald Gentleman Power Station and Kinsley Hydro-Electric Power Plants.

It's a lot packed into a week!

If you have questions, call our office and speak with Twyla.



**[www.niobrara-electric.org](http://www.niobrara-electric.org)  
[www.facebook.com/NiobraraElectric](https://www.facebook.com/NiobraraElectric)**



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.



### 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

- Line Superintendent Rick Bridge spoke on Operations and safety,
- Director Keener spoke on NREA business.
- Director Greer spoke on WREA business.
- Director Wilson spoke on Tri-State business.