

31st year 10th Issue

November 2020

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

*Huge Energy Efficiency Rebate* 1

*Safety* 2

*Pictures* 3

*Boardroom News* 4

Wishing all a  
Blessed  
Thanksgiving  
Holiday



#### 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

After the numbers were tallied, lighting changes and heat system upgrades undertaken at Sioux County Schools this year are in and our power supplier, Tri-State G&T, will be rebating \$27,539.50 for the air source heat pumps (\$24,975.00) and LED lamps and fixtures for commercial lighting (\$2,564.50). An additional \$2775.00 From NEA's energy efficiency program brings the grand total to \$30,314.50.

Watch for more information about this exciting project in the next newsletter and on our social media.



Technology provides a number of convenient, modern and safe ways to pay your monthly NEA electric bill. We encourage our members to check out the options available.

**SmartHub:** Go to our website at [www.niobrara-electric.org](http://www.niobrara-electric.org) and use the purple SmartHub (saved information) or silver SmartHub—PAY NOW (unsaved information for one-time web payment) icon to start paying your bill, see your account information, get communication/ Alerts, and more.

**EFT:** Set up for Electronic Funds Transfer can be accomplished through the SmartHub or by calling the NEA office at 307-334-3221 and speaking with the Billing Department. This is an extremely popular option for irrigators.

**Pay by Phone:** To be compliant with the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard, we cannot take your payment over the phone. However, you can dial 1-888-301-0892, and follow the easy to understand prompts to use your chosen credit/debit card or check to pay your bill.

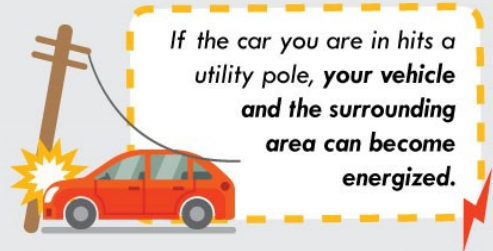


**PAY-BY-PHONE** TOLL-FREE NUMBER  
**1-888-301-0892**

# KNOW WHAT TO DO



*if in an Auto Accident  
with Power Lines*



Even if you do not touch lines or equipment, you can still be killed or seriously injured.



**1. Do NOT leave the car,**  
and warn others to stay away.

**2. Call 911** to have  
the utility notified.



**3. Wait** until a utility professional  
has told you it is safe.



The **only** reason  
to exit the vehicle is  
**if it's on fire.**

If the car is on fire, jump clear  
of the vehicle: **with feet together,**  
**and without touching the car and**  
**the ground at the same time.**



Continue to **hop away**  
with your **feet together**  
as far as you can.



Learn more at

**Safe**  
**Electricity.org**





Homecoming Parade



Pictured Left, Apprentice Dylan Haas during pole top rescue certification.



Pictured Right, Assistant Line Superintendent Jason Fish and Nebraska Line Foreman Justin Huston observing pole top rescue training.

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 SRS will  
take all other calls and dispatch  
NEA personnel.

## METERING SYSTEM UPGRADE CONTINUES.

In our November 2019 and March 2020 newsletters we shared information introducing NEA members to our transition from old power line carrier meters to the current technology of radio frequency, automated metering (AMI) going in on our system.

Journeyman Lineman/Meter Tech., Will Smith, has logged most of his working hours in 2020 on metering change outs and replacements. The AMI metering work has primarily taken place in Nebraska, where Will hopes to complete 60 more replacements by year end.

The enormity of service territory with one man assigned to the task means completion is a couple years out. However as work progresses, the benefits of outage tracking are becoming reality. We have the ability to remotely disconnect and connect meters, saving duplicate truck roles on new construction.

For NEA, outage times have the potential to be cut down significantly using a computer to see restored or out of power meters in almost real-time. Driving distances in Niobrara Electric's territory can be lengthy, costly and in bad weather - dangerous so this project has huge value to our membership.

### 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 digger truck is delayed until November.
- Manager Inman reported department heads are putting together budget numbers. Five guidelines were reviewed and updated. Cost of living adjustment was addressed and approved.
- Director Keener spoke on NREA business.
- Director Greer spoke on WREA business.
- Director Wilson spoke on Tri-State business