



Niobrara Electric Association

26th year 19th Issue

December 2014

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LIEAP is a state and federally-funded program that helps people pay home heating bills November through June. The program is open to homeowners and renters. It helps cover the costs of electricity, natural gas, propane, wood, diesel heating oil, coal and pellets when these are used for heating a home.

Applications for the LIEAP program are available beginning October 1, 2014 and are accepted until February 28, 2015.

Application forms and information are available by clicking the link below:

[2014-15 LIEAP Application Instructions and information](#)

To get specific information about your application or to ask that an application be mailed to you, call: 1-800-246-4221.



Want to win a Co-op sponsored scholarship? The Basin Electric/ NEA/Tri-State G&T scholarship applications will be available after the first of the year.

Graduating Seniors, College Students and Non-Traditional Students, look for scholarship applications at both Niobrara & Sioux County High Schools in January. In addition, applications will be available on the NEA website and at the NEA office.

The deadline for Basin Electric/NEA/Tri-State G&T scholarship applications is Friday, February 20th. Other scholarship applications we will post will have different due dates.

NEA does not put out a WREN newsletter insert in the month of January, so watch FB postings for scholarship information/reminders.

The electrical co-op community is very supportive of scholarship programs. In addition to our designated scholarship funds, NEA is able to offer to our members a number of awards with the financial support of Basin Electric and Tri-State G&T. At NEA, we believe in continuing education and encourage interested persons to submit an application for consideration.



©NRECA

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

NEA will be closed Thursday, December 25th and Thursday, January 1st for the Holidays.

Crofutt Retirement



Co-workers agree that the knowledge and experience of 40 years will be missed, at the same time, are of one accord in encouraging Barb to move ahead to the rewards of retirement.

NEA GM, Kenny Ceagske stated, "Barb's long history with NEA has been a resource for me starting out here. She has many of the "how's and why's" for the way things are done, or how the company has evolved. Occasionally the history is of a less mission critical need, "good old days" memories, but it is still a connection to our roots as a company. I hope for the very best for her and Dave as they enjoy retirement together."

Originally hired in 1975 as the File Clerk, Barbara Crofutt, spent the next 40 years serving NEA in various capacities including Cashier, Billing Clerk, Capital Credits Clerk, Bookkeeper & Benefits Administrator.

Bookkeeping especially appealed to Barb's love of working with numbers, creating spreadsheets, compiling information and solving for answers. "I've enjoyed the challenges and learning new systems/technology", said Barb of her work at NEA.

Though proud of her years of service, Barb is quite ready to enjoy her much anticipated retirement. Plans of time with her family, freedom to travel and attending events are on the agenda.

Pictured left, is Barb with her chosen Willie Wiredhand figurine, requested and received as part of her retirement gift.

Willie is an icon of the industry Barb devoted so much of her life to and it is with pleasure that NEA sends him with Barb as a sentimental and meaningful reminder of her years with the company.



An avid Rapid City Rush hockey fan, Barb will undoubtedly be in regular attendance for all the games as she leaves behind her work schedule for the freedom of retirement.

2015 RATES

SINGLE PHASE FACILITY CHARGE: \$29.00

SINGLE PHASE ENERGY CHARGE: \$0.11059

SINGLE PHASE-SEASONAL FACILITY CHARGE: \$348.00

SINGLE PHASE-SEASONAL ENERGY CHARGE: \$0.11059

SINGLE PHASE-TIME OF USE FACILITY CHARGE: \$29.00

SINGLE PHASE-TIME OF USE ENERGY CHARGE: \$0.15366 on peak \$0.05879 off peak

THREE PHASE FACILITIES CHARGE: \$38.00

THREE PHASE ENERGY CHARGE: \$0.11876

IRRIGATION FACILITIES CHARGE: \$355.00

IRRIGATION DEMAND CHARGE/KW: \$15.40

IRRIGATION ENERGY/kWh: \$0.05571

LARGE POWER FACILITY CHARGE \$300.00

LARGE POWER DEMAND CHARGE/KW: \$23.15

LARGE POWER ENERGY/kWh: \$0.0553

SPECIAL CONTRACT 1-BP-CHEYENNE & BF (51, 52, 53) FACILITIES CHARGES:

\$900.00, \$1081.00, \$1725.00

DEMAND CHARGE/KW: 25.92

ENERGY CHARGE/kWh: 0.04932

LIGHTING

SECURITY LIGHTING: \$14.48

STREET & HWY LIGHTING/kWh: \$0.12157

INDUSTRIAL PIPELINE RATE FACILITIES CHARGE: \$3500.00

DEMAND CHARGE/KW WINTER: \$34.35, SPRING: \$31.38, SUMMER: \$39.20 FALL: \$31.38

DEMAND CHARGE/KW NCP: \$3.85

ENERGY/kWh: \$0.050000

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PO Box 697

Lusk WY 82225

Phone: 307-334-3221

Fax: 307-334-2620



Touchstone EnergySM

Office Hours

Monday—Thursday

7:30 am—5:00 pm

Fridays 7:30 am—
4:00 pm

Electricians Department

7:00 am—5:30 pm (M-F)

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.

They say death and taxes are the two sure things in life, unfortunately so are rate increases. At the last board meeting, the board approved the 4.26% rate increase that I recommended. That percentage is based on estimated revenue increases over an "average" year. Single phase and smaller three phase services will see the increase in the facilities charge, versus irrigation, large three phase and the pipelines which will see the increase in the per kwh costs. Some of this difference is due to the structure of our rates to you, the member, compared to how we are billed by Tri State, our provider.

Like I mentioned last month, these increases are due to many factors, including a rate increase from Tri State in early 2014, winter storm damage costs, increased operating expenses and lower sales than expected. We did discuss the possibility of a rate increase in late 2013, but with the anticipated load growth, we held off, trying to keep member costs down.

There are many possibilities at this point for additional sales in 2015 and beyond as the west side of our system starts to see the oil field growth, but not any firm commitments that I can budget for, only speculation. If that load comes in and we see the increase in revenue, that could lessen any future increases, or allow for a greater amount of money to be spent on replacing aging poles and wire.

LATE BREAKING NEWS... I was just at a Tri State board meeting where they approved a \$35 million improvement to their system that cures many power limitations in the southeast Wyoming area, most importantly from the NEA standpoint; it will give us a second source into the system, allowing for a solid backup in case of damage to our primary feed. I will expand on this more in one of next year's newsletter, but for now, just know that the improvement plans are in the works!

Kenny Ceagske, General Manager

Boardroom News

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

October Board Meeting

- Director Hammond spoke regarding Tri-State business. Director Keener discussed NREA business and Director Greer shared WREA information.
- Attorney Skavdahl spoke on collection matters.
- Line Superintendent Rick Bridge reported one personnel issue, progress on the Anadarko Lost Springs project, regulator installs, Pale Horse, Podolak outage, Belle Fourche pipeline station, and progress on the new truck.
- Manager Ceagske reported on personnel issues including the upcoming retirement of Barb Crofutt, new hires of a PT receptionist and apprentice lineman and the progress on the master electrician. There was also discussion on rate issues for the electricians, west load, and roofing on the west shop.