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Remember to turn in Youth Energy Camp application forms to the NEA office by the deadline date, May 16th. Application on pg 2.

Niobrara Electric Assn.
Presents



**YOUTH ENERGY
CAMP**

JULY 15 - 19, 2013



NEBRASKA STATE 4-H CAMP
HALSEY, NEB.

It's time for the Annual Meeting of our Membership!

Join us at the Niobrara County Fairgrounds on Thursday, May 16th. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m., supper at 6:00 p.m., and we'll be conducting the business meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Annual Meeting is a yearly opportunity for the membership to gather for great food, to ask questions, hear financial and business reports, participate in voting for district directors and to celebrate the accomplishments of our youth scholarship winners.

An envelop containing the Annual Meeting agenda and your registration card(s) have been mailed, please bring your registration card(s) with you.

We hope to see you there!!

2013 marks 40 years of service to the NEA membership for District 1 Director Jack Hammond.

His longevity of service is no small thing, but even bigger is the quality of time, talent and temperament Jack brings to the board tables of both NEA and Tri-State, the countless meetings/functions attended and everyday interactions with the neighbors he represents.

Thank you, Jack, for all your hard work and dedication with Niobrara Electric.





This Spring, Matt Edwards, began duties as NEA Nebraska Line Foreman.

Join us in wishing Matt well in his new position.



Bundled up in winter gear during the April 9th storm that caused several outages from Van Tassell to the River Rd area south of Harrison, Lineman Andrew Krueger, climbs a pole in order to make repairs so power can be restored.

2013 YOUTH ENERGY CAMP APPLICATION FORM

Name _____ Age _____ Current Grade _____

Address _____ Phone number (____) _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Name of parents or guardian _____

Sponsoring rural electric system _____

The Seven Cooperative Principles

Open and Voluntary Membership

Membership in a cooperative is open to all persons who can reasonably use its services and stand willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, regardless of race, religion, gender, or economic circumstances.

Democratic Member Control

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. Elected representatives (directors/trustees) are elected from among the membership and are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote); cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

Members' Economic Participation

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative; setting up reserves; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

Autonomy and Independence

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control as well as their unique identity.

Education, Training, and Information

Education and training for members, elected representatives (directors/trustees), CEOs, and employees help them effectively contribute to the development of their cooperatives. Communications about the nature and benefits of cooperatives, particularly with the general public and opinion leaders, helps boost cooperative understanding.

Cooperation Among Cooperatives

By working together through local, national, regional, and international structures, cooperatives improve services, bolster local economies, and deal more effectively with social and community needs.

Concern for Community

Cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies supported by the membership.

These principles are underpinned by six ideals—the so-called cooperative values of Self-Help, Self-Responsibility, Democracy, Equality, Equity, and Solidarity. In addition, the International Cooperative Alliance lists cooperative “ethical values” of Honesty, Openness, Social Responsibility, and Caring for Others.

Borrowed from cooperative.com



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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.

As I have mentioned in past articles, the time has been coming for NEA to consider changing the rates that our members pay for the electricity we deliver. At the March Board Meeting I recommended and the board approved a new rate schedule that will go into effect on June 1, 2013. Overall rates will be going up an estimated 7.76%. Some rate classes will see a little higher increase; some a little lower depending on how the usage patterns affect our billing from Tri-State.

There are 2 parts to the rate increase, 5.5% of the increase is based on increases in power cost from Tri-State G&T and the remainder is due to increased costs in NEA operations. The last increase in rates to NEA members was January 1, 2011. Since the 2011 rate change, NEA has absorbed one increase in wholesale rates in 2012 of approximately 5%. Tri-State required an additional rate 4.9% increase this year as well as a rate structure change that may have some negative impacts on our power bill. The power bill makes up about 2/3rds of our total expenses. The NEA portion relates to increased operational costs like materials, equipment, and workforce expenses.

The official notice with the complete rate structures was published in the Lusk Herald, Torrington Telegram, Crawford Clipper and Douglas Budget in April. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the rate changes, feel free to contact me at the office.

While not as exciting as seeing pictures of new construction, one of the latest projects here in the office has been looking closely at how some of our expenses are financed. We are actively working on two projects that will take advantage of the unusually low interest rates to set and reduce future expenses on loans and employee benefit costs. We will continue to look for productive savings opportunities as they arise to save our members money.

General Manager, 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	
Kenny DeGering	2	Lusk, WY	
Andy Greer	1	Lance Creek, WY	
JD Wasserburger	2	Lusk, WY	Vice President

Boardroom News

March Board Meeting

- NEA Attorney Joe Stecher discussed collections and the FED EX claim.
- Manager Ceaglske reported on various personnel issues, new lineman hiring, shadow bills, idle service removal, Policy 520 FR Clothing, Tri-State Annual Meeting, Capital credits, letters of credit on large commercial accounts, budget and rates, upcoming meetings, the SEL relay project, work plan jobs, e-bill, and west load options.
- Director Greer discussed WREA issues. Director Keener reported on NREA. Director Hammond reported on Tri-State issues.