



32nd year 10th Issue

November 2021

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FYI

NEA Office will be Closed on Thursday the 25th and Friday the 26th of November.

Annual Meeting for Niobrara Electric is held in May each year. However, prep and planning begin far in advance of the event's date.

Activity begins with the January Board meeting where NEA Directors appoint the Nominating Committee from the membership; six active members from each of the 3 districts in our service territory.

Following acceptance of these appointments, the Committee gathers in February to make nominations. The meeting's date is publicly published in advance. Requests for nomination by interested persons can be made directly to their district's appointed committee member or at the NEA office (see Twyla). In either option, a Candidate Interest Form will need to be completed and submitted prior to the committee's meeting date.

After the Nominating Committee completes it's work, NEA Director nominations are published. During this time NEA staff are busy compiling and organizing all the many details that go into the large event. This year we are working on streamlining the process and making registration more efficient using technology with our AppSuite and NISC service.

Member information on Annual Meeting is available in April via the SmartHub, social media and in print. We encourage all our members to take part in Annual Meeting—it is after all, YOUR meeting.

Keeping with our tradition of rotation between Nebraska and Wyoming, the 2022 Annual Meeting will be held at the Niobrara County Fairgrounds in Lusk, WY., on Thursday, May 19th.

Wishing all our members a wonderful

Thanksgiving Holiday!





NEA members, your Cooperative exists because of and for you.

As a member, we encourage you to be an active participant in **Grassroots** through our statewide association, WREA (Wyoming Rural Electric Association).

www.wyomingrea.org/get-involved/
Contact WREA for more information on how you can become involved.
800-272-9782

The Power of Wyoming Co-ops

As an electric cooperative member-owner, your voice matters. Please join our effort to urge local and federal policymakers to work with electric cooperatives in their effort to provide energy that is affordable, reliable, *and* clean.

COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY:

NEA has recently helped the local fairgrounds organizations by donating \$10,000 each to the Niobrara County Fairground Foundation and the Sioux County Fair Board for much needed repairs to the existing buildings. We are able to make these types of donations due to the investment of unclaimed capital credit monies.

This fund is also where the scholarship donation money comes from. Per state statute “any patronage capital that has been retired, returned, refunded or tendered to a member of a cooperative that has remained unclaimed by the person appearing on the records of the cooperative entitled thereto for more than two (2) years, shall be determined to be unclaimed. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including provisions pertaining to unclaimed property, unclaimed patronage capital shall be used by the cooperative for the benefit of the general membership of the cooperative.” However, regardless of the time lapse, NEA will honor any outstanding capital credit balance due to our members.

So essentially, after two years if a capital credit refund check has not been cashed, or has been returned to NEA due to insufficient contact information, NEA will invest that money to be used to the benefit of our general membership. As this account continues to grow it gives us the opportunity to give back to the communities which serve our members.

Currently NEA has over \$39,000 in unclaimed capitals credits for 2021. The checks were issued after the annual meeting in May, if you have been issued a check and have not cashed it please do so. If you are unsure if you are entitled to, or need a check re-issued please contact Julie, 307-334-3221 or 800-322-0544.

ELECTRICIAL SAFETY:

Kodie Rempp

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, faulty home electrical wiring causes 26,000 residential fires a year, hundreds of deaths, and thousands of injuries. Unfortunately, electrical hazards often go unaddressed until it is too late. Safe Electricity has the following tips to help you find and correct hazards that may be lurking around the home:

- Check electrical outlets for loose-fitting plugs that can cause shocks or start fires. Replace missing or broken wall plates, so the inner wiring components are not exposed.
- If you have young children, use safety covers on unused outlets. Consider installing tamper-resistant receptacles with a built-in shutter system that prevents hairpins and other small objects from being inserted into the outlet.
- Check the cords of the appliances in your home, as well as the plugs and connectors. Make sure they are not frayed, cracked or damaged, placed under rugs or carpets, resting on furniture, or in high traffic areas. Do not nail or staple cords to walls, floors, or any other objects.
- Extension cords should be used on a temporary basis only. They are not a permanent wiring solution. Have additional outlets installed where you need them. If you are using extension cords, make sure they have safety closures to protect young children from shocks or mouth burns.
- Never use an indoor extension cord for outdoor use. Use an extension cord specifically for outdoors; they are heavier and less likely to be damaged.
- Check your electric panel to make sure the breakers and fuses are properly rated for the circuit they are protecting. Have a qualified electrician identify and label the correct size to be used if you are unsure. When replacing a fuse, use the same size.
- Check light bulbs and appliances to make sure the wattage matches fixture requirements. Do not replace bulbs with higher wattage than recommended. The bulb should be securely screwed in to prevent overheating.
- If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker, or gives you an electrical shock, immediately unplug, repair, or replace it.
- Check for or install ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). A GFCI is an inexpensive electrical device that shuts off power instantly if there is a problem. GFCIs should be installed in all "wet" areas of the home, such as bathrooms, kitchens, and basements.
- GFCIs should be tested monthly to ensure they are working properly. The Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates GFCIs could prevent more than two-thirds of the roughly 300 electrocutions that happen each year in the home.
- Consider installing arc-fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) on bedroom circuits, have smoke detectors in all bedrooms and in hallways within 15 feet of bedrooms, and at least one smoke detector on every level. Carbon monoxide detectors should also be within 15 feet of each bedroom. As always, check with your local electrical inspector if you have questions or concerns.

Inspect all outdoor connections, appliances, and tools for frayed cords, broken plugs, and cracked or broken housings. Repair or replace damaged cords and appliances.

info@SafeElectricity.org (source)



nea@niobrara-electric.org

PO Box 697 Lusk, WY 82225

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Touchstone EnergySM

Office Hours

Monday—Thursday

7:30 am—5:00 pm

Friday 7:30 am—4 pm

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.



If you have concerns about paying your home heating bills this winter and the information below applies to your situation, we encourage you to follow up with LIEAP.

This program is administered by the Wyoming Department of Family Services (DFS). The Low-Income Energy Assistance Program's (LIEAP) purpose is to help low- and fixed-income families and individuals pay their heating bills during the winter months.

The federally-funded program gives priority to households that include elderly (60+), disabled and/or young children (5 and under). Seasonal LIEAP benefits are applied to a household's main heat source (the fuel your heat system uses to heat the home; not the power source needed to turn on the furnace).

Call 800-246-4221 or visit www.lieapwyo.org

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	
Bradyn Bruegger	1	Lance Creek, WY	
JD Wasserburger	2	Lusk, WY	Vice President

Board Minutes

Management Report—Internal processes continue to be streamlined and updated. Construction projects and other work is progressing at a rapid pace with winter closing in. Business issues with FERC, Tri-State and others is on going & management is working with numerous agencies and other Cooperatives, guided by our Cooperative Principles. No accidents or near misses to report.

Director Wilson report on Tri-State business.

Director Keener report on NREA business.

Director Wasserburger reported on WREA Board.

We are a member of

