

## **Niobrara Electric Association**

Recently Dan Hollow with TESCO, came to NEA and delivered new meter testing equipment. Journeyman and lead Meter Tech, Will Smith, is primarily responsible for testing system meters, however training for Current Transformer (typical for commercial consumers) rated services included Line Foremen as well.

The all day training provided updated education and practice with the new shop testing and field testing equipment.

The goal is accuracy and consistency in dealing with the complexity of metering.

# 34th Year; 9th Issue; October 2023

# DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT NEA Operations Department

Operations Manager, Jason Fish, accepts the **No Lost Time Accident Award** from Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange.

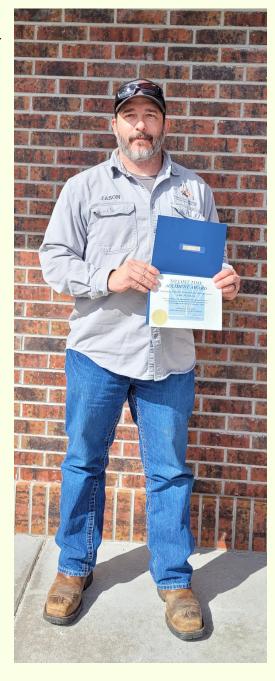
The recognition came from NEA's insurance carrier, for having 135,453 employee hours between August of 2019 and December of 2022 without a lost time accident occurring.

The line crew works long hours maintaining 2,320 miles of energized line in over 5,400 square miles of territory. Many of these hours are in less than favorable conditions, for instance last year our crew worked over night restoring an outage when the weather was 57 degrees below 0 with the windchill factor.

Reliable electricity for our members, focus on the job and safety awareness are always at the forefront of line crew operations.

NEA is also a member of the JT&S Safety Program sponsored by Nebraska Rural Electric Association.

Job Well Done!!



### **Office Hours**

Monday—Thursday

7:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m.

Closed Fridays and Holidays

(New Years Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas)

Phones numbers for outages.

After hours:

SRS Dispatch

1-800-322-0544

**During Business Hours** 

307-334-3221

Niobrara Electric Assn.

3951 US HWY 20

PO Box 697

Lusk, WY 82225

nea@niobrara-electric.org

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

District 1

President John Hester Keeline, WY

Bradyn Bruegger Lance Creek, WY

AW Manning Lance Creek, WY

District 2

Vice Pres. JD Wasserburger Lusk, WY

Andy Barnette Lusk, WY

Neal Wurdeman Lusk, WY

District 3

Sec./Treas David Keener Marsland, NE

Bill Wilson Harrison, NE

Jim Dunn Harrison, NE

### **LEGISLATIVE NEWS**

The Wyoming Cooperatives are facing many legislative and regulatory challenges in 2023. We are still struggling to maintain the integrity of our certificated territories as defined by State Statute. Senate File 105 which was heard by the Corporations Committee at the Joint Corporations Meeting in Douglas in August, is still alive but not making much progress. This bill would make it illegal for entities to serve members in another utilities certificated territory without an agreement between both parties. Director Wasserburger along with Director Michael Lerwick (High West), Andy Hewitt (CEO Bridger Valley) Quentin Rogers (Powder River) and Travis McNivin (Basin) testified at the committee meeting on behalf of the Wyoming Cooperatives. You can watch the committee proceedings on YouTube, our testimony begins around 2:50 into the recording:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NumnE9UCn0U

We are also working against the concept of 3rd Party Generation. The Public Service Commission (PSC) is holding a Technical Conference on it at 9:00 a.m., October 17th, 2023 in Cheyenne where they will discuss the revision of Commission Rules, Chapter 3.

They are proposing establishing a process by which specific arrangements will be made for commercial and or industrial customers to be able to provide power to a 3rd Party Customer without requiring a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity as is required for all Public Utilities.

You can find out more information about this proposed rule change on the WY Public Service Commission website:

https://psc.wyo.gov

Our certificated territories are being threatened from many directions, which is why we have initiated our Grass Roots effort to enable our members to have a voice when the time comes to try and let it be known that all Wyoming Consumers matter, no matter how large or how small.



