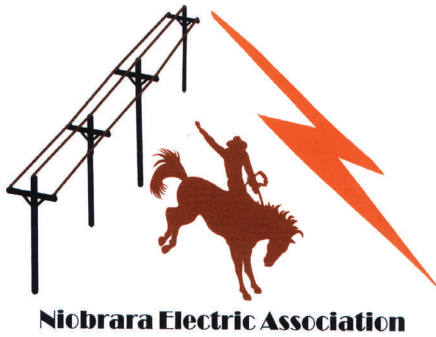




24th year 2nd Issue

March 2012

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We continue to ask for members to contact the NEA office with all phone number changes.

Many of you have switched from old land lines to cell service exclusively, while others have added cell phone(s) to the existing service.

In order to best serve our members, we need to have current, working contact numbers in our computer system.

Please call 800-322-0544 or 334-3221 with your current information or write the information on your bill stubs when you send in payment.

Welcome new General Manager of the Niobrara Electric Association, Ken Ceaglske.



Niobrara Electric Association is very excited to announce the arrival of Ken Ceaglske. Ken was born and raised in Braham, Minnesota. As an adult, he served the Braham community as a volunteer with the Fire Department for 15 years and also served on the City Council for 12 years, the last 3 of which he served in the capacity of Mayor.

A wealth of experience in the electrical service industry will assist Ken as he transitions to NEA General Manager. Ken's background includes transmission operations, supervising a dispatch center, staking & line design and meter testing. He also holds degrees in Electrical Power Technology and Management.

After the school year ends, his two daughters, Emma (11) and Lucy (9), along with wife, Tammy, will make the move from Minnesota to Wyoming. Ken eagerly awaits their coming.

Until the family's arrival, Ken will spend his spare time much as he would if he were with his family in Minnesota, bicycling, working with his hands (welding, wood working, or carpentry) and riding ATVs.

We encourage the members to stop in the NEA office to meet and visit with Ken.

Currently in the 9th, 10th or 11th grade? If so, you are eligible for Youth Energy Camp. Call the NEA office (307-334-3221 or 800-322-0544) and visit with Twyla for more information.

Be a part of the 2012 Youth Energy Camp

The Rural Electric Youth Energy Camp involves about 65 highly motivated high school-aged men and women from Nebraska, Wyoming, South Dakota and Colorado whose rural homes are served by one of the Nebraska Rural Electric Association's member-systems. The camp offers educational and recreational experiences, leadership training, environmental awareness, character building and social interaction.

Through workshops and guest speakers, students learn about energy generation, electric safety and careers in the rural electric program. A highlight of the camp is the tour of the Gerald Gentleman Power Station near North Platte and the Kingsley Hydro-Electric Power Plant near Ogallala.

The week is intermingled with fun activities, including sports tournaments, canoeing, dancing, a get-acquainted party, and some free time to socialize and make new friends.

Leadership is stressed when students compete to win a free trip to Washington D.C. as ambassadors and/or return to the next year's camp as a junior counselor.

Those selected by their sponsoring rural electric system will receive an all-expense paid trip to the Youth Energy Camp at the State 4-H Camp near Halsey. Camp begins around 3:30 p.m (CDT) on Monday, July 9 and will end around noon on Friday, July 13. Your sponsoring rural electric system will provide you with transportation to and from camp.

The member-systems of the Nebraska Rural Electric Association sponsoring the 2012 Nebraska Rural Electric Youth Energy Camp are:

Burt County PPD, Tekamah; **Butler PPD**, David City; **Cedar-Knox PPD**, Hartington; **Cherry-Todd ECI**, Mission, SD; **Chimney Rock PPD**, Bayard; **Cornhusker PPD**, Columbus; **Cuming County PPD**, West Point; **Custer PPD**, Broken Bow; **Dawson PPD**, Lexington; **Elkhorn RPPD**, Battle Creek; **Highline Electric**, Holyoke, CO.; **High West Energy**, Pine Bluffs, WY; **Howard Greeley RPPD**, St. Paul; **KBR RPPD**, Ainsworth; **Lacreek Electric**, Martin, SD; **Loup Valleys RPPD**, Ord; **McCook PPD**, McCook; **Midwest ECC**, Grant; **Niobrara Electric**, Lusk, WY; **Niobrara Valley EMC**, O'Neill; **Norris PPD**, Beatrice; **North Central PPD**, Creighton; **Northwest RPPD**, Hay Springs; **Panhandle REMA**, Alliance; **Perennial PPD**, York; **Polk County RPPD**, Stromsburg; **Roosevelt PPD**, Mitchell; **Seward County PPD**, Seward; **Southwest PPD**, Palisade; **South Central PPD**, Nelson; **Stanton County PPD**, Stanton; **Twin Valleys PPD**, Cambridge; **Wheat Belt PPD**, Sidney; **Wyrulec Co.**, Lingle, WY.

To enter, complete the RSVP form and mail it to your rural electric system by May 15, 2012. If you need more information, contact your sponsoring rural electric system.

2012 Youth Energy Camp RSVP Form

Name _____ Age _____ Current Grade _____

Address _____ Phone number (____) _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Name of parents or guardian _____

Sponsoring rural electric system _____

2012 Irrigation General Information Letter is coming. Please Read Carefully.

Sometime in March, you will be receiving the yearly irrigation letter. The normal IRRIGATION SEASON is May 1 through October 31. In the past, there have been some consumers who have requested to be turned on for April instead of May. This can be easily done if we get a bank letter or the prepayment(s) required in the office and processed at least a week PRIOR to MONDAY, APRIL 2, 2012. The linemen will connect any services that are ready on April 2nd. If you do not inform us in time for the April 2nd turn on date, you will be charged a trip fee (\$30.00 plus mileage @ .83 per mile) to connect on any other work day in April. The next scheduled turn on date will be the traditional date of May 1st.

Rates for 2012

Annual Minimum Charge: \$9.75 per connected hp
Monthly Demand Charge: \$15.40 per kW
Monthly Energy Charge: \$.03902 per kWh
Annual Facilities Charge: \$355.00

Connection of Account

Niobrara Electric Association will not connect any irrigation account without a prepayment or bank letter of guarantee. The electric service will be kept in the landowner's name, in the event of a lease agreement. Connected accounts will be required to meet 100% of annual minimum charges.

Prepayment

The prepayment will be based on your three highest billings from the previous irrigation year or the annual minimum charge times three, whichever is greater. **The prepayment must be received, in the office, by April 16, 2012.** After receiving prepayment, service will begin on May 1, 2012. Niobrara Electric Association will retain this prepayment until the service is disconnected or October 31, 2011. The prepayment will be applied to the final bill and any credits will be returned to consumers by November 30, 2012.

Bank Letter of Guarantee

You have the option of obtaining a bank letter of guarantee rather than paying the prepayment. The bank letter of guarantee will be based on your three highest billings from previous irrigation year or the annual minimum charge times three, whichever is greater. **The bank letter of guarantee must be received, in the office, by April 16, 2012.** After receiving the letter of guarantee, service will begin on May 1, 2012.

Idle Systems

Please notify Niobrara Electric Association prior to April 16, 2012, if you do not plan to operate your irrigation system. An idle service charge will be applied if you do not want the lines and service removed.



www.niobrara-electric.org



NEA NEWS is a publication of
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We're on the Web!
www.tristate.org/nb



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-Th)

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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District

John Hester President	1	Lusk, WY
John Bruch	2	Lusk, WY
David Keener Sec./Treas	3	Marsland, NE
Bill Wilson	3	Harrison, NE
Jack Hammond	1	Lance Creek, WY
Robert Shockley	3	Harrison, NE
Kenny DeGering Vice President	2	Lusk, WY
Andy Greer	1	Manville, WY
JD Wasserburger	2	Lusk, WY



Pictured above is the new NEA digger truck, a freightliner cab and chassis with an Altec digger derrick. This new unit replaces the old 2001 unit. According to Line Superintendent, Rick Bridge, "of all the equipment we use, the digger gets the most use."

EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARYS

Barbara Crofutt 03/3/1975

EMPLOYEE BIRTHDAYS

Brooke Herren 03/02/1981
JoAnn Moore 03/21/1964
Twyla Barker 03/27/1971

Boardroom News

January Board Meeting

- NEA Attorney, Joe Stecher, reviewed and discussed progress on a construction contract with OneOk for a 4.5 mile line extension for a gas booster station. Collections and collection procedures were also discussed.
- Manager Albertson recommended the hiring again of Lockwood and Associates to complete the 2011 audit. He requested the review of the NEA line extension policy and gave an oil pipeline update.
- Both Scholarship and Nominating Committees were appointed.
- Director Hammond discussed Tri-State events. Director Greer discussed WREA news and Director Keener reported on NREA issues.