



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Annual Meeting</i>	1
<i>Annual Meeting Pictures</i>	2
<i>Pictures Continued</i>	3
<i>Manager's Message</i>	4
<i>Boardroom News</i>	4

CO-OP CONNECTIONS LOCAL BUSINESS PARTICIPANTS (CHECK WEBSITE FOR REGIONAL AND NATIONAL DISCOUNTS):

- Herren Brothers True Value
- Same As It Once Was
- Country Corner Hair Shop
- Rough and Refined
- Miller Soap Company

THE MEMBERSHIP'S MEETING...

Niobrara Electric's 71st Annual Meeting was well attended. We received a sizeable number of proxies as well, and a determination of quorum was easily met this year. We appreciate all of you who attended or turned in proxies to make sure NEA could conduct business and have a productive meeting.

The evening started well, with a tasty meal provided by Hickory Creek Catering. Lots of door prizes were awarded throughout the meeting. The big drawings for a whole house surge suppression system and the \$500.00 voucher for an Energy Star rated appliance were won by John & Terry Herren and Marvin Buckley, respectively. The \$800.00 cash winner drawn was not in attendance so next year's drawing will increase to \$900.00.

Several employees and Directors were acknowledged for years of service: Brandon Arnold (5), Brooke Herren (15), Jason Fish (15), Andy Greer (10), John Hester (15) and Bill Wilson (35). Scholarship winners were acknowledged and those in attendance were awarded certificates and given an opportunity to speak. No ballot voting was necessary and all three incumbent Directors, Jack Hammond, Kenny DeGering and David Keener, were reelected by acclamation.

Serious issues dealing with rates, regulations and future operations were on the minds of guest speakers from Nebraska Rural Electric Association (Troy Bredenkamp), Wyoming Rural Electric Association (Shawn Taylor) and Tri-State G&T (Mike McInnes).

As daunting as the regulation forecast appears, a brighter side was also noted. Starting with the good attendance by interested and engaged NEA members, as pointed out by Shawn Taylor, which supports the Co-op principal of ownership by members and control by members. Also, NEA has a positive and powerful situation in the leadership rolls currently held by two NEA Board members, David Keener and Andy Greer, both also serve on state Boards (NREA and WREA) as Presidents. Last, but certainly not least, Grassroots activism throughout the nation's cooperatives has proven productive and will continue to be cultivated.



15 Scholarships were awarded this year. Six of the winners were in attendance and spoke about their future plans.



Jason Fish receiving his 15 year service award. Brandon Arnold and Brooke Herren also reached milestone years of 5 and 15 years, respectively.



No shortage of donations from NEA business suppliers, Tri-State Electric, Basin Electric & NEA for Membership door prizes that our Directors passed out during the meeting, as winners names were called.

BEHOLD A 40-FOOT STAKE IN THE GROUND.

Electric Energy Consumer - Bill of Rights

When the consumer council was brought into existence by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, and these rights for all consumers, members and stockholders, which are the Electric Energy Consumer Bill of Rights, were established, it was a landmark event in the history of the electric industry. It was the first time that a list of rights for consumers was ever established.

- 1 The right to have access to reliable, affordable and safe electric power.
- 2 The right to join together to establish and operate a consumer-owned and controlled electric utility.
- 3 The right of consumer-owned utilities to be held accountable and accepted as a source of electric power.
- 4 The right to elect representatives to manage their consumer-owned electric utilities to best meet their needs.
- 5 The individual right to refuse that service information about consumer-owned utilities will not be released without their prior express consent.
- 6 The right to determine the level of energy services to be provided, through their consumer-owned and controlled utilities.
- 7 The right to use consumer-owned utilities for all energy needs, in addition to the services provided by other utilities.
- 8 The right to work in cooperation with other consumer-owned utilities to ensure a secure energy future.



This year, Power, (<http://www.powerworksforyou.coop/>) was in attendance and working the crowd. Power is an effective part of Tri-State's communication/education program. We hope to incorporate more of his work into our educational outreach, especially with the elementary kids where he is particularly well received. POWER MAKES IT POSSIBLE™.

www.niobrara-electric.org
www.facebook.com/NiobraraElectric



NEA NEWS is a publication of Niobrara Electric Association., Inc

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

Electrician 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.

First and foremost, I want to thank all the folks who made it out to your Annual Meeting this year. It was the largest attended in the 4 years that I have been involved. We did what we could to keep it a little shorter but still informative. I stand by my offer for anyone who has questions or wants a little more information on any subject to call or stop by the office and I will gladly discuss whatever the questions are, or find somebody who knows more and can get the information needed.

Plans are already in the works for the upcoming fair season, we will be coordinating with a few of the other coops in the state to have an informational booth at the State Fair over in Douglas, from what I am hearing in the planning, there will be safety demo's, a lineman demo with a real power pole, and other information. We have NEA staff planning on attending, but dates haven't been finalized as of the due date for my article. I look forward to seeing some familiar (and new) faces stopping by.

Another thing I want to touch on is meter numbers and service descriptions. Next time you get your bill, take a look at the description of the service and be sure it still looks accurate to describe what it is and that it is the name that you commonly refer to it as. That field is how we can translate from your name to our system and meter number is the other thing. If you can have the meter number from the location to give to us it is a unique identifier in our system to find you. If you are a landlord that has a renter & their electric service is in your name, be sure to pass on the meter information to them, as it makes finding them much easier. For those of you with only one service, this doesn't carry as much weight, but is still valid.

Lastly, for those of you that use a standby generator on a regular basis during outages, please let the office know when you have an opportunity. We have a way of noting it on the outage program and we will make better efforts to contact you when the outage has been restored, since you may not notice. If the use is more intermittent, like a portable generator, you can inform the office as it applies when you have an outage and they can make a temporary note on it. Always remember when you are using a generator to isolate yourself from the power system to prevent damage to your equipment, or to prevent harm to the lineman working on the line.

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

April Board Meeting

- Director Hammond reviewed Tri-State business.
- Director Keener spoke concerning NREA business.
- Director Greer shared WREA business
- General Manager Kenny Ceaglske informed the Board of safety training, recent outages and construction activities, new vehicles, continued sales to the pipelines higher than expected, and possible radio system upgrades.