

27th year 9th Issue

October 2016

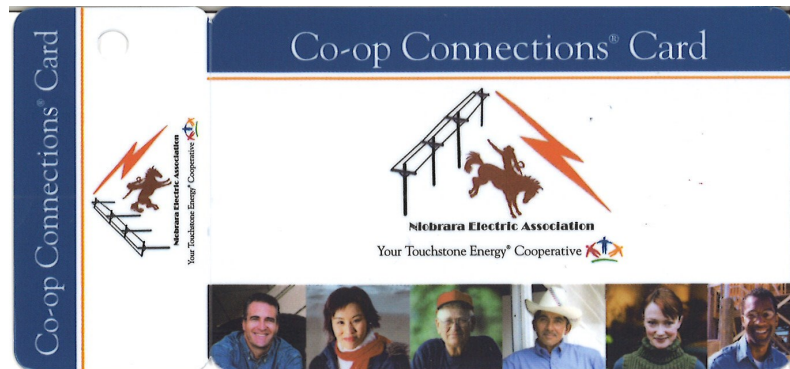
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CO-OP CONNECTIONS LOCAL BUSINESS PARTICIPANTS:

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

(CHECK WEBSITE FOR REGIONAL AND NATIONAL DISCOUNTS)



OCTOBER 14TH IS NATIONAL CO-OP CONNECTIONS DAY.

Are you using your card?

Watch for deal notices on our Facebook page and/or go to the website, www.connections.coop, to search for local and national information.

Cards were mailed to all members in 2015 and have continued to go out to new members as they come on our service. If you need a new card, call and request one or stop by and pick one up.

In case of a power outage, call Niobrara Electric Association at
(800) 322-0544 or (307) 334-3221

Present this card at participating businesses to receive discounts.
www.connections.coop

HumanaDental
ACCESS

COAST TO COAST
VISION

UHS CHIROPRACTIC
network

For providers or questions
call 800-800-7616
or visit HealthySavings.coop.

Group# 2203WY10
Member# 142407524
 Bin# 610182 PCN# NB

Pharmacist Help Desk: 877-448-6182
This is NOT insurance

October is National Cooperative Month and marks 75 years of incorporation for Niobrara Electric Association.

In October, Co-ops across the nation celebrate the benefits and values that cooperatives bring to their communities and have been doing so since 1930. It is also the month in which the Niobrara Electric Association reaches a milestone marker of 75 years of incorporation.

You may remember in May, we held our 70th Annual Meeting. The discrepancy in years between incorporation and annual meeting may well be attributed to WWII. In the records, it states that in 1941 and 1942 there were Board Meetings held, but none in the years of 1943 and 1944; and the first Annual Meeting of the Membership was held in May 1946.

We will be hosting an open house celebrating 75 years of incorporation, the morning of October 24th, prior to the scheduled Board Meeting. As it turns out, October 24th (1941) was the actual day of incorporation for the Co-op. We invite all members to stop by. If you do not know your Board Members, this would be a good time to meet them.

Seven Cooperative Principles set us apart from other businesses:

- Voluntary and open membership
- Democratic member control
- Member's economic participation
- Autonomy and independence
- Education training and information
- Cooperation among cooperatives
- Concern for community



Co-ops Vote is a non-partisan project of America's Electric Cooperatives designed to inform its members on the key issues facing electric co-ops and encourage them to vote and support their co-ops and the communities they serve when they go to the polls. We do not endorse or recommend any candidates for election.

We cannot allow our voices to go unrepresented in the elections this November. Go to www.vote.coop to learn more.



NEA Journeyman Lineman Jeff Sinkular and Apprentice Will Smith attended training at the Cody Hotline School in August, Sinkular in apparatus class (transformers, regulators and OCRs) and Smith in rubber gloving class.

When asked what he thought about participation in the school, Smith said, "It is a really good opportunity to work in a controlled environment, practicing hot work".

CHS Board Member Brandon Arnold shared his thoughts on the school, "It gives Lineman of all ages the opportunity to come together and practice their skills. The school provides several different job related classes where Lineman and Instructors can learn from each other the different ways the job can be done safely. I encourage anyone who is interested to stop by the school in Cody. We would gladly give you a guided tour so you can see what your Lineman do every day to keep the lights on".

Also with the CHS Board, Twyla Barker, stated, "Students fill out evaluation forms during hotline school. Judging by the responses, the value of one-on-one training, in an environment without distraction and with direct instructor/student interaction, is extremely valuable. The quality of instruction and use of hands on equipment scores very high. We also know from supervisors that students return with demonstrable skill improvement".

Pictured on the left, Will Smith and team mates, worked on their Rubber Gloving skills.

Cody Hotline School has been making a professional difference for line & utility workers from Wyoming and surrounding states, like Colorado, Montana, Idaho, South Dakota & Utah over the course of 21 years.

In 1995, WREA and its Member Coops and the City of Cody started the school. Each year it improves with content of training and facility updates. The school offers hands on experience, class room discussion and personal instructor attention. This is all made possible by joint support and collaboration with WREA, Wyoming co-op management, volunteer instructors, volunteer board members/work crew, vendors and more.

In addition to field training on hot tension stringing, metering, substations, transmission line, pole climbing, transformers, underground, rubber glove instruction, regulators and reclosers, Cody Hotline School is responsible for the CHS Burn Fund which raises money, by raffle, to offer assistance to burn victims, electrical or otherwise. Additionally, a golf tournament is held each year during the school week to raise line worker scholarship funds.

Pictured right, the Underground class is using a backhoe to dig a trench for the underground line their class assignment requires. In the background, the Transmission class is working high in the air and on the ground on their team assignment.



www.niobrara-electric.org

www.facebook.com/NiobraraElectric



NEA NEWS is a publication of Niobrara Electric Association, Inc

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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, I will start off with the reminder to everyone to get out and vote. We are up to that time where we are allowed to participate in the "peaceful revolution" that sets us apart from many countries in the world.

NRECA started a "coops vote" program recently. At first I wasn't fully sure what they meant and who they were endorsing. In the end they weren't endorsing anyone, but reminding the country and the folks that run for office to not forget those of us in rural America, coop country. There is a saying out there, "We in America do not have a government run by the majority, we have a government run by the majority who participate." If only they kept the statistics on voter turnout by power supplier, it would be great to see 100% turnout by coop member-owners.

The other topic is based on one of my favorite ways to get article ideas "the other day, somebody asked me..." The question was "what do I get for my \$31 facility charge?" That facility charge is what covers most of the day to day costs of making sure that the power is at your meter ready for you to use when you need it.

Some of those costs are obvious - the poles, wires, meters, and transformers, which are long term investments in the system. Those are "paid for" on the books using monthly depreciation, even if we used margins, which to some folks looks like paying cash for something, we take the value off the books in payments so it spreads that cost over the life of the item.

The other costs included in facility charge are the trucks, fuel to run them, and the buildings to store them in. The last thing is the wages we pay employees, whether it is taking care of line maintenance, outage, outgoing bill preparation, paying our bills, or making sure our rules comply with the Wyoming PSC rules that we are to follow.

Don't forget to vote!

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

June Board Meeting

- Director Hammond reviewed Tri-State business.
- Director Greer shared WREA business.
- Director Keener spoke on NREA business.
- General Manager Kenny Ceaglske reported on outages, line maintenance in Manville, final arrival on new truck, tree removal and safety training provider update. Approved \$5 million CFC loan for the 4 year work plan.