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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
- Bloomers



ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Niobrara Electric had a wonderful turn out for our 71st Annual Meeting of the Membership despite the cold and snow.

Hickory Creek Catering provided a great meal prior to the business meeting and numerous door prizes were handed out during the evening. The big \$ prize winner was not in attendance so next year the prize will increase to \$1000.00.

All incumbent Board of Directors, John Hester, Joel D Wasserburger and William Wilson were re-elected for another 3 year term. No other items were on the agenda or brought up for vote.

Many of our 2017 scholarship winners made the meeting and accepted their awards (see pictures).

Service awards announced for Kenneth Ceagske 5 years, Jim Dunn 5 years, Andy Barnette 5 years, Matt Edwards 10 years, JD Wasserburger 15 years and Rick Bridge 20 years.





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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

6:00 am—4:30 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.

First, a big thank you to all of the members that either braved the weather or found somebody to pass a proxy card along to. It was a good evening, despite the weather.

One of the questions asked at the annual meeting was "will the change in administration bring down the costs of energy and regulation?" Jack's answer was pretty short; in effect, "it will help". I followed up with Tri-State staff in the next few days to fill out that answer a bit. The biggest help we will see from the new administration is limits on the new regulations, and possibly favorable treatment to rid us of some of the recent regulations.

The Clean Power Plan was stayed by the Supreme Court a little while ago, and that will help prevent the power plants from having to work toward the goals of it before the initial deadlines, so that will prevent those rules from costing much immediately, except for court costs and research. With different political controls on this topic, it may go away, but there is some process and time involved, so we will see how things work out.

The President did create the executive order "Promoting Energy Independence and Economic Growth" that charges the various agencies to look for burdens in the system that prevent clean and safe development of domestic energy sources. There is hope that this may limit costs in the future.

The big challenge that was before us a few years ago was the Clean Air Act mercury rule and Regional Haze regulations. These had deadlines and the plants had to make preparations to modify significant parts of the plants to comply. The costs for many of these modifications start in the hundreds of millions of dollars and go up from there, sometimes way up.

These modifications are to remove various pollutants that may be problems in the atmosphere. One of the parts of Regional Haze involved improvements in "visibility" that were not even visible. Another part of some of the EPA policy was that they never took the costs of these rules into consideration and that appeal was won, but not until after much of the equipment was modified, then the EPA has fought back, and litigation continues.

The unfortunate part of those changes is that the work is done or in progress, and the money spent. The costs remain, even if the rules change. So even though the rule was questioned, the EPA got their way. In the end, the hope is that we can slow, or stop, the growth of the cost of the rules and regulations, but many of them are here to stay.

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

May Board Meeting

- No May Board Meeting
- The Board's reorganizational meeting resulted in no changes for the year: President of Board John Hester, Vice President JD Wasserburger and Secretary/Treasurer David Keener.