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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



The new building (pictured to the right, in above photo) is built within steps to the old shop. The older shop is, and will continue to be, used for equipment and materials storage.

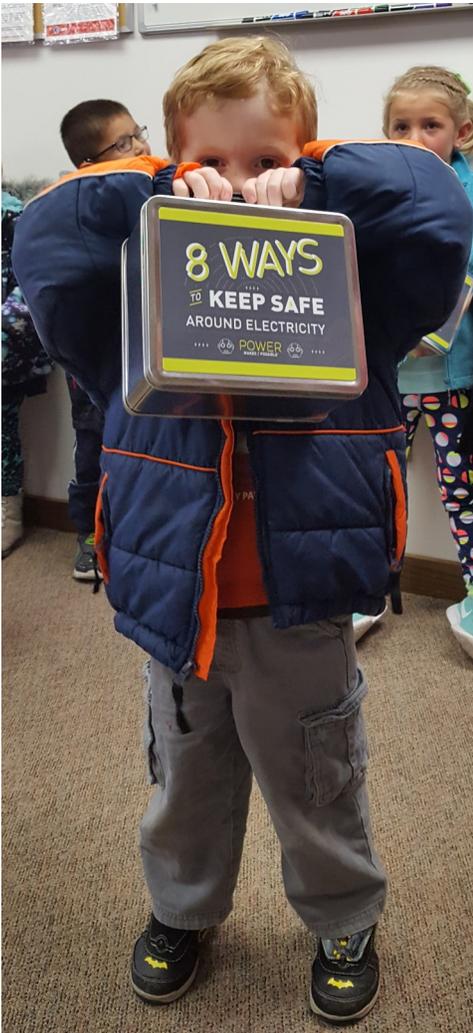
Expansion of NEA's facilities in Harrison is underway. Having outgrown the original shop long ago and needing new space for current equipment and supplies, another building (with the height for housing today's bucket trucks) is in the hands of Coon Construction and due to be finished before year's end.



*Our office will be closed on Thursday, November 23rd and Friday, November 24th for the Holiday.*



National Apprenticeship Week is held in November. We are proud to celebrate our two Apprentice Linemen, Charles Kleinberg (above) and Will Smith (right).



We were so pleased to have the Early Childhood group out to NEA headquarters in September. It's always a treat to connect with this young crowd. On this occasion, they brought a class made "Thank you" that they presented to the Board of Directors for lighting work donated at the Early Childhood building.

In addition to the "Thank You", they demonstrated how they have learned to shake hands and introduce themselves. The group had also been working on songs that they shared with the Board members. NEA gave each of the kids a lunch box from Tri-State G&T with safety information from their favorite energy character, POWER.

[www.niobrara-electric.org](http://www.niobrara-electric.org)  
[www.facebook.com/NiobraraElectric](https://www.facebook.com/NiobraraElectric)



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PO Box 697 Lusk WY 82225

Phone: 307-334-3221

Fax: 307-334-2620



**Touchstone Energy**<sup>SM</sup>

**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)**

**Outages** ....1-800-322-0544  
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.

Neighbors helping neighbors, that's the co-op spirit boiled down to its simplest form. In the early days, it was neighbors getting together to form the co-op and build the lines, sometimes even helping dig the holes.

Today, it reaches the level of co-op neighbors helping co-op neighbors when foul weather rears its ugly head and knocks down the vital infrastructure that feeds the system. At an almost unseen level are the many co-op office staff that lend a hand to other co-ops to assist in training, developing policies and procedures, or other support, as well as our state and national organizations that help to reinforce and coordinate our staff.

In 2013, it was our neighbors sending in lineman to assist after the early blizzards, multiplying our line staff by up to 5 times the number of linemen. This summer, many linemen from all over our region have travelled into western Nebraska to support those co-ops and PPD's that were beaten up by summer storms.

The hurricanes of late in Texas and Florida recently tested both the co-ops affected, and the response of the neighbors. There were lines of co-op trucks geared up and headed in as fast as the co-ops with the damage were ready for the help. In Florida alone, outage estimates were nearly 800,000 on co-op lines alone, within 1 week, they had gotten about 740,000 back on. Much of the restoration is similar to ours, just on a greater population. Fix the transmission lines first, then the main feeders, now they are set to work on the small lines and taps, with some unable to be restored due to damage on the member's side of the meter.

While our distance from the events and small staff size limits how much we can assist, we were able to assist in a small way by extending the deadline for Ward Construction's completion on the work plan job south of Lance Creek. They sent crews from their nearly 250 employee company down to Georgia to assist, including the crew that was working here. It put them back a couple weeks and we expect them back on the job shortly, but if it helps a (distant) neighbor, that's a good thing.

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

**Board Room News**

- Line Superintendent Rick Bridge spoke to the Board about meter testing, the work plan job, trucks, and the resignation of Apprentice Lineman Brent Juergens.
- Manager Ceaglske discussed capital credits, the NEA radio system, west load project updates and preliminary budget assumptions.
- Director Greer updated everyone on WREA business.
- Director Hammond gave a Tri-State business report.