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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

Friday, February 23rd is the deadline to submit your 2018 Basin Electric, Tri-State G&T and Niobrara Electric Association scholarship applications.

Download an application from our website or pick them up at our office, the Niobrara County High School or Sioux County High School. Scholarship recipients are announced in March. If you have questions, please call our office.

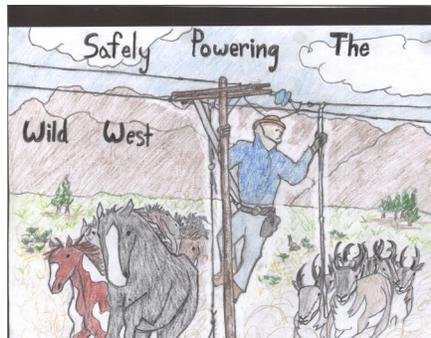


Photo above is the 2017 Safety Drawing Winner

If you know a budding artist, in kindergarten through the 6th grade, we encourage you to have them submit a drawing to the annual statewide electrical drawing contest. For this contest, youth send in their drawings of what Co-op Electric Safety looks like to them — how they see what we do is the goal.

The Cody Hotline School awards money to the 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th place winners. The first place drawing is scanned and used on the t-shirts Cody Hotline School attendees wear. Drawings can be done with whatever colors and drawing instruments the child likes best (crayon, marker, paint, etc).

Send the 8x12 drawing to Niobrara Electric Association at PO Box 697 Lusk, WY 82225, Attn: Cody Hotline School. Drawing deadline is Friday, April 6th. Winners will be chosen in April and contacted before May.

If you have questions, please call our office 307-334-3221 or 800-322-0544.

**Incumbent Directors Up for Re-Election in 2018:**

District 1 **Andy Greer**

District 2 **Andy Barnette**

District 3 **James Dunn**

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

January 29th - Board of Directors appointed Nominating Committee Members.

Appointed Committee Members are: Richard Ladwig, Ken Dixon, Denzel Coffey, Cheryl Lund, Stan Rennard, Dan Hanson, Jon Woodrum, Rodney Gray and Donald Mack.

**February 20th – Nominating Committee meets at NEA office, 5:30 p.m.**

The Committee meets for the purpose of nominating qualifying (confirmed member of cooperative, who resides within the area serviced by the cooperative and receives service from the cooperative in the district he or she is to represent) members to service NEA's three districts.

Nominations are published in service area newspapers the following week and will be posted at NEA headquarters and on our website and Facebook page until Annual Meeting in May.

In accordance with our By-laws, other nominations can be made by petition of 15 or more members acting together. **Nominations by petition must be submitted to the NEA office no later than March 19th to be printed on the ballot.**

**Annual Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 17th, 2018.**

### STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at <https://www.ascr.usda.gov/>, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)



Recently, Tri-State G&T brought in a crane to work in Podolak Substation replacing CTs (Podolak is the main substation that feeds all our distribution). See Manager's article on page 4.

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



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**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.

The picture on the preceding page is of a Tri State truck working in the Podolak Substation behind the NEA office. If you recall, in the past few years we have had a few devices in the station fail catastrophically causing widespread outages to the system. This work finalizes the replacement of some of the metering equipment in the station. In the last month or so, they have upgraded the controls for many of the protection systems that have been problematic in the recent past. All of that equipment was installed when the station was new in the late 1970's and had reached the end of its lifecycle.

NEA also had some work done on our side of the house as well. We brought in a contractor and upgraded the controls for the transmission circuit that feeds the Node and Van Tassel subs to match the equipment that feeds the north half of the system that ONEOK paid to have installed back in 2013.

During the recent snowstorm in January, we had a couple momentary outages on the Hat Creek transmission line. Due to some of the new equipment, Tri State was able to see the indications that something happened, and notify our dispatchers. Had the problem been a full outage and not restored, we'd have been able to have crews rolling before the first customer call. Since these were only momentary, we waited until Monday to patrol the line after the weather had cleared. The crews were able to take the readings off of the controls and locate two locations on the line that most likely caused the problem and make the needed repairs to prevent it from causing larger problems.

In the days before this new equipment, we may not have realized the breakers tripped and re-closed, and may have waited until a later time when a catastrophic failure would have caused a total outage. Then the crew would have patrolled much of the line to finally locate the problem, potentially taking many hours in rough conditions with a more difficult and expensive problem to repair.

Another topic I'd like to touch on from earlier in the newsletter is the upcoming Nominating Committee meeting. If you have interest in running for the board, contact Twyla or me to get an interest form and discuss what it takes to be a board member of your cooperative.

Manager 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**

- Manager Ken Ceaglske spoke about PSC rules and regs project being completed, capital credits policy, west load and CFC financing.
- Line Superintendent Rick Bridge spoke on project updates including Lance Creek work plan, radio system, substation work, Hat Creek pump station sub upgrades and line removal.
- Director Greer updated everyone on WREA business.
- Director Hammond gave a Tri-State business report.
- Director Keener spoke on NREA business.