



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

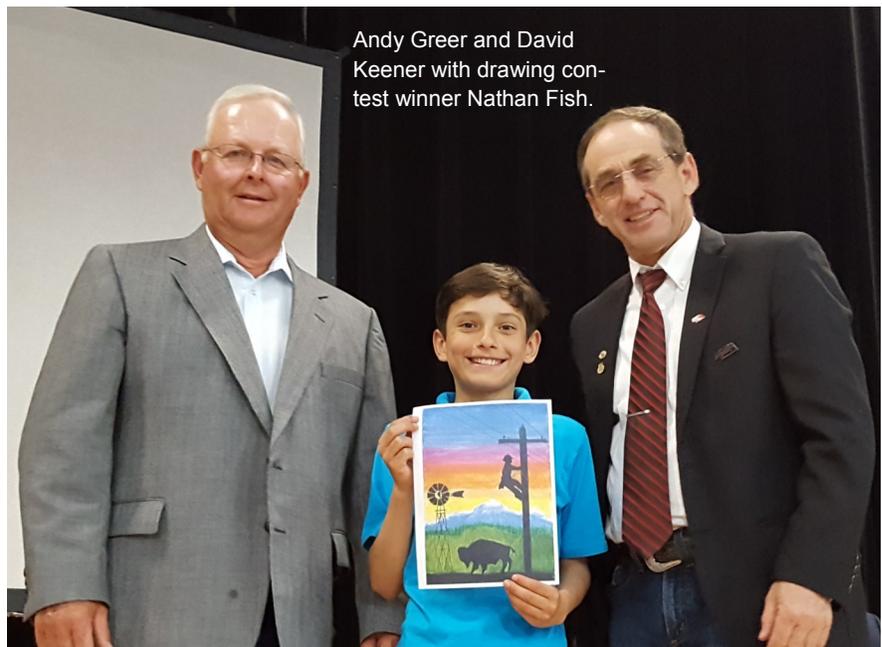
<i>NEA's 73rd Annual Meeting</i>	1
<i>Annual Meeting Continued</i>	2
<i>Annual Meeting Continued</i>	3
<i>Manager's Message</i>	4



**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
- Bloomers



The 73rd Niobrara Electric Association's Annual Meeting of the Membership took place at the Sioux County High School on May 17th. Turn out for the event was high and a quorum was easily met, with 200 in person and proxy registrations in total.

Hickory Creek Catering provided a delicious meal prior to the business meeting.

NREA CEO and GM, Kim Christensen spoke to the Membership, as did her WY counterpart, WREA Executive Director, Shawn Taylor. Tri-State's Director of Generation, Barry Ingold, also spoke to the membership.

Justin Huston (5) and Lee Potter (10) were acknowledged for employee years of service awards. Jack Hammond was acknowledge for 45 years of service on the NEA Board of Directors.

Nathan Fish was recognized for winning the WY Lineman's Electrical Safety Drawing Contest and the scholarship recipients, in attendance, received their award certificates.

All three incumbent Directors, Andy Greer, Andy Barnette and Jim Dunn, were re-elected by acclamation in lieu of ballot.

Great door prizes were won throughout the evening and the big cash prize of \$1000.00 **will increase to \$1100.00 for next year**, as the member drawn was not present.

Kim Christiansen from NREA and Kenny Ceaglske



(L-R) NEA Directors John Hester, Andy Barnette and David Keener.





POWER was in the crowd entertaining his fans, taking photos and passing out fun stuff. Jack Hammond has served Niobrara Electric as a Board Member for 45 years and he came on stage to receive recognition for his service.



(L-R) Scholarship winners: Megan Lovitt, Dylan Miller, Garrett Wurdeman, Emma Ceagske and William Fish.

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



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"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer."



**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.

I want to thank all of those members that were able to make it out to the Annual Meeting. In the time that I have been here, I think that was the largest turnout that I have seen. We made quorum and beyond with just in person attendees. We have had some years where we just barely make it with all proxies counted and looking for more.

Our guests included Kim Christiansen, the new General Manager of NREA, Shawn Taylor from WREA and Barry Ingold from Tri-State. Kim spoke on the value and purpose of a cooperative and how it truly belongs to the members and that the annual meeting is a place for the membership to have a voice. Also, that if any members want more involvement in the leadership of the Co-op that they can run for a director position on the Board. Try that at the local investor owned utility, or try asking for a little of your payment back, which is what capital credits are. At our co-op, any excess revenue is used to fund capital projects and returned to the membership over time, not simply passed on to the shareholders who typically live somewhere else.

Shawn spoke to the value of lobbying and being involved in government. The recent passing of the "Move Over" law will protect our crews when they are working near roadways. It's amazing that a concept that seems to be commonsense isn't as common when you get out in the world.

Barry updated us on the activities at Tri-State, and through cost cutting and some financial changes, it looks like rates should be steady for a few years. I put Barry on the spot and had him recap the outage on Craig 3 because I think it is important to note that with the significant fleet of power plants in the area, the loss of a generator that could power NEA more than 29 times over, we didn't even notice because the system has built in backup with all of the spinning generators out there. The investments and sound operations of Tri-State do not go unnoticed.

Thank you again to all that made it this year, and for those that couldn't, we hope to see you in Lusk next year.

Kenny Cealgske

**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**

- A limited Board Meeting was held post Annual Meeting for election of officers. All officers remained the same: President John Hester, Vice President JD Wasserburger, Secretary/Treasurer David Keener and Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Andy Greer.
- Manager Ken Cealgske reported on staffing issues.