



31st year 7th Issue

August 2020

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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
- Miller Soap Company
- Bloomers

Update—Cancelled 2020 Annual Meeting News

Back in late March, we announced that the NEA Board of Directors made a safety conscious decision to cancel the 2020 Annual Meeting, due to COVID-19.

A number of members have inquired how this decision effects business and elections. Our attorney has advised that business operations are unaffected and that the incumbent directors up for election were running unopposed so, they will retain their positions and serve another three (3) year term.

With a territory as large as ours, we feel it is important to make our Annual Meeting accessible to as many of our members as possible, hence our use of the Niobrara County Fairgrounds and the Sioux County High School.

In 2021, we will again plan to host our Annual Meeting at the Sioux County High School. Our commitment to rotation between one year in Nebraska and the next in Wyoming will continue—we don't want to skip our time in Nebraska because of the 2020 Annual Meeting cancellation.

For your knowledge, we have put some of the business information that you would have seen/heard in your 2020 Annual Meeting booklet or by speaker, had we held the meeting in May, into this insert on pages 2 and 3.

We are here to serve our membership. If you have questions or concerns, please stop by or call and speak with us. We look forward to next year's gathering of the membership and sharing with you all the growth, activity and business your cooperative is experiencing.

Niobrara Electric Association, Inc.

Lusk, Wyoming

Treasurer's Report

May 21, 2020

The Treasurer's Report for the fiscal year 2019 is included in your annual report under the Financial Statement sections. A brief review of the statistics will be given here:

NEA had total operating revenue of \$13,816,799; our expenses were \$12,702,756; which left a margin of \$1,114,043.

The Balance sheet shows that our electric plant is worth \$24,469,641, which has been depreciated to a book value of \$15,755,573. NEA has restricted funds in the amount of \$10,885,029 and general funds amounting to \$165,745. Accounts receivable, materials and supplies; along with other assets bring NEA's total Assets to \$27,201,059.

NEA's long-term debt to the Rural Utilities Service is \$2,067,558 and long-term debt to NRU-CFC and CoBank is \$3,854,883. The net long-term debt to RUS, NRU-CFC, and CoBank is \$6,922,441. Patronage Capital, other member equities and current liabilities bring the total to a balance figure of \$27,201,059.

The annual audit was completed by Decoria, Maichel & Teague, P.S. and the following are excerpts from their audit letter:

We have audited the financial statements of Niobrara Electric Association, Inc., which are comprised of the balance sheet as of December 31, 2019.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Niobrara Electric Association, Inc. as of December 31, 2019, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

DeCoria, Maichel & Teague, P.S.

March 23, 2020

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
ASSETS		
Plant and Equipment	\$27,271,243	\$24,469,641
Less Depreciation	11,279,941	11,714,068
Net Book Value	\$15,991,302	\$12,755,573
Restricted Funds	6,042,740	10,885,029
General Funds	408,288	165,745
Accounts Receivable	1,415,668	2,393,699
Materials & Supplies	704,542	744,356
Other Assets	286,729	256,657
Total Assets	\$24,849,269	\$27,201,059
LIABILITIES & CAPITAL		
Long-Term Debt - Cobank/CFC	\$3,475,851	\$4,854,883
Long Term Debt to RUS	\$2,180,820	\$2,067,558
Less Advance Payments	0	0
Net Long Term Debt	\$5,656,671	\$6,922,441
Member Equities	17,364,025	18,190,167
Other Current Liabilities	1,828,573	2,088,451
Total Liabilities & Member Equities	\$24,849,269	\$27,201,059

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
OPERATING REVENUE		
Operating Revenue and Patronage Capital	\$12,759,482	\$13,297,175
Other Sources	\$420,603	519,624
Total Operating Revenue	\$13,180,085	\$13,816,799
EXPENSES		
Purchased Power	\$8,617,918	\$8,944,688
Transmission/Distribution	1,510,958	1,714,438
Administration	843,751	825,518
Taxes	151,845	164,274
Interest	250,258	330,391
Depreciation	708,102	723,447
Total Operating Expenses	\$12,082,832	\$12,702,756
Net Operating Margin	\$676,650	\$594,419
Other Incomes	54,644	130,785
Other Capital Credits	54,015	69,479
Capital Credits Allocated to Niobrara Electric	311,944	319,360
TOTAL MARGINS	\$1,097,253	\$1,114,043

nea@niobrara-electric.org

PO Box 697 Lusk, WY 82225

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



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 SRS will
take all other calls and dispatch
NEA personnel.



A lot of activity took place at the Sioux County High School in the month of July. Working to complete a 3 phase upgrade before the start of school, NEA coordinated work installing a new HVAC system. Power had to be brought from a block away. Litrel Construction of Chadron did the bore work under the street. Ordering the transformer would have delayed the project. Thankfully, NEA obtained the needed transformer from Wheat Belt PPD in Sidney, NE.

Board Minutes

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	
Neal Wurdeman	2	Lusk, WY	
Andy Greer	1	Lance Creek, WY	
JD Wasserburger	2	Lusk, WY	Vice President

- Line Superintendent, Rick Bridge, reported no accidents, injuries, or near misses. Also, Will Smith is working on AML routers and meter change outs and Levi Clark's crew is doing rotten pole change outs.
- Manager, Kevin Inman, gave an update on the Quin Creek project. He made a request for a retainer to Inter-mountain Electric to secure ROW, shared personnel information and updated the Board on CFC integrity fund.
- Director Keener spoke on NREA business and protestors in Lincoln, Youth Tour cancelled and NREA staff are back in the office.
- Director Greer spoke on WREA business. They are still using Zoom calls.
- Director Wilson spoke on Tri-State business, the legal battles continue, as do clean energy plan discussions.