

Northwestern Electric News

VOL. 65 NUMBER 7

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative



MAY 2014

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First-time attendee wins grand prize

First-time attendee Ronnie Hasten of Woodward drove away with the Kubota RTV 400 at Northwestern Electric's 73rd Annual Meeting. "I was surprised when you called my name," said Ronnie. "This is the first time I have attended the meeting. I want to thank Northwestern Electric and Arnett New Holland/Kubota for providing the grand prize! I'll be able to put it to good use."

Over 1,700 members and guests gathered at the Woodward County Fair Barn on April 10 for a free barbecue meal, entertainment and the Cooperative's business meeting.

The A Bar Bunkhouse Band from eastern Oklahoma entertained the members while they enjoyed the meal catered by Adventures In Catering. Shawna Burgess sang the National Anthem and C. J. Montgomery, Woodward Chamber of Commerce president, gave the welcome. (998369001)

During the business session, members heard reports on the general condition and financial status of the Cooperative. The meeting concluded with a prize drawing for over 50 items including the Kubota RTV 400.



Kenny Knowles, NWEC board president, congratulates Ronnie Hasten for winning the Kubota RTV 400 sponsored in part by Arnett New Holland/Kubota at NWEC's annual meeting. Ronnie's neighbor, Harley Morgan, can't hardly wait until she gets her first ride.

Congratulations to our 2014 annual meeting prize winners

Ronnie Hasten
Jim Roach
Wayne Hayes
Jeremy Bowers
Steve Lively
Delores Lahr
Charles Harden
Hal Thomas
Monte Moss
Eldon Hickman
John Airington
Geary Lewis

Donald Thorn
Richard Hurst
Martin Springfield
Edward Dover
Seventh Day Adventist
Jim Steenbergen
Alfred Ward
Beverly Thompson
Darrell Hunter
Rhett Smith
Mickey Bentley
Robert Jones

Kathy Starbuck
Steve Lawrence
Donald Nelson
Don McLain
Wayne Pugh
Roper Slavin
Brant McAtee
Bill Harper
Johnny Prophet
Wanda Wilson
Marilyn Bently
Hugh Griffith

Dale Morris
Larry Lynes
Jeff Kenny
Lanny Corr
Frances Nelson
Vernon Hamaker
Jay Ladd
Don Bowers
Ralph Burton
Jim Winn
Alta Evans
Todd Sanders

Donna Boese
Blake Huckaby
Jeremiah Griffith
Whitney Shuman
Kami Kornele
Abby Johnson
Kaden Rice
Macy Denney
Theresa Day
Trixtan Thomas

**NORTHWESTERN
ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

Woodward, Oklahoma
Operating In
Beaver, Dewey, Ellis, Harper,
Major, Woods and Woodward
Counties in Oklahoma

**TYSON LITTAU
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Kenny Knowles, Pres..... Arnett
Ray Smith, Vice-Pres..... Taloga
John Bruce, Jr., Sec.-Treas. Sharon
Marvin Wilkinson Buffalo
Clair Craighead Woodward
Wayne Hall..... Mooreland
Duane Henderson..... Mooreland
Lee Huckaby Selman
Gilbert Perkins. Gate

Jonna Hensley Editor
Michael W. Mitchel..... Attorney

DATES TO REMEMBER

1st to 10th of Each Month—
Pay electric service bill

20th of Each Month—
-Delinquent collections begin.

**IN CASE OF TROUBLE CALL:
24 HOUR EMERGENCY
1-877-9NOPOWER
877.966.7693**

If no answer call:
John Kirkwood.....866.3245
Bob Appell273.4088

NOTICE

A copy of NWEK Bylaws will be made available for any member upon request.

**Web page: www.nwecok.coop
E-mail: nwec@nwecok.coop**

Postmaster: Send address changes to:
NORTHWESTERN ELECTRIC NEWS
2925 Williams Ave.
P.O. Box 2707
Woodward, OK 73802.



Jaret Dowler and Jamie Ruble hand out registration gifts to members attending Northwestern Electric's 2014 annual meeting on Apr. 10.

A special thanks to the following businesses for donating prizes to give away at our 2014 annual meeting:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Northwest Transformer | C H Guernsey | Marathon Electric |
| ESC | High Plains Tire | United Supermarkets |
| CFC | Northwest Glass | Banc Central |
| Bridgewell | Techline | Wesco |
| KD | Riggs Tree Service | AIP |
| CoBank | CED | SEDC |
| McKay Ford | Stock Exchange Bank | J Harlen Company |
| Joe D Hall Construction | Custom Powerline Construction | |
| Arkansas Electric Co-op | Baldwin Pole & Piling Co. | |

— Closed for Holiday —

Northwestern Electric will close on Monday, May 26, in observance of Memorial Day. If you have an emergency, call:

1-877-9NOPOWER — 877.966.7693

February 2014 Operating Report

	2013	2014
Revenue - Billing	2,481,075	3,079,439
Cost of Power.....	1,439,215	1,856,233
Miles of Lines	4,927	4,952
Members Connected	11,655	11,754
Density per Mile	2.37	2.37
Average Member KWH	2,394	2,678
Average Bill	213	262
KWH Purchased.....	26,911,583	30,346,145
KWH Sold.....	27,905,412	31,473,869
Income per Mile.....	517	625
Expense per Mile	473	571



Winners of the kid's drawing at NWEC's annual meeting were (L to R) Blake Huckaby, scooter; Jeremiah Griffith, scooter; Whitney Shuman, bike; Kami Kornele, bike; Abby Johnson, bike; Kaden Rice, bike; Macy Denney, iPod Touch; Theresa Day, Nook; and Trixtan Thomas, XBOX 360.

Hidden account number contest

Last month's numbers went unclaimed. They belonged to Eric Boles and Quentin Beagle.

For those of you who aren't familiar with the contest, this is how it works. We have hidden two account numbers somewhere in the articles in this newsletter. The numbers will always be enclosed in parentheses and will look similar to this example (XXXXXX).

If you recognize your account number, all you have to do is give us a call on or before the 8th of the current month and we'll give you a credit on your bill for the amount stated.

This month's numbers are worth \$50 each. Happy hunting!

Country cooking

Chicken Tortilla Casserole

- 3 cups shredded cooked chicken**
- 2 can (4 ounces each) chopped green chilies**
- 1 cup chicken broth**
- 1 can (10-3/4 ounces) condensed cream of mushroom soup, undiluted**
- 1 small onion, finely chopped**
- 12 corn tortillas, warmed (can substitute flour tortillas)**
- 2 cups (8 ounces) shredded cheddar cheese, divided**



In a large bowl, combine the chicken, chilies, broth, soups and onion; set aside. Layer half of the tortillas in a greased 13-in. x 9-in. baking dish, cutting to fit pan if desired. Top with half of the chicken mixture and half of the cheese. Repeat layers.

Bake, uncovered, at 350° for 30 minutes or until heated through.

Yield: 6-8 servings.

Winter's wrath continues to impact electric bills

The lasting effects of 2013-2014 winter's wrath are now also affecting the typical spring warm-up. The impact the colder weather had on fuel costs is expected to continue for several months before prices and demand return to a lower level. With high natural gas prices, low storage levels and frigid temperatures experienced in portions of the country, electric bills are expected to remain high at least through the next couple of months.

Natural gas prices have steadily increased since November 2013. In January, natural gas prices were at \$4.77 per MMBtu. The weather during February was extreme for the first two weeks and the average cost of natural gas ended at \$8.60 per MMBtu

for the month. Natural gas prices are currently averaging around \$6.25 per MMBtu.

Oklahoma weather continued to amaze many in March with a temperature variance of 78 degrees. On March 3, the temperature reached a morning low of three degrees compared to a high of 81 degrees just a few days later on March 11. Overall, March was 26.8 percent colder than normal.

Our power supplier, Western Farmers Electric Cooperative, is estimating the actual cost of fuel for March to be around 46 mills (4.6 cents) per kilowatt-hour (kWh), which is up from 40 mills (4.00 cents) per kWh from the previous month.

What does this mean for Northwestern Electric members? Simply

put—higher electric bills. While our rate has not gone up, the fuel costs (or power cost adjustment) have continued to increase over the past few months because of rising natural gas prices and uncommonly cold weather.

The power cost adjustment (PCA) is a charge passed through from the generation company to cover the variable cost of fuel and purchased power. It reflects increases or decreases in the cost to produce the electricity Northwestern Electric purchases from Western Farmers to distribute to our members. (10992201)

Although temperatures are starting to warm up, please keep in mind it will take a couple of months before the power cost adjustment begins to stabilize and possibly decrease.

Calendar provides reminders to keep your home safe

May is National Electrical Safety Month, a time when Northwestern Electric educates members on ways to stay safe at home and on the job. But safety awareness shouldn't stop on May 31.

ESFI provides a Home Safety Calendar to help you remember when to perform routine maintenance and safety checks around the house. Some things, like vacuuming coils and changing furnace or air conditioning filters, should be done every three months. Other items, like testing GFCI outlets and smoke alarms, need to happen monthly.

Taking care of these safety items on the first of the month when you're paying bills is a great time to knock a few things off the list. Then you don't

have to worry about them for the rest of the month. ESFI created the calendar so you can put it on your refrigerator as daily reminder of simple steps to

take every month to keep your family safe"

Learn more about home electrical safety at <http://virtualhome.esfi.org>.

Electrical Safety Calendar

Use this handy calendar to help keep your home safe. For more tips, visit esfi.org.

JANUARY <input type="checkbox"/> Check and replace furnace filters	FEBRUARY <input type="checkbox"/> Vacuum refrigerator coils	MARCH <input type="checkbox"/> Replace smoke and carbon monoxide alarm batteries if not done in last 12 months
APRIL <input type="checkbox"/> Check and replace furnace filters	MAY <input type="checkbox"/> Clean air conditioners or schedule annual inspection <input type="checkbox"/> Vacuum refrigerator coils	JUNE <input type="checkbox"/> Dust light fixtures/lamps <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule annual inspection of gas-powered dryer
JULY <input type="checkbox"/> Check and replace air conditioning filters	AUGUST <input type="checkbox"/> Vacuum refrigerator coils	SEPTEMBER <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule annual furnace cleaning and inspection
OCTOBER <input type="checkbox"/> Check and replace furnace filters	NOVEMBER <input type="checkbox"/> Vacuum refrigerator coils	DECEMBER <input type="checkbox"/> Dust light fixtures/lamps

ESFI recommends hiring a licensed, qualified home electrical inspector if:
 Your home is more than 40 years old; your home had a major addition or renovation or major new appliance added in the last 10 years; and/or you are the new owner of a previously owned home.

Every month you should:

- 1. Inspect all electrical and appliance cords for damage**
- 2. Test GFCIs & AFCIs**
 Whether you have a receptacle-type or circuit breaker-type ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI), pushing the TEST button should turn off power to the circuit. To restore power, press the RESET button. To test arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) push the TEST button. The breaker handle should go to the middle or off position. To reset, move the breaker handle to the OFF position and then to the ON position.
 
- 3. Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms**
 Push the TEST button or use other procedures recommended by the manufacturer. Smoke alarm batteries should be changed at least once a year. If an alarm "chirps" or "beeps" to indicate low batteries, change them right away. Replace all smoke alarms at least every 10 years.
 