

Northwestern Electric News

Vol. 66 Number 1

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



November 2014

Inside

Trouble paying bill.....	2
Winter survival kit.....	3
Recipe.....	3
Bryer retires	4
Rebate program.....	4



Representatives from area fire departments received a \$1,000 donation each from Northwestern Electric during a banquet held in their honor. Accepting the checks on behalf of the departments in their communities are (back row) Troy DeWitt, Gate; Michael Petty, Ft. Supply; Chris Sconyers, Catesby; David Trimble, Vici; Bill Phillips, Sharon; Jay Boyd, Arnett; and Monte Stahlman, Fargo; (middle row) Charlie Starbuck, Slapout; Steve Wilson, Buffalo; Mike McIlvain, Selman; Grant Baker, Taloga; Darrell Phipps, May; Roger Robinson, Camargo; Leslie Feerer, Fargo; and Ted Bozarth, Laverne; (front row) Steve Day, Woodward; J. D. Jackson, Harmon; Sheri Nickel, Shattuck; Mark Murray, Mooreland; Randy Feuerborn, Seiling; Troy Kirkhart, Rosston; and Rep. Mike Sanders.

Christmas comes early for local firefighters NWECE donates \$1,000 to fire departments

Northwestern Electric Cooperative (NWECE) recently held a banquet to honor the fire departments in its service territory. Representatives from 20 of the 25 local departments attended the banquet. NWECE presented each department with a \$1,000 donation.

NWECE's CEO Tyson Littau welcomed the firefighters to the banquet. "We asked you here this evening to thank you for your service and give you a check to express our appreciation."

Rep. Mike Sanders was also in attendance to offer his thanks to the firefighters. Greg Hambrick, loss control instructor for the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives, gave a short presentation on electrical safety for emergency responders.

Rural fire departments came into existence for the same reason electric cooperatives formed. As rural areas became populated, the local residents saw a need for having a local fire department just like rural folks wanted

and needed the conveniences electricity provides.

The rural fire departments depend on donations, grants and fundraisers to purchase necessary equipment. The \$1,000 donations go to the fire departments in Arnett, Beaver, Buffalo, Camargo, Catesby, Fargo, Freedom, Ft. Supply, Gage, Gate, Harmon, Laverne, May, Mooreland, Mutual, Rosston, Seiling, Selman, Sharon, Shattuck, Slapout, Taloga, Vici, Waynoka and Woodward.

**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

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

If no answer call:
John Kirkwood 580.866.3245
Bob Appell 580.273.4088

NOTICE

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

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

NWEC 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 http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, 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.

Trouble paying your bill by the 10th?

Have you had an unexpected medical bill, your car needs repaired, or maybe you work out-of-town for extended periods of time?

Occasionally, situations arise that cause us to get behind on our bills and it is difficult to catch up. At Northwestern Electric Cooperative, we have options to assist you with keeping your power on.

1. Sign up for bank or credit card draft and never be late again!
2. Enroll in SelectPay! Our pay-as-you-go program allows you to be current on your bill and puts your past due balance in debt management. (12438001)
3. Call by the 10th and make an arrangement for installment payments or to delay full payment to a later date.

4. Apply for assistance. Applications for Ellis and Woodward County can be picked up at our office in Woodward and members living in Harper County can get an application at the Buffalo office. Applications may also be picked up at:

Red Cross, 1209 9th St., Woodward
Phone: 580.256.1083

Payments are due on the 10th of each month. If you are unable to pay on or before the 10th, please call to discuss your payment options. We will be glad to assist you so there is no disruption in your electric service.

Disconnections are costly to you and the Cooperative. One disconnection can cost you up to \$150, plus your bill and late penalties.

Our goal is to assist you in always keeping your power on!

**Northwestern Electric Cooperative will close
November 27 and 28 to observe the
Thanksgiving Holiday.
For emergencies call our
outage hotline number
1-877-9NOPOWER
877.966.7693**



August 2014 Operating Report

	2013	2014
Revenue - Billing	2,827,992	3,456,831
Cost of Power	1,795,528	2,267,696
Miles of Lines	4,941	4,960
Members Connected	11,727	11,943
Density per Mile	2.37	2.41
Average Member KWH	2,641	2,865
Average Bill	241.15	289.44
KWH Purchased	32,517,103	35,872,713
KWH Sold	30,971,253	34,215,105
Income per Mile	576	701
Expense per Mile	575	673

Turn clocks back

Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, Nov. 2, at 2 a.m. Remember to set your clocks back one hour.

This is also a good time to check and replace the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms. Replace any smoke alarms older than ten years. Replace any CO alarms older than five years.



Prepare a winter survival kit

Severe winter storms often bring heavy accumulations of ice and snow, which can lead to downed power lines and extended outages. NWEC's crews will work hard to restore power, but having a winter survival kit on hand is a smart idea.

- **Food:** Store food that does not require cooking, such as canned goods, crackers, dehydrated meats and dried fruit. Keep a large supply of water on hand. Ready.gov recommends five gallons per person.

- **Medication:** Be sure to refill all prescriptions in the event of a major power outage.

- **Identification:** Keep all forms of identification handy, such as driver's licenses, photo IDs and social security cards. Bank account information and insurance policies are also good to have on hand.

- **Other items:** First Aid Kit, blankets, flashlight, battery-powered radio and extra batteries.

For more information on preparing for winter storms, visit www.ready.gov.

Say "Thank You" to a Vet

In honor of Veteran's Day, we would like to recognize and thank our current employees and directors who have served in the armed forces. The next time you see these men, please take a moment to thank them for their willingness to serve our country.

Chris McGraw, Army

John Bruce, Jr., National Guard

Clair Craighead, National Guard

Wayne Hall, Army

Duane Henderson, National Guard

Ray Smith, Army

Hidden account number contest

Congratulations to Herbert Sprague for recognizing his number in last month's issue. The other number belonged to John Crotts.

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 \$25 each. Happy hunting!

Country Cooking

Easy Pumpkin Spice Muffins

- 1 (18.25 ounce) package spice cake mix**
- 1 (15 ounce) can pumpkin puree**
- 9 ounces cinnamon chips**
- 1 cup chopped pecans (optional)**



Preheat oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). Line 18 muffin cups with paper liners.

Mix spice cake mix, pumpkin puree, and cinnamon chips together in a bowl until cake mix is completely moistened; add nuts and stir. Spoon the batter into prepared muffin cups to about 2/3-full.

Bake in the preheated oven until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean, 25 to 30 minutes. Cool in the pans for 10 minutes before removing to cool completely on a wire rack.

Cooking tip: When you start mixing, you will think there aren't enough liquid ingredients to absorb the cake mix. Just keep mixing. Don't over bake! When baked properly, this is a moist, delicious muffin.

Bryer retires after 25 years with NWECC

After 25 years of dedicated service to Northwestern Electric, Carl Bryer announced in late September he was retiring. Carl began his career with Northwestern on May 1, 1989, as a lineman trainee. His last official work day was Sept. 26, 2014.

Carl worked his way up the ranks and became a line foreman in May 2007. Later on he started working collections. Carl saw a lot of changes during his 25 years with NWECC. Getting better equipment and newer technology are two things he said improved working conditions the most.

Over the years, Carl has faced a lot of different situations. One that sticks out in his mind is when he and David Keyser were working an outage together. An OCR was open and Carl had to traipse through a ditch full of

tall weeds to get to it. All of a sudden he felt something pull on him and the next thing he knew he had been knocked on the ground. He had walked into an electric fence that was hidden in the weeds. And he didn't feel the shock until he hit the ground!

When asked what he liked best about working for Northwestern Electric, Carl replied "I liked my job and my co-workers. I really enjoyed working here and I learned a lot of skills." Carl says the thing he will miss most about the job is getting up and coming to work. (1942001)

Carl and his wife, Caye, have six children—Seth, Amanda, Rachel, Levi, Morgan and Bradley—and 14 grandchildren. His future plans include moving to Lake Eufala and doing a lot of fishing and hunting.



Carl Bryer proudly displays his retirement cake at a luncheon held in his honor during the September safety meeting.

Save with Northwestern Electric's rebate program

Get cash back on qualifying water heater and heat pump installations

Northwestern Electric will pay a cash rebate to qualifying members who replace or install new energy efficient heat pumps or electric water heaters.

Rebates for electric water heaters are being paid for tanks of 40 gallon or larger with an energy rating of .93 or greater. First time installation of a high efficient model, new or conversion from gas, qualifies for a \$100 rebate. Replacement of an existing electric tank qualifies for a \$50 rebate.

Once the new water heater is purchased and installed, contact NWECC. Jonna Hensley will come out and verify the installation. She will need to see the old tank and will ask for information pertaining to your purchase. After she verifies the new tank qualifies for the rebate, NWECC will mail a check directly to the homeowner.

Heat pumps, both air source and ground source, qualify for varying amounts of cash rebates.

For an air source heat pump unit to qualify, it must have a minimum rat-

ing of 16 SEER, 13.4 EER and an 8.5 HSPF. The rebate for a new unit or gas conversion is \$250 per ton. If you are replacing an old electric unit, the rebate is \$150 per ton.

Ground source heat pumps must meet a minimum rating of 16.1 EER and a 3.3 COP for closed loop systems and an 18.2 EER and 3.6 COP for open looped systems. New units and gas conversions qualify for a rebate of \$250 per ton. Replacement units qualify for a rebate of \$150 per ton.

The verification process for heat pumps is similar to the water heater process. Jonna will need to verify the installation and see the information pertaining to the purchase. After the verification process has been completed, Northwestern Electric will mail the check to the homeowner.

Rebates can not exceed \$1,000 per application and all units must be AHRI certified. A rebate application form for heat pump installations is available on our website at www.nwecok.coop or you can call the office to request a



Source: ClimateMaster

form. All requests for rebates must be made within 30 days after the installation is completed.

Additional funds may be available for heat pump installations from our power supplier, Western Farmers Electric Cooperative. Members could possibly receive an additional \$75-\$450 per ton depending on the type of installation and energy efficiency ratings of the unit.

Contact Jonna at 256.7425 or 800.375.7423 for more information.