

Northwestern Electric News

Vol. 66 Number 6

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



April 2015

Inside

Winters retires	2
Capital Credits	3
Recipe.....	3
National lineman day....	4
Revolving loan fund	4

It's annual meeting time!

Join us Apr. 9 at the Woodward County Fairgrounds

Another year has passed and it is time for Northwestern Electric's annual meeting. For those of you who have never been, this isn't just another boring business meeting. It's more like a family reunion. As a member of Northwestern Electric, you are a part of our cooperative family. So make plans to join your friends and neighbors for a good barbecue meal, great entertainment, prize drawings and a short business session. (8002001)

Back by popular demand is the A Bar Bunkhouse Band. This youthful western swing band will have you tapping your toes and making you want to get up and dance to their classic western swing tunes.

The annual meeting is also a good opportunity to meet face-to-face with our employees. NWECE will have an information booth inside the main exhibit hall where you can ask questions and learn

about the various programs we offer our members.

SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT PARKING: The meeting is in the new Woodward Fairgrounds main building. While it will be nice to have plenty of room in the climate controlled exhibit hall, ongoing construction is going to limit the amount of parking space available. Members with handicap parking permits will be directed to the lot closest to the building on a first come, first serve basis.

Be prepared to walk! Even if you park close to the building, you may have to walk a long distance to enter the building. Before the meeting, NWECE personnel will provide transportation on golf carts from the parking lots to the main entrance. **Rides are not available after the meeting is over.** If you require assistance, please bring a guest with you to help you in and out of the building.

And last, but not least, we are giving away lots of prizes. Registered members will receive a 6-piece knife set with wooden base sporting our 75th anniversary logo. Everyone attending the meeting will receive a souvenir drink cup to take home. Kids attending the meeting can register for their very own annual meeting prize. They have a chance to win a Wii game, iPod or new bike. Other prizes—including the Kubota RTV 400 grand prize—will be given away after the business session. You must be present to win, so fill your plate with some delicious barbecue, grab a seat to enjoy some top-notch entertainment and stick around after the short business meeting for your chance to win big.



Annual Meeting, Apr. 9, Woodward County Fairgrounds



- **Grand Prize - Kubota RTV 400 sponsored in part by Arnett New Holland/Kubota**
- **Registration begins at 5 p.m.**
- **Free barbecue meal from 5-6:30 p.m.**
- **Registration Gift - 6-piece knife set (one per membership please).**
- **Business session starts at 6:30 p.m.**

Continued on page 3.

**NORTHWESTERN
ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

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

**TYSON LITTAU
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

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1-877-9NOPOWER
877.966.7693**

If no answer call:
John Kirkwood 580.866.3245
Bob Appell 580.273.4088

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**

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.

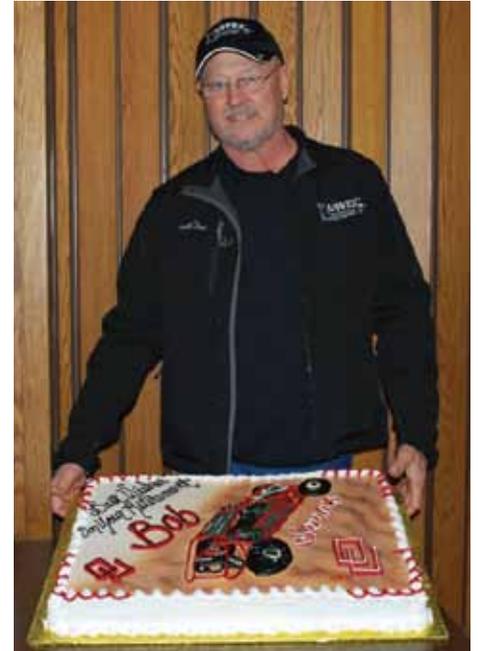
Winters retires after 38 collective years with NWEK

Bob Winters started working for NWEK as a journeyman mechanic on Mar. 21, 1989. Before coming to NWEK, he owned his own business—Winter’s Automotive. He was also a lineman and mechanic for High Plains Electric and did contract line construction for NWEK. When you add the years together as a mechanic for NWEK and his contract work, he has actually worked 38 years with and for NWEK.

Bob has encountered several interesting incidents over the years, but the one that stands out to him is when the NASA weather balloon pulled down a three-phase line and started a fire. He was amazed at how fast the crews were able to rebuild the line.

He has also seen a lot of changes during his career. Bob says better equipment and working conditions have made it easier for everyone to do their jobs.

Bob’s last day was Feb. 5. When asked what he liked best about working for NWEK, Bob said “I liked how everyone works together.” The things he will miss the most after he retires are the friends



Bob Winters’ retirement cake reflected two of his favorite things—dune buggies and OU.

he has made over the years.

His future plans include spending time with his family, traveling and RVing. (15532001)

Bob and his wife Robbe have three children—Tammy White and husband Jason, Tracy, and Craig. He has two grandchildren—Tinley and Tandon White.

January 2015 Operating Report

	2014	2015
Revenue - Billing	2,980,767	3,308,424
Cost of Power.....	1,853,401	1,986,613
Miles of Lines	4,952	4,970
Members Connected	11,809	11,927
Density per Mile	2.38	2.40
Average Member KWH	2,706	2,783
Average Bill	252	277
KWH Purchased.....	33,728,942	33,944,193
KWH Sold.....	31,959,369	33,188,523
Income per Mile.....	608	668
Expense per Mile	578	613

Membership has its benefits

NWEC returns \$996,825 in capital credits

Your electric cooperative belongs to you and the other members who receive electric service from Northwestern Electric. Your ownership interest in the Co-op is known as capital credits.

At the end of each year, after financial obligations have been met, the Co-op determines if there are excess revenues called margins. These margins are allocated to the members as capital credits based upon their payments for electricity during that year.

When the Co-op's financial conditions permit, your Board of Directors votes to refund the capital credits to you, our members. This year, NWEC is paying

back \$996,825 to members who paid for electric service in 1994 and 1995.

Active members will receive a credit on their April bill unless the amount is over \$600, then a check will be mailed. Inactive members will receive a check in the mail if their amount is over \$10 or it is their final capital credit check.

Some checks go unclaimed due to addresses that are not current for former members. If you know someone who has moved, please ask them to update their address with us. Forms may be obtained from our website at www.nwecok.coop, by emailing us at cc@nwecok.org or giving the office a call at 256.7425 or 800.375.7423.



The A Bar Bunkhouse Band

Annual Meeting

Continued from page 1.

- Entertainment provided by The A Bar Bunkhouse Band
- Kids drawing for a Wii game, iPod, and other prizes.
- Souvenir cup for everyone attending the meeting!



Hidden account number contest

Congratulations to Melvin Newman for recognizing his number in the February issue. The other number belonged to Curtiss Buss.

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 \$25 each. Happy hunting!

Countryside Cooking

Creamy Burrito Casserole



- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1/2 onion, chopped
- 1 package taco seasoning
- 6 large flour tortillas
- 1 can refried beans
- 2-3 cups shredded taco cheese or cheddar cheese
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 4 ounces sour cream

Brown beef and onion, drain. Add taco seasoning and stir in refried beans. Mix soup and sour cream in a separate bowl. Spread 1/2 sour cream mixture in the bottom of a casserole dish.

Tear up 3 tortillas and spread over sour cream mixture.

Put 1/2 the meat bean mixture over the layer of tortillas. Add a layer of cheese.

Repeat the layers.

Sprinkle cheese over the top and bake, uncovered, at 350 degrees F for 20-30 minutes.

NWEC celebrates National Lineman Appreciation Day

America's electric cooperatives have designated the second Monday of April as National Lineman Appreciation Day.

On April 13, 2015, NWEC will honor the hard working men and women who often work in challenging conditions to keep the lights on.

The full text of the resolution, which the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Board adopted unanimously, follows:

“Whereas linemen leave their families and put their lives on the line every day to keep the power on; Whereas linemen work 365 days a year under dangerous conditions to build, maintain and repair the electric infrastructure; Whereas linemen are the first responders of the electric cooperative family, getting power back on and making things safe for all after storms and accidents; and Whereas there would be no electric cooperatives without the brave men and women who comprise our corps of linemen;

Therefore be it resolved that NRECA recognize the Second Monday of April of each year as National Lineman Appreciation Day and make available to electric cooperatives, materials and support to recognize the contributions of these valuable men and women to America's Electric Cooperatives.”

We proudly recognize all electric linemen for the services they perform around the clock in dangerous conditions to keep power flowing and protect the public's safety.

“Electric linemen do not often receive the recognition they deserve,” said Tyson Littau, CEO. “They work all hours of the day, often in hazardous conditions far from their families, going above and beyond to restore power to their communities. Our linemen, as well as linemen from across the nation, truly deserve this special day of recognition.”



NWEC offers low interest loan funds

In an effort to help the economy of northwest Oklahoma, Northwestern offers low interest revolving loan funds.

The low interest funds may be used by qualifying businesses to purchase buildings, equipment, and to provide working capital.

For more information about the revolving loan and availability of funds, contact Melissa Washmon at 256.7425 or 800.375.7423.



Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month

To save energy this month, try lowering your water heating costs. Water heating accounts for 14 to 25 percent of the energy you consume. Turn the water heater's temperature to the warm setting, which is around 120 degrees Fahrenheit. This will save energy *and* help you save on your monthly bill.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy