

Northwestern Electric News

Vol. 66 Number 2

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

December 2015

Inside

- Whitehead retires2
- Director filing period3
- Season to give3
- Recipe.....3
- Director nominations ...4

Why electric co-ops replace utility poles

By Abby Berry

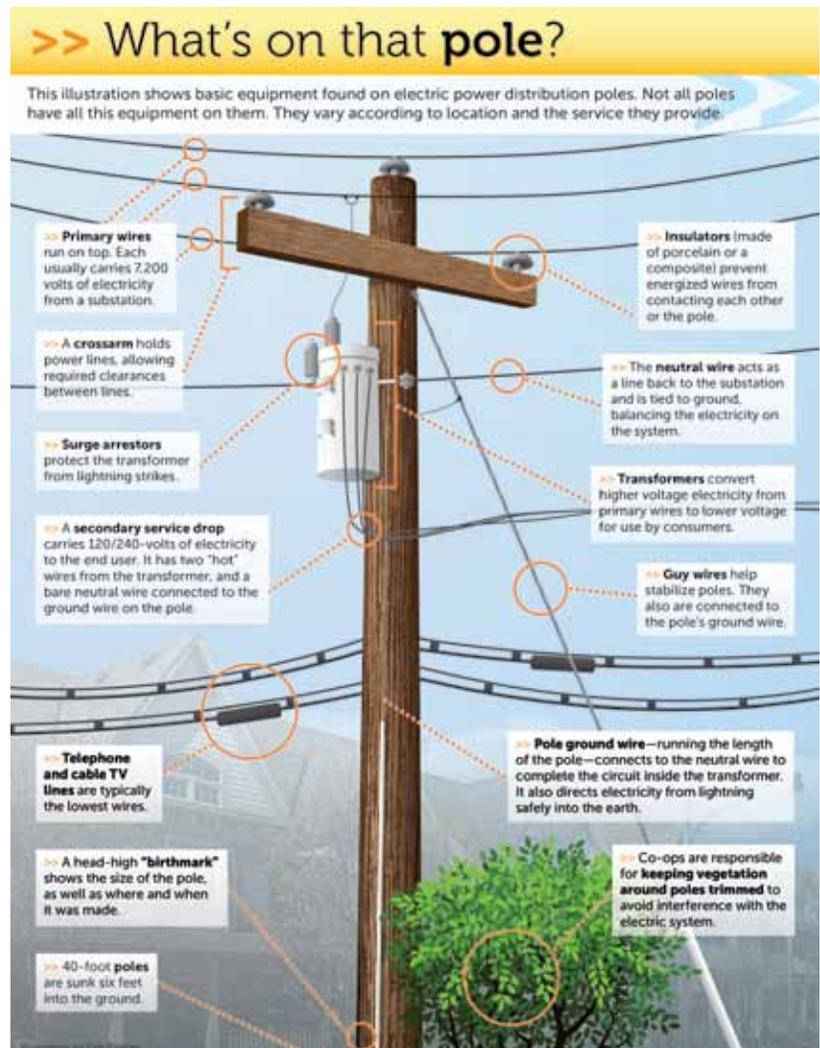
You probably don't pay much attention to the utility poles found throughout Northwestern Electric's service territory, but did you know these tall structures are the backbone of our distribution network?

Strong, sturdy utility poles ensure a reliable electric system, which is why we routinely inspect the thousands of poles found on our lines. Throughout the year, our crews check poles for decay caused by exposure to the elements. They know which poles are oldest and conduct inspections through a rotational process. Typically, a standard wooden distribution pole is expected to last more than 50 years.

Occasionally, poles need to be replaced for other reasons besides decay and old age. Weather disasters, power line relocation and car crashes are potential causes for immediate replacement. When possible, Northwestern Electric communicates when and where pole replacements will take place so that you stay informed of where crews will be working. (2981010)

Here is a quick breakdown of how crews replace a utility pole:

When a pole needs to be replaced, crews will start the process by digging a hole. The depth of the hole must be 15 percent of the new pole's height. Next, the new pole must be fitted with bolts, cross arms, insulators, ground wires and arm braces – all of the necessary parts for delivering safe and reliable electricity. Then, crews safely detach the power lines from the old pole.



**Northwestern Electric will close
December 24 and 25,
and again on January 1
in observance of the holidays.
In case of an outage,
call our 24 hour hotline:
877.966.7693.**

The new pole is then raised and guided carefully into position, and the lines are attached, leaving the new pole to do its job.

So, the next time you come across a Northwestern Electric crew replacing a pole, use caution and know that this process ensures a more reliable electric system for you, our members.

Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

**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 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.

**Whitehead closes books
after 30 years of dedicated service**

Karen Whitehead started working for Northwestern Electric in the billing department as a consumer records clerk on Oct. 8, 1984. In 1986, she took on the role of cashier and nine years later she became an accounting assistant. She began her latest duties as accounting and payroll specialist on Oct. 10, 2009.

Karen has seen a lot of changes over the years. Advancing technology has had the largest impact on her job. She remembers when the billing department shared two computers. Now, everyone has their own computer.

On November 1, Karen officially closed her accounting books for the last time. When asked what she will miss the most after retiring, she said, "I'll miss the friends I have made and worked with during my career."

Her plans for the future are to vacation in the 30 states she and her husband, Scott, have not yet visited and to spend more time with her family.

Karen and Scott have six children—Jason Morgan, Jacob Morgan, Jeremy Morgan, Tyler Whitehead, Justin Whitehead and Pierce Whitehead. They have eight grandchildren with two more on the way.



During the October safety meeting, Northwestern Electric honored Karen Whitehead with a luncheon to celebrate her retirement. Karen retired on November 1 after 30 years of dedicated service.

— New Office Hours —

Our Woodward office business hours are changing on Jan. 4, 2016. The new hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for both the lobby and drive-thru. For your convenience, you can make payments 24/7 at our kiosk, online or by calling 580.377.1414.

September 2015 Operating Report

	2014	2015
Revenue - Billing	3,201,887	2,764,225
Cost of Power	1,999,303	1,562,568
Miles of Lines	4,963	4,982
Members Connected	11,857	11,939
Density per Mile	2.39	2.40
Average Member KWH	2,669	2,466
Average Bill	270	232
KWH Purchased	31,204,082	29,723,860
KWH Sold	31,645,338	29,443,743
Income per Mile	649	558
Expense per Mile	602	515

Filing period opens Jan. 4

The filing period for three Northwestern Electric board member seats opens Jan. 4. The seats up for election are: District 2, Clair Craighead of Woodward; District 4, John Bruce, Jr. of Sharon; and District 6, Wayne Hall of Mooreland.

Members wishing to place their names on the ballot should contact the administrative assistant, Rhonda McMakin, for an official nomination form. Members seeking nomination must be a bona fide resident in the district in which they are a member.

Candidates must obtain the signature of three other qualified members from the same district on the nomination form. The forms must be completed and returned to McMakin or the secretary of the Cooperative, John Bruce, Jr., no later than the first business day in the month of February prior to the date of the district meeting.

Questions should be directed to the CEO, Tyson Littau, or McMakin, at 580.256.7425 or 800.375.7423. See related article concerning nominations and elections on page 4.

Open house

Northwestern Electric is hosting an open house on Friday, Dec. 11, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Stop by and join us for hot wassail and cookies. While you are here, sign up to win a \$100 gift card.

And bring your children or grandchildren and we'll give them a ticket for a free ride on the Kiwanis train at Crystal Christmas.



'Tis the season to give

If you are looking for ways to give this holiday season, Northwestern Electric can help you.

Instead of an "angel" tree, each year we display an "energy" tree in our main lobby. It has light bulbs on it with account numbers of NWEC members who are in need of assistance during the

holiday season. Only account numbers are listed, as the names are to remain anonymous.

Anyone may come into our lobby and pick out a light bulb and donate to an account that is hanging from the tree. Any donation is appreciated no matter how big or small.

Hidden account number contest

Last month's numbers went unclaimed. They belonged to Eric Neuenschwander and Gary Carpenter.

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

Two-Minute Microwave Fudge

- 1/2 cup butter
- 3-1/2 cups powdered sugar
- 1/2 cup cocoa
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1/2 cup chopped nuts



Place ingredients (except nuts) in bowl, but do not mix. Microwave on high for 2 minutes.

Beat with electric mixer until smooth. Fold in nuts.

Pour mixture into a buttered 8-inch square baking dish. Refrigerate 15 to 20 minutes or until set.

Nomination and election of trustees

The following information is being published to comply with REA Bulletin Number 20-19 in the interest of NWECC Members.

ARTICLE III MEETING OF MEMBERS

Section 7. Nomination and Election of Trustees.

• 7.1.1. Nominations

During the month of January before the district meeting, candidates desiring to be nominated must pick up an official nomination form which may be secured at the headquarters office of the Cooperative. Candidates must obtain the signature of three other qualified members from the same district on said form and be delivered back to the Secretary of the Cooperative or his representative not less than the first business day in the month of February prior to the date of the district meeting.

• 7.2 District Meetings

Not less than thirty days nor more than sixty days before the annual meeting, the Board of Trustees shall call a separate meeting of the members of each district in accordance with Article IV Section 2 of these Bylaws, at a suitable place in or near such district for the purpose of electing a Trustee to represent the members located within such district. The meeting shall, however, be open for discussion of any other matters pertaining to the business of the Cooperative, regardless of whether or not such matters were listed in the notice of the meeting. Recommendations with respect thereto may be submitted to the Board of Trustees or the entire membership. (15715001)

• 7.3 Order of Business of District Meetings

The district meeting shall be called to order by the Trustee representing the district, or by another

designated representative of the Board of Trustees, or in their absence, by any member residing within said district. The members shall then proceed to elect a chairman, who shall be someone other than the Trustee, and who shall appoint a secretary to act for the duration of the meeting. Five percent of the members residing in the district present of such a duly called district meeting shall constitute a quorum. Members of other districts present at the meeting may be heard but shall have no vote. Candidates must be members residing in the district and must possess the qualifications for Trustee as specified in Section 2 of Article IV of these Bylaws.

• 7.4 Voting and Minutes

Voting shall be by ballot. Each member may vote for one candidate. The candidate from such district receiving the majority of votes present shall be considered elected as Trustee. The minutes of such district meeting shall set forth, among other matters, the name of each person nominated and the number of votes received by each, and shall specify the person elected as Trustee from such district. A certified copy of the minutes, signed by the Secretary and the Chairman of the district meeting, shall be delivered to the Secretary of the Cooperative within five days after such district meeting.

• 7.5 When Quorums Cannot Be Obtained at District Meetings

In the event a quorum cannot be obtained at a district meeting provided for herein, said Trustee's position shall be declared vacant for the forthcoming three year term by the Board of Trustees at their next regular board meeting, and said vacancy shall be filled in accordance to the terms and qualifications listed in ARTICLE IV, Sections 2 and 4 of these Bylaws.

ARTICLE IV TRUSTEES

Section 2. Qualifications and Tenure

• 2.1 Eligibility for Trustees

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a trustee or to hold any position of trust in the Cooperative who:

(2.11) is not a member of the Cooperative.

(2.12) is not a bona fide resident of the particular district of which that person is a member.

(2.13) does not purchase from the Cooperative electric energy at that person's principal place of residence.

(2.14) is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative.

(2.15) is the incumbent for candidate for an elective public office in connection with which a salary or compensation in excess of one thousand dollars per annum is paid.

(2.16) has been employed by the cooperative within five years of his/her employment termination date and the scheduled district meeting for which member desires to run.

Section 4. Vacancies

4.1 Vacancy Occurring Due to Failure of Quorum

In the event a vacancy was caused by the failure of a quorum at a district meeting called for the purpose of electing Trustee, the vacancy shall be filled by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees at the next regular board meeting. The member elected as Trustee to serve the upcoming full term must meet the qualifications in ARTICLE IV, Section 2 of these Bylaws, and reside in the same district as the Trustee to whose office he succeeds.

See related article about the director filing period on page 2.