

Northwestern Electric News

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

January 2015

NWEC schedules board elections for February

Northwestern Electric has scheduled three board member elections for February. The districts are one, three and five and are highlighted on the map pictured below.

District 1, represented by Kenny Knowles, will meet at the First Baptist Church in Arnett on Tuesday, Feb. 17. The District 3 meeting is Thursday evening, Feb. 19, at the Mooreland Community Center. Duane Henderson is the current director. Ray Smith has set the District 5 meeting for Monday, Feb. 16, at the Lenora Methodist Church.

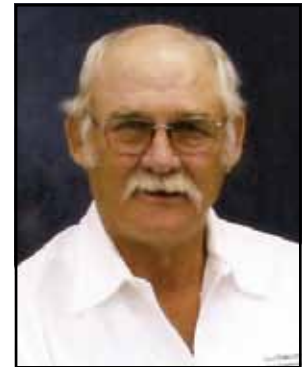
According to Tyson Littau, Northwestern's CEO, all three directors plan to file for re-election. The portion of the Bylaws pertaining to director nominations and elections was published in the December 2014 Northwestern Electric News. Interested candidates should contact Tyson Littau or Rhonda McMakin at the Woodward office for complete details on filing. The filing period is



Kenny Knowles



Duane Henderson



Ray Smith

open during the month of January. To announce their intentions to run in the February newsletter, candidates need to contact NWEC before Jan. 8.

Kenny Knowles currently serves as the board president and is seeking his ninth term as director. He and his wife, Charlene, farm and ranch in Ellis County. (997812002)

Duane Henderson has represented his district for 27 years and served on several committees during his tenure. He and his wife, Ollie, live north of Mooreland.

Ray Smith is a farmer/rancher and also works in the oil field. He and his wife, Ruth, live in the Lenora area. He serves as vice-president on NWEC's board of directors and as NWEC's representative on the Western Farmers board of directors.

The purpose of the meetings is to elect a director to serve a three-year term on the board of Northwestern Electric and report on information concerning the operations of the business. The meetings are also an excellent time for members to ask questions since several staff members and directors will be present.

Each of the meetings begin with a meal at 6 p.m., followed by the business meeting at 6:30. The three district meetings and their locations are:

District 1

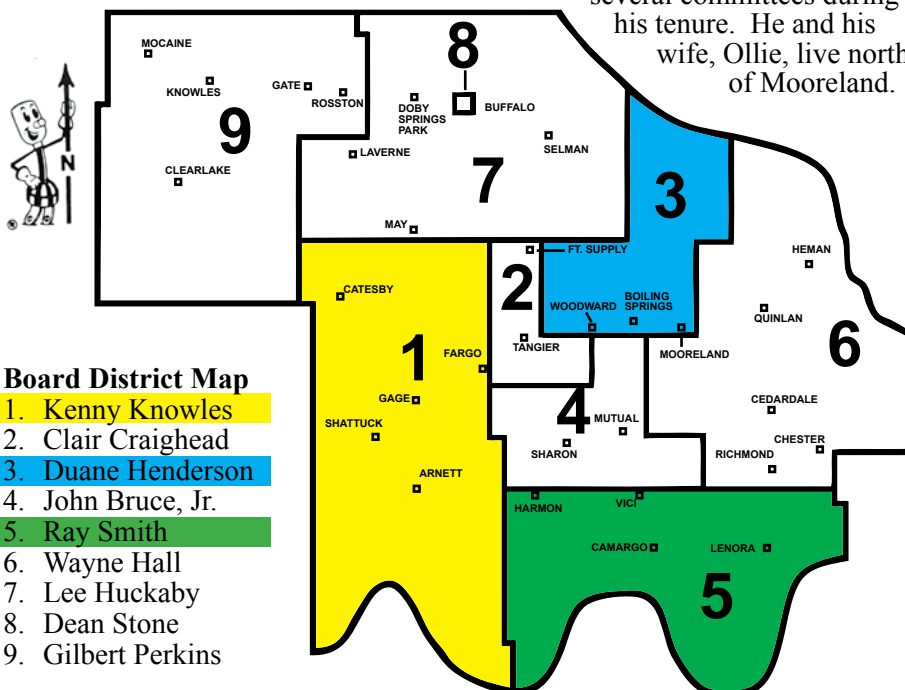
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2015
 Meal at 6 p.m. - Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
 First Baptist Church, Arnett

District 3

Thursday, Feb. 19, 2015
 Meal at 6 p.m. - Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
 Mooreland Community Center

District 5

Monday, Feb. 16, 2015
 Meal at 6 p.m. - Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
 Lenora Methodist Church



**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.



New Buffalo Office

Pictured is a preliminary rendering of the new Buffalo office. Construction will begin as soon as the architect plans are finalized.

New office facility coming to Buffalo

Northwestern Electric’s board of directors recently voted to build a new office building and expand the current warehouse facilities in Buffalo. The decision came after management explored the possibility of updating the current facility. The cost to remodel would have been extremely expensive and wouldn’t correct all the problems with the old building.

Northwestern Electric acquired the town of Buffalo and the surrounding area in 1943 from Panhandle Public Service Company. In 1959, NWEC purchased the old creamery building at 102 West Turner and converted it into the district office headquarters.

The facility has served the members in the Buffalo area for over 55 years, but the years have taken their toll on the current building. The roof

leaks, the electrical system is not up to code, the building is not completely ADA compliant and there is not enough office space to accommodate the 11 employees stationed in Buffalo.

When you factor in the Cooperative’s growth with the deteriorating conditions of the building, the need for a new facility is evident. Over the past 74 years, NWEC has grown from serving 82 consumers with 29 miles of energized lines to 11,892 meters with 4,966 miles of line. Buffalo has grown from using an average of 41,800 kWh to 885,569 kWh per month.

The board of directors felt the timing was right to build a new office. “The Cooperative is in good financial condition and interests rates are low,” said CEO Tyson Littau. “We believe this is the best time to move forward

Continued on page 3.

October 2014 Operating Report

	2013	2014
Revenue - Billing	2,407,992	2,799,144
Cost of Power	1,564,717	1,803,869
Miles of Lines	4,948	4,966
Members Connected	11,762	11,892
Density per Mile	2.38	2.39
Average Member KWH	2,213	2,256
Average Bill	204.73	235.38
KWH Purchased.....	27,760,516	27,611,085
KWH Sold.....	26,026,092	26,833,155
Income per Mile.....	491	567
Expense per Mile	514	562

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Credit/debit card or check payments by phone

Starting Jan. 1, 2015, consumer account representatives in the Woodward and Buffalo office will no longer be able to accept **NEW** credit/debit card or check payments over the phone. Northwestern Electric is implementing this change to comply with the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS).

The PCI Standard helps us keep member payment data secure. It ensures the safe handling and storage of member information by Northwestern Electric.

In order to process a payment over the phone, your information must be on file and securely stored in our system. Members wanting to pay by phone can set up their credit/debit or check information online at our website www.nwecok.coop.

Our automated payment center at 888.252.9372 and our answering ser-



vice at 877.966.7693 are still able to accept payments by phone due to their technology of masking the numbers as they are spoken.

We apologize for any inconvenience and we would be happy to review other payment options such as our mobile app with you.

New office facility

Continued from page 2.

with this much needed project. The board carefully considered the impact this might have on retail rates and they determined the project will not be a factor in increasing costs to our members.”

Northwestern Electric is excited and confident in its decision to invest in a new facility. “While other businesses close their local facilities, NWECC is making an investment in the Buffalo community. This helps position us for future opportunities and growth, but more importantly, it solidifies our commitment of providing reliable service to the Buffalo district,” Littau says.

Construction is scheduled to begin in the near future. The new building will be located directly west of the existing building. Once the new office is completed, the old building will be torn down. NWECC has hired Joe D. Hall Construction to oversee the project.

Hidden account number contest

Last month's numbers went unclaimed. They belonged to Terry Fagala and Shannon Rowland.

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

Easy Vegetable Dip



- 1 1-oz. packet Hidden Valley Original Ranch Dips Mix**
- 1 16-oz. container sour cream**
- 1 10-oz. package frozen spinach chopped, thawed, well drained**
- 1 8-oz. can water chestnuts drained and chopped**
- 1 round loaf French bread**
- assorted, fresh vegetable sticks cut up for dipping, or crackers**

Stir together dips mix, sour cream, spinach and water chestnuts. Chill 30 minutes or until just before serving.

Cut top off the bread and remove center (using firm bread pieces as dippers). Fill bread bowl with dip. Serve with cubed bread and vegetables.

Serves: 8-10

Attention seniors! Apply now to get cash for college

Northwestern Electric is pleased to announce the opportunity for graduating seniors to apply for the Fanning-Fussell Scholarship. NWECC's scholarship committee will award scholarships in the amount of \$500 per semester each to five individuals pursuing a four-year university or college academic degree program or a two-year associate degree or technical institute certificate program. The scholarship is for one year and can only be used for tuition, books, and room and board.

To be eligible, students must be a senior in one of the high schools in Northwestern Electric's service territory and reside in a household served by NWECC. (4650004)

For a complete list of eligibility requirements and an application, contact Jonna Hensley or Melissa Washmon at 580.256.7425 or 800.375.7423. You can also access the information at www.nwecok.coop under the Youth Programs tab. The deadline for applications is Friday, Feb. 6, 2015.



Northwestern Electric sponsors annual youth contests

Each year, Northwestern Electric Cooperative sponsors two contests for area school students in the 8th and 11th grades. The students do not have to be members of the Cooperative to enter the contests.

The YouthPower Energy Camp is for students enrolled in the 8th grade in our service territory. The schools

include Arnett, Buffalo, Fargo, Ft. Supply, Gage, Laverne, Mooreland, Sharon-Mutual, Shattuck, Vici and Woodward.

The Washington Youth Tour is open to students enrolled in the 11th grade in the schools listed. The top two prizes are all-expense-paid trips to Washington, D.C. Also up for grabs

are two \$500 scholarships plus the opportunity to attend the Touchstone Energy Leadership Summit.

The rules for each contest are outlined below. More information and forms are also available online at www.nwecok.coop. Once you log on to the site, look under the Youth Programs tab for the links.

YouthPower Energy Camp

Northwestern Electric will send five students to Energy Camp at Canyon Camp in Hinton, Okla., May 26-29, 2015. While at camp, the students will form a coke and candy cooperative, climb a utility pole, watch safety demonstrations, and tour a generation plant, among many other exciting activities.



Students who wish to enter the contest must meet the following criteria:

- 1) Students must be in the 8th grade in NWECC's service territory.
- 2) Submit an essay of 200 words or less on "What I would miss the most without electricity and why."
- 3) Include a cover sheet with your name, your parents' or legal guardian's name, home address, telephone number, and name of your school.
- 4) Mail the essay and cover sheet to:
Jonna Hensley
Youth Tour Coordinator
Northwestern Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 2707
Woodward, OK 73802-2707

Entry deadline is March 27, 2015

2015 Washington Youth Tour

Two students from this area will win all-expense-paid trips to the nation's capital, June 12-18, 2015, and two others will win \$500 scholarships and the opportunity to participate in the Touchstone Energy Leadership Summit.

The thrill packed days in Washington, D.C., will include lunch with the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation, tour of Mount Vernon, a boat trip on the Potomac River, and many other points of interest.

Northwestern Electric representatives will select the winners for the contest from students who take a written test over materials furnished by Northwestern Electric about rural electrification.

Based on the test scores, the top four students will compete in a final judging which will be held at Northwestern Electric's headquarters in Woodward. A panel of judges will select two students for the trip based on subject knowledge, originality, appearance and personality.

Representatives from Northwestern Electric will visit with interested juniors at their schools during January and February. For more information and dates for the school visits, contact the youth tour coordinator, Jonna Hensley, at 256.7425 or 800.375.7423.

