

Northwestern Electric News

Vol. 66 Number 12

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

October 2015

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October is national cooperative month *Celebrate what membership truly means*

October is National Cooperative Month, and for the many different types of co-ops in the U.S., it's the time of year to celebrate what membership truly means. You could be a member of a lot of different places—a gym, a 4-H club, a book of the month club—the list goes on and on! But what makes being a member of a co-op different?

The simple answer to that question is when you are a member of a co-op, you are also an owner. You own a stake in our business, and just like any stakeholder, there are many benefits to your membership. As a member of Northwestern Electric, you have a say in the representatives who are elected to serve on the co-op's board of directors. You have an opportunity to make

your voice heard every year at our Annual Meeting. You get a say on policy issues your electric cooperative supports or opposes. You can even help to determine how your profits are redistributed.

Our bottom line is providing you with safe, reliable and affordable electricity. Sure, we have to think about expenses, overhead and other aspects of daily business, but when we have a little left over, we send it right back to you. Whether we return it to you in the form of a bill credit or a check—you have a say in where that money goes! And returning capital credits to you is a major part of why being a co-op member matters.



As your local electric co-op, we get to be a part of this community. When we think about membership, we think about all of the ways we can give back to you, our members—and that's what matters most to us.

Three benefits of being a co-op member

CAPITAL CREDITS

Unlike investor-owned utilities that pay dividends to their stockholders who are often far removed from the service provided, cooperatives return their margins to the members—those who used the service and provided an important investment.

This year, NWEC returned \$996,825 in Capital Credits to its members. This practice is known as members' economic participation and is included in the Rochdale Principles—a set of guidelines all cooperatives follow.

ONE MEMBER, ONE VOTE

Perhaps the most unique aspect of a cooperative is its democratically organized leadership system. Each co-op member receives one vote on official business. It doesn't matter how much electricity you use or how many meters you have, all members have an equal say. This is contrary to an investor-owned company where the amount of money invested determines the amount of control each shareholder maintains.

DISTRICT & ANNUAL MEETINGS

As a member of NWEC, you have the opportunity to attend two important meetings for the Cooperative—district and annual meeting. They give you the chance to become involved in the operation of your Cooperative by electing the directors who represent you or voting on policy changes when the need arises. You'll also hear updates as to the changes and progress over the past year of your Cooperative and where we are headed in the future.

**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
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**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.

Don't let electrical hazards haunt Halloween!

The decorative lights, fog machines, black lights, and animatronics of Halloween make for adventurous, entertaining times for children and adults. With these decorations, though, the risk of fire or electrocution could be lurking around the corner. Use the following tips to keep electrical hazards from haunting you this Halloween:

- Inspect electrical decorations. Look for cracked or frayed sockets, loose or bare wires, and loose connections.
- Read manufacturer's instructions regarding installation and maintenance. Check the instructions to see how many light strings can be connected together.
- Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, walls or other firm supports. Do not use nails or tacks that could puncture light strings or electrical/extension cords.
- Provide well-lit walkways and porch lighting for trick-or-treaters. Make sure the walkways are clear for trick-or-treaters. (996833001)
- Don't overload extension cords or place them near, or in, snow or water.
- Do not overload your circuit breakers or fuses.
- Plug lights and decorations into circuits protected by ground fault



Willie Wiredhand, the mascot of electric cooperatives, encourages members to have a safe and happy Halloween.

circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Portable outdoor GFCIs can be purchased where electrical supplies are sold.

• Make sure decorative lighting is well-ventilated, protected from weather and a safe distance from anything flammable like dry leaves and shrubs. Do not coil power cords or extension cords while in use or tuck under rugs or drapes.

• Turn out all lights and decorations before leaving or going to bed. Always have at least one fire extinguisher available and know how to use it.

Sources: Home Safety Council www.homesafetycouncil.org; Electrical Safety Foundation International www.electrical-safety.org

July 2015 Operating Report

	2014	2015
Revenue - Billing	3,174,270	3,019,242
Cost of Power	2,187,651	1,797,605
Miles of Lines	4,956	4,978
Members Connected	11,829	11,966
Density per Mile	2.39	2.40
Average Member KWH	2,618	2,588
Average Bill	268	252
KWH Purchased	34,278,850	33,232,000
KWH Sold	30,967,979	30,972,000
Income per Mile	644	610
Expense per Mile	642	573

Looking for missing members

If your name is on our missing member list for capital credits, please submit a Capital Credit Update Form. If you are the heir or executor for someone listed below, please submit the Estate Refund Form. These forms are available at www.nwecok.coop. Click on the Capital Credit tab under Account Services, or you can request a form by contacting our office at 800.375.7423, 256.7425 or emailing cc@nwecok.coop. All requests must be made in writing.

MARTIN EUGENE M	PARKER SCOTT OR TAMI	RUSH SANDRA J	TAYLOR JEANICE F	WALLACE ANDY
MCCOY JERRY (BEAVER)	PEARCY PAUL	RUSSELL ROGER SR	TELLES KARLA	WALTON JUDITH A
MCDOWELL DENNIS (HASTINGS)	PENA MARCO ANTONIO	SANDERS MICHAEL (GAGE)	THOMAS DENNIS G	WATSON LUCILLE
MCVEY GREG	PERKINS BRANDON A	SATTERLEE MARIE	THOMSEN MAX	WEAVER W E
MERRITT TOMMY	PETERSON GAIL & BARBARA	SCHLAGER JOHN	THOMSEN RYAN	WEBB MONTE
MERRIMAN JANICE	PHILLIPS CAROLYN	SCHROEDER EDDIE R	THURMOND KELLIE A	WEST LORETTA
MESTA ELOY	PIERCE LEANN	SCHWAB DELBERT G	TINER RACHAEL T	WEST LOUIS A
MILLER LEE DR.	PINK VERYL	SEVERN CHAD	TIPTON ED	WHISMAN JUSTIN
MOFFATT MATTHEW R	PROVINCE MARTY	SHUMAN RAY	TRACY JOHN C	WHITAKER JOHN
MOLDRUP DON	QUIMBY DOYLE	SMILEY SHAWNA	TUNE CONNIE	WHITEMAN DEBBIE
MORRIS MAX R	RAYMOND KENNETH OR JANIC	SMITH JAMES MICHAEL	TUNE SCOTT	WHITSON CAROL JUNE
MOSBURG FRANK	REASNER PENNY R	SMITH LARRY E	TURNER SUSAN (BUFFALO)	WILLS OPAL
MULKEY FRED	REDMAN R C	SMITH LOLA J	VANDEBURGH STEVE	WILSON CHRISTOPHER
MYHAND BILL O	RICHENS TOM	SMITH SHARON L	VANDORN KAYLIN	WILSON CRYSTAL
NALL ROY	RIOS VALENTIN	SPARKMAN KATINA	VAUGHN STANLEY L	WINGET JESSE E
NEILL LUCINDA	RIVERA RUBEN V	SPINKS KELLY G.	VENOSDEL CASSIE	WITT GLORIA J
NEUENS GENE D	ROBERTS HAROLD D	STERLING BETTY	WADDILL LINDA D	WOLKING C GREGORY
NICKEL ROBERT W	ROBERTS WAYNE	STRICKER TODD	WAGNER DONITA	WOODY RAYMOND
NICKELSON GEORGE A	ROLLINS C R	STURTZ HASKELL	WAGNER MILDRED M	ZOLLINGER EULETA
NORMAN CLETA	ROMIME ANNETTE L	STURTZ ROSALEA	WALKER JOHN W	ZOLLINGER MILDRED
OWENS JUSTIN		TAYLOR JACK E	WALL MODENA	ZOLLINGER W H

Hidden account number contest

Last month's numbers went unclaimed. They belonged to Martin Zehner and Woof Pet Rescue.

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 \$75 each. Happy hunting!

Cooking

Caramel Popcorn

- 14 cups popped popcorn**
- 1 1/2 cups packed brown sugar**
- 3/4 cup butter**
- 1/3 cup light-colored corn syrup**
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda**
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla**
- 2 cups whole almonds and/or roasted, salted cashews (optional)**



Preheat oven to 300 degrees F. Remove all unpopped kernels from popped popcorn. Put popcorn and, if desired, nuts into a 17x12x2-inch roasting pan. Keep popcorn warm in the oven while making the caramel mixture.

Butter a large piece of foil; set aside. For caramel, in a medium saucepan, combine brown sugar, butter and corn syrup. Cook and stir over medium heat until mixture boils. Continue boiling at a moderate, steady rate, without stirring, for 5 minutes more.

Remove saucepan from heat. Stir in baking soda and vanilla. Pour caramel over popcorn; stir gently to coat. Bake for 15 minutes. Stir mixture; bake for 5 minutes more. Spread caramel corn on prepared foil; cool. Place caramel corn in gift container; cover with plastic wrap.

We're always looking out for you

Check out our value added services for members

As a member-owned business, Northwestern Electric is committed to serving you better by providing services and programs that will improve your quality of life and enhance our local communities. Please take a moment to read over some of the different services we offer.

Payment Options

► Automatic Bank or Credit

Card Draft: Sign up for NWECC's automatic draft program and your electric bill is paid from your bank account or credit card by the 10th of every month.

► **Pay By Phone:** Pay your bill by phone anytime day or night with a debit or credit card by calling 580.377.1414. The automated system speaks both English and Spanish and there are no additional fees.

► **SelectPay:** Our SelectPay program allows you to pay-as-you-go with no deposit, no late fees and no disconnect fees *EVER!* SelectPay puts you in control of your electric account balance and energy use. (15698002)

► **Online Bill Payments:** Pay your bill online at www.nwecok.coop. For questions about online bill pay, call 800.375.7423 or 256.7425.

► **Mobile App:** Pay your bill using our mobile app. To locate the app, type "NWECC" in the search bar.

► **Average Monthly Payment Plan:** NWECC's leveled payment plan evens out bills by averaging your use over the past 12 months. This can be especially helpful during cold winters and hot summers when your electric use spikes.

► **PaySite Kiosk:** NWECC has a PaySite kiosk at our main office in Woodward. The kiosk is accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and accepts cash, check payments and credit or debit cards. There are no additional fees. Instructions and receipts are available in both English and Spanish.

Value Added Services

► **Member Portal:** Use our member portal to help manage your energy use. Simply log on to your account and click the "My Usage" tab.

► **Outage Texting:** You can report an outage by using our outage texting service. Signing up is easy! Go to our website at www.nwecok.coop, click on the outage texting icon and provide your account information.

► **Co-op Connections:** NWECC's Co-op Connections savings card will earn you discounts and savings at participating local, state and national businesses. The card will also save you from 10 to 50 percent on prescription medicines.

► **ERC Loans:** Talk to NWECC about financing your next air source or ground source heat pump and energy efficiency home improvements such as new windows, insulation, etc.

► **Rebates:** NWECC offers rebates for installing high efficiency air source heat pumps, ground source heat pumps, and water heaters.

► **Energy Audits:** NWECC offers free home energy audits for members. Energy specialists carefully inspect your home, point out areas of energy loss, and work with you to find affordable solutions.

► **Youth Programs:** NWECC believes in supporting our local youth. NWECC offers programs such as the Rural Electric Youth Tour for high school juniors, YouthPower Energy Camp for eighth graders, Watts Up Kids Camp for 1st-3rd grade students, and the Fanning-Fussell Scholarship.

Have a question? Call us right here at home! For details on these services, please call our Woodward office at 800.375.7423 or 256.7425. To reach the Buffalo office, call 735.2566 or 800.259.2566.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

NWECC 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.