It’s annual meeting time!
Join us Apr. 7 at the Woodward County Event Center

It’s that time of year again. Northwestern Electric’s annual meeting is just a few short days away. 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. (15837001)

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. NWEC 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 Woodward County Event Center (fair building). Please keep in mind parking space is limited. Additional parking will be available inside the fenced area of the rodeo grounds. 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 Event Center, you may have to walk a long distance to enter the building. Before the meeting, NWEC 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 roll up fleece blanket sporting NWEC’s logo (one per membership). Kids attending the meeting can register for their very own annual meeting prize. 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, enjoy some top-notched entertainment and stick around after the short business meeting for your chance to win big.
Goodman retires after 31 years with NWEC

Feb. 29 marked the end of a long and rewarding career. Monty Goodman retired after 31 years of dedicated service to Northwestern Electric.

Monty began his career with NWEC on Feb. 14, 1985, as a groundsman and working on the brush crew. He worked his way up to journeyman lineman and took on additional duties as a meter tech. In July of 2000, management named Monty as director of purchasing and engineering services.

In the past 31 years, Monty has seen a lot of changes. He says the advances in technology and more sophisticated equipment are the two changes that standout the most.

Thanks to his experience out in the field, Monty gained quite a bit of knowledge about NWEC’s system. He served as the “go to” guy around the office. If anyone needed to know where someone lived, Monty was to one to ask. He seemed to know where everyone lived and what type of service they had at their house.

Monty enjoyed meeting and working with our members. “I liked being able to help our members out,” he said. When asked what he would miss the most after retiring,

Monty Goodman and his wife, Sheril, celebrated his retirement at a luncheon NWEC held in his honor during the February safety meeting.

Monty said “I am going to miss the people I worked with and the camaraderie.” His last official day at work was Feb. 29.

Monty and his wife, Sheril, have two daughters – Amanda Kreiman and Morgan Goodman. His plans for the future are to enjoy life.
Bhakta attends Leadership Summit

Mercy Bhakta represented NWEC at the Touchstone Energy® Youth Leadership Summit held recently in Oklahoma City. She earned the opportunity to attend the Summit by competing in and becoming one of the four finalists in NWEC’s 2015 Youth Tour contest.

The event was held on Saturday, Feb. 6, at the Chesapeake Finishline Tower in Oklahoma City’s Boathouse District. Twenty-seven high school students, representing several cooperatives from across the state, participated in the day-long summit.

Rhett Laubach, Brandon Baumgarten and Kelly Barnes led the training and shared personal insights that encouraged self-awareness and coached the students on ways to identify their own strengths and expand their network of relationships. (11702001)

At the conclusion of the leadership summit, students and their parents were invited to attend the OKC Blue basketball game in Oklahoma City.

Mercy is the daughter of Mahen and Anna Bhakta. She attends school at Shattuck High School.

Hidden account number contest

Congratulations to Larry Miller for recognizing his number in the February issue. The other number belonged to Jeff G. Smith.

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!

Quick & Easy

Country Cooking

Chicken Quesadillas

Heat the oven to 425ºF.

Cook the chicken in a 10-inch nonstick skillet over medium-high heat until well browned and cooked through, stirring often. Stir in the soup, Picante sauce, cheese and chili powder and cook until the mixture is hot and bubbling.

Place the tortillas onto 2 baking sheets. Spread about 1/3 cup chicken mixture on half of each tortilla to within 1/2 inch of the edge. Brush the edges of the tortillas with water. Fold the tortillas over the filling and press the edges to seal.

Bake for 5 minutes or until the filling is hot. Cut the quesadillas into wedges.

Yield: 8 servings.
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.

NWEC’s board of directors made a $1,000 donation to the Children’s Hospital in Oklahoma City at a special auction held during the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives Director’s Association meeting. The auction raised more than $26,000 and the donations support the Jimmy Everest Center for Cancer & Blood Disorders in Children. The Center is named after James “Jimmy” Christopher Everest who died in 1992 at the age of 17, after a brave bout with bone cancer. Staffed by OU Children’s physicians, the Center is a child’s best resource in providing cancer and blood disorder treatment, along with emotional and mental support. Presenting the check on behalf of NWEC were directors Kenny Knowles, Wayne Hall, Clair Craighead, Lee Huckaby, Marvin Wilkinson, Gil Perkins, Duane Henderson and John Bruce, Jr. Photo: Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives

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Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Earth Day is April 22. Give back to the environment by planting a deciduous tree near your home. Deciduous trees lose their leaves during the fall, allowing sunlight to warm your home. The extra shade during summer months will keep your home cooler and give your AC a much needed break.