

Northwestern Electric News

Vol. 67 Number 11

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

September 2016

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Opening doors to better energy management

NWEC moves toward a smarter grid with recent investment

These days, many people are looking for ways to lower their energy use and save money. Some are buying smaller cars that get better gas mileage. Others are cashing in on energy tax credits for weatherizing their homes. Still others are replacing incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs.

At NWEC, we encourage our members to conserve energy by offering energy saving tips and providing tools such as our member portal and mobile app to help track daily energy use. Back in 2001, we took the first step in implementing smart grid technology by launching an automated meter reading program. The automated meters collect data our members can view to see how much energy they are using on a daily basis.

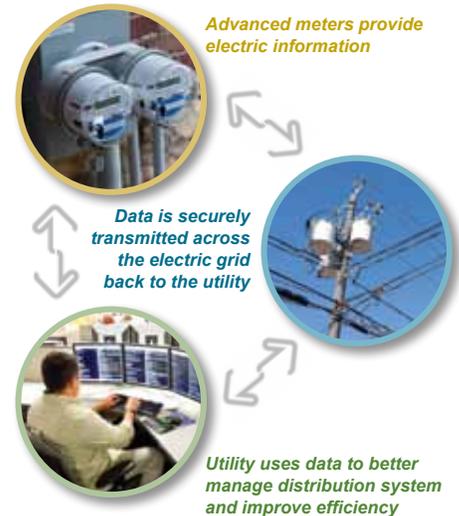
The data collected from the meters proved to be beneficial in helping solve high bill complaints and allowing our members to better manage their usage. The downside to us-

ing this type of system is the time it takes for the data to travel from the meter to our office. On average, it takes approximately 24-26 hours for the information to update.

NWEC is moving toward a smarter grid by investing in and installing new “smart” or “advanced” meters at each member location. The advanced meters represent the next generation of electric meters and replace outdated metering units. Instead of lagging a day behind in updated information, the data will be close to real-time.

Updating the grid will also promote better power quality and enable us to be more efficient when responding to outages, conducting maintenance or planning for new equipment. (608900003)

According to Jaret Dowler, director of purchasing & engineering services, “Advanced meters provide for better reliability and capabilities in the future. For example, the meters, in conjunction with automated equipment will give us the ability



to remotely identify the location of outages without members calling in, isolate the problem and re-route crews to speed restoration.”

NWEC has contracted Sooner Meter out of Duncan, Okla., to install the new equipment. The conversion will begin in October and start with members served by the Woodward substation. The project is expected to be completed by next summer. We’ll provide updates on social media so you can see when we will be in your area.

Members can be assured the advanced meters are tested by manufacturers and they meet stringent national standards for safety, security, and privacy requirements. We’ve posted a “frequently asked questions” section on our website at www.nwecok.coop to help any answer any questions you may have. You can also give us a call at 580.256.7425 for more information.

Capital Credit Update

Last December, Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC) retired \$811,036.50 in capital credits to NWEC for the years 1957 through 1975. On May 25, WFEC retired an additional \$311,830.40 for all of 1976 and approximately 46% of 1977. The allocations to our members are recorded on

paper in our office and we are in the process of entering them into our computer system.

The task of entering the data manually is taking longer than we anticipated. We plan to refund the capital credits from WFEC, along with our general retirement, next April.

NORTHWESTERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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

TYSON LITTAU

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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**IN CASE OF TROUBLE CALL:
 24 HOUR EMERGENCY
 1-877-9NOPOWER (877.966.7693)**

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

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(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
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(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov

NWEC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Low interest loan available for energy efficient improvements

Need to replace your heating and cooling system, install energy efficient windows or add more insulation to your attic? Northwestern Electric can help you make those improvements by offering our low interest loan.

The Energy Resources Conservation (ERC) Loan can be used to finance the following energy saving measures:

- caulking & weatherstripping
- water heaters
- insulation
- storm windows & doors
- attic ventilation fans
- heat pumps

Northwestern Electric will finance 80% of the total cost up to \$10,000 for an energy efficient air source heat

pump or geothermal system and 80% of the total cost up to \$3,000 for other energy efficient measures on a single family dwelling. You can take up to 84 months to pay on loans over \$3,000 and up to 60 months on loans totalling \$3,000 or less. The interest rate is based on the current prime rate at the time the loan is made and will not exceed five percent.

Loan requests must be made in advance and approved before the work is started. In order to qualify for the loan, members must have good credit with the Cooperative and an energy audit must be performed to support the energy conservation measures. For more information, call Jonna Hensley at 580.256.7425 or 800.375-7423.



Closed for holiday

Northwestern Electric will close on

Monday, Sept. 5,

in observance of Labor Day.

If you have an emergency, call:

1-877-9NOPOWER

877.966.7693

June 2016 Operating Report

	2015	2016
Revenue - Billing	2,739,618	2,762,705
Cost of Power	1,722,352	1,664,009
Miles of Lines	4,977	4,993
Members Connected	11,916	11,920
Density per Mile	2.39	2.39
Average Member KWH	2,282	2,302
Average Bill	203	231
KWH Purchased	30,688,622	30,507,763
KWH Sold	27,194,108	27,439,214
Income per Mile	553	553
Expense per Mile	541	550

FROM MY POINT OF VIEW...

By Jonna Hensley



— Do I still have egg on my face? —

I haven't written a column for quite some time, but my blunder last month prompts me to once again put my thoughts down on paper.

My parents taught me as I was growing up to admit my mistakes, take responsibility and then do what I can to correct the situation. Yes. I did it. It was my mistake. I can't blame anyone else for my blunder.

While I would like to say it was a test to see if you were paying attention, I have to admit I somehow managed to leave out one of last month's hidden numbers. And to make matters worse, I had to leave it out when it was worth \$100! I can't even come up with a good excuse as

to how it happened. Please accept my sincerest apology.

To correct the situation, I am including the missing number right now in this column (1141005). I have double-checked, triple-checked and even checked again to make sure the other two numbers are also in this issue. And to keep things fair, all three numbers are worth \$100.

Thanks to all our loyal readers for calling, emailing, sending Facebook messages or stopping by in person to let us know about the missing number. It makes me feel better to know you are reading the newsletter.

Now, if you will excuse me, I need to go check in the mirror to see if I still have egg on my face.

Hot dog time at the county fair

County fair time is just around the corner.

Thoughts of a county fair bring back memories to many people of fun times—sack races, showing a calf, winning a blue ribbon, visiting with friends, carnivals and the best tasting hot dogs in the world.

NWEC will help fair-goers recapture that feeling as we feed free hot dogs to those attending the Dewey, Ellis, and Harper County fairs.

Friday, September 9

Dewey Co. 5-6 p.m.

Saturday, September 10

Ellis Co. 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Harper Co. 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.



Hidden account number contest

Congratulations to George Soupene for recognizing his number in last month's issue. The second number was accidentally omitted but is included this month.

We have hidden **THREE** 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 \$100 each. Happy hunting!

Country cooking

Pan O' S'mores

- 6 oz. Hershey's milk chocolate, chopped**
- 9 honey graham crackers, broken in half (18 squares)**
- 36 regular-sized marshmallow, halved & divided**



Preheat oven to 350°.

Place 9 graham squares on bottom of 8-inch square pan. Top with 36 marshmallow halves; sprinkle with chocolate. Cover with remaining graham squares.

Arrange 4 marshmallow halves, cut sides down, on top of each graham square.

Bake 9 to 11 minutes or until marshmallows are puffed and golden brown. Let stand 5 minutes before serving.



An excited bunch of youngsters learned about renewable energy during the 2016 Watts Up Kids Camp. This year's attendees were (back row) Blake Huckaby, Clara Zapata, Reece Hensley, Jackson Crotts, Carson Medina, Dycen Hensley, Adin Taylor, Sky Eckenrode, (middle row) Jase Wyrick, James Case, Emma Case, Laura Bradt, Tate Dewald, Joshua Crotts, Kevyn Medina, (seated) Xander Nielsen, Savannah Pierce, Lexi Blevins, Brecken Burson, Madison Lawther and Mackenzie McIlvain.

Youngsters charge up with renewable energy



Students attending Watts Up Kids Camp made s'mores and heated them up using a pizza box solar oven and sun power. The campers couldn't wait to eat them.

An excited group of youngsters attended NWECC's annual Watts Up Kids Camp on Aug. 3. The camp provides fun activities and facts about the basics—what is electricity, the need to respect its power and how to avoid electrical accidents.

After watching a video about how electricity is made, the campers participated in activities covering solar and wind power. They used solar garden lights and mason jars to make nightlights and heated up some s'mores using a pizza box solar oven. To learn about wind power, they constructed their own wind turbines (pinwheels) from paper and

pencils. The highlight of the morning had to be when the s'mores were finally ready to eat.

They watched a safety demonstration covering potential hazards like climbing trees or flying kites near power lines and playing hide-and-seek near the big metal electrical boxes. (5156002)

Tanner Loomis demonstrated the various tools he uses on the job as a lineman and answered some interesting questions from the campers.

Teaching children about electricity and safety is important. Watts Up Kids Camp provides a fun environment in which they can learn about safety and have a great time doing it.