Occasionally, as people come and go, the number of members residing in the various NWEC districts becomes skewed. When this happens, redistricting becomes necessary in order that each member of the NWEC Board of Directors represent approximately the same number of members.

According to NWEC Bylaw 6.1 District Equality, not less than sixty days before any meeting of the members at which Trustees are to be elected, the Board of Trustees shall review the composition of the several districts and, if it should be found that inequalities in representation have developed which can be corrected by a redelineation of districts, the Board of Trustees shall reconstitute the districts so that each shall contain as nearly as possible the same number of members.

The board has decided to move forward with a proposed Bylaw change which will be voted on by the NWEC membership at the annual meeting scheduled for April 11, 2019. If the membership votes in favor of redistricting, NWEC will notify members of the changes.

The adjusted districts are shown below with the color zones identified by board members.
What does five dollars get you?

Five dollars doesn’t seem to buy much anymore. But when you become a member of NWEC, five dollars allows you access to several benefits.

When you first established electric service with NWEC, you filled out the membership application and paid a $5.00 membership fee. This fee means you are provided reliable and safe power from a company that is dedicated to member service.

You also have the opportunity to elect your board representative at your district meeting every 3 years. You get a say on policy issues NWEC supports or opposes. And you are always welcome to attend NWEC’s annual meeting each April where you can let your voice be heard.

The best part about being a member of NWEC—you are actually an owner, and that is the power of a $5.00 co-op membership.
Scammers still going strong

Unfortunately, in today’s world, scams are inevitable. Scammers can threaten you with everything from legal action involving the IRS to turning off power to your home.

Utility scams often involve an individual or group posing as an employee of your electric cooperative and the phone number on caller ID appears to be coming from the co-op. The scammer may use threatening language in order to frighten you into offering your credit card or bank account information. Don’t fall victim to these types of scams. Understand the threats posed and your best course of action:

• If someone calls your home or cell phone demanding you pay your electric bill immediately, gather as much information as you can from that individual, hang-up the phone and contact the local authorities. Scammers often use threats and urgency to pressure you into giving them your bank account number or loading a pre-paid credit or debit card (such as a Green Dot card). NWEC will never demand that you to offer up personal finance information over the phone. If you have any doubts about your utility bill, contact us either in person, or over the phone at 580.256.7425.

• If someone comes to your home claiming to be an employee of NWEC that needs to collect money or inspect parts of your property, call us to verify they are, in fact, an employee. If they are not, call local authorities for assistance and do not let the individual into your home. (3080003)

There are other types of scams consumers should watch out for:

• Government agencies like the IRS will never call to inform you that you have unpaid taxes or other liens against you. You will always receive this type of information in the mail. If someone calls claiming to be the IRS, hang-up immediately.

• Local law enforcement agencies won’t phone to tell you that you missed jury duty and there is a warrant out for your arrest. If you receive a call like this, contact your local sheriff’s office.

• If you receive an email from an unknown sender; an email riddled with spelling errors and typos; or an email threatening action unless a sum of money is paid, do not click any links provided within the email, and do not respond to the email. Simply delete the email, or send it to your spam folder.

• If someone calls your home claiming to have discovered a virus on your computer, hang-up. This caller’s intent is to access personal information you may be keeping on your computer. NWEC wants to make sure you avoid any and all types of scams that could put you or your financial information in jeopardy. If you have any questions or would like more information about how you can protect yourself from scammers, call us at 580.256.7425.

Hidden account number contest

Last month’s numbers went unclaimed. They belonged to Billy Firth and Nancy Brewer.

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 $50 each. Happy hunting!

Country Cooking

Instant Pot Potato Soup

5 pounds potatoes peeled and cubed
1/2 cup finely chopped onion
6 cups chicken broth
4 Tablespoons butter
1/3 cup softened cream cheese
1/3 cup sour cream
2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon pepper
1-2 cups milk depending on how thin you want your soup

Add potatoes and onion to Instant Pot. Pour enough chicken broth in the pot to cover the potatoes. Seal the Instant Pot lid and cook on manual or soup setting for 10 minutes.

Once the timer goes off, turn the valve from sealing to venting to release the pressure. Remove the lid and gently mash the potatoes with a potato masher or large fork. You can also cut through them with a knife for chunkier pieces of potatoes.

Add butter, cream cheese, sour cream, cheddar cheese, salt and pepper, and blend to desired consistency. Stir in enough milk to the soup to reach the consistency you want. Serve with the toppings of your choice.

Yield: 10 servings
Why you should attend your district meeting

It’s that time of year again—district meeting time! On behalf of NWEC, we’d like to personally invite the members residing in districts two, four and six to join us at their district meetings. We look forward to gathering with you to catch up, hear what you have to say and enjoy some good food and fellowship.

The meetings are not only a chance to visit with members of our co-op community—it’s also a great opportunity to learn about programs offered by NWEC and get to know your co-op staff. Our district meetings make it possible for us to gather feedback from you by providing a forum where you can let us know how we can better serve you and your family.

At the meetings, you will learn more about the issues affecting our local communities. It’s also an opportunity for you to exercise one of the greatest benefits of being a member of an electric co-op, by voting for your board of directors representative.

NWEC is not owned by far away investors, and it is not run by an appointed board of directors. We are run by a democratically elected board of directors—a board who is given the privilege to serve because of your vote. (20929001)

Our directors are members of your community. They are concerned with the issues you face every day because they face them too.

Having a voice in who makes the major decisions that directly affect your life and your family is a right we all share as Americans. We all vote for our state and federal Congressional representatives, but not every American has the right to vote for those who will represent community interests within their electric utility. You have that right, so why not exercise it?

Rest assured, no matter what happens, we remain dedicated to providing you with safe, reliable and affordable electric service, but we encourage you to take part in helping us improve how we deliver that service. So make it a point to join us at your district meeting. We promise we will make it worth your while!

Important dates

**District 2 Meeting**
Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2019
Meal at 6 p.m. - Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
Woodward First Christian Church

**District 4 Meeting**
Monday, Feb. 11, 2019
Meal at 6 p.m. - Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
Sharon United Methodist Church

**District 6 Meeting**
Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2019
Meal at 6 p.m. - Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
Quinlan Methodist Church

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**ELECTRICAL SAFETY CHECKUP:**
Switches and Outlets

*Are any switches or outlets warm to the touch?*
→ That could indicate an unsafe wiring condition.

*Are any outlets or switches discolored?*
→ It could mean a dangerous heat buildup.

*Do plugs fit snugly into outlets?*
→ Loose-fitting plugs can cause overheating and fires.