

# Northwestern Electric News

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



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NWEC is partnering with Arnett New Holland to give away a Kubota 48" zero-turn mower at this year's annual meeting. *Photo: Kubota*

## Mark your calendars!

*Annual meeting is Apr. 5 at the Woodward County Event Center*

It's that time of year again. NWEC's annual meeting is Apr. 5, 2018, at the Woodward County Event Center.

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 NWEC, you are a part of our cooperative family. Make plans now to join your friends and neighbors for a good barbecue meal, great entertainment, prize drawings and a short business session.

Back by popular demand is the A Bar Bunkhouse Band. This 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 about the various programs we offer our members.

And last, but not least, we are giving away lots of prizes. Registered members will receive an LED pop-up lantern sporting NWEC's logo. Other prizes—including the Kubota 48"

zero-turn mower—will be given away after the business session.

You must be present to win, so fill your plate with some delicious barbecue, enjoy top-notch entertainment and stick around after the short business session for your chance to win big.

Registration begins at 5 p.m., followed by the business portion at 6:30. Your annual meeting notice should arrive in the mail later this month. Mark your calendars today and we hope to see you there!



**NORTHWESTERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**

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
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- John Meinders ..... Attorney

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

**OFFICE HOURS**  
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**ADDRESS**  
**P.O. BOX 2707**  
**WOODWARD, OK 73802**  
**2925 WILLIAMS AVENUE**  
**WOODWARD, OK 73801**

**NOTICE**

A copy of NWECC Bylaws will be made available for any member upon request.

**Web page: [www.nwecok.coop](http://www.nwecok.coop)**  
**E-mail: [nwec@nwecok.coop](mailto:nwec@nwecok.coop)**



**“NWECC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”**



**Scholarship opportunities for former Youth Tour winners, future engineers**

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) has two scholarship opportunities for former Youth Tour winners and students pursuing careers in the electrical engineering field.

**Youth Tour Alumni Scholarships**

The Glenn English National Cooperative Leadership Foundation has awarded over \$70,000 in scholarships to NRECA’s Youth Tour Alumni since the program’s inception in 2014. The Foundation awards one \$10,000 scholarship and four additional \$1,000 scholarships.

To be eligible, applicants must be a U.S. citizen, be a former participant in NRECA’s Washington D.C. Youth Tour program, received academic credits equal to at least one year of college and be working on completing their first undergraduate degree. (2864001)

**Next Generation Rural Engineering Scholarships**

This year, the Glenn English Scholarship Committee partnered with the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Rural Electric Power Conference (IEEE-REPC) to offer additional “Engineers for the Future” scholarship opportunities.

The committee awards two \$2,000 scholarships to college students pursuing a career in the rural electric engineering fields. Applicants of the Next Generation Rural Engineering Scholarship are not required to be former Youth Tour participants.

Applications for both scholarships are due Apr. 1, 2018. Winners will be selected and notified in mid-July. For a complete list of eligibility requirements and applications, visit [www.nwecok.coop/content/national-scholarships](http://www.nwecok.coop/content/national-scholarships).

**December 2017 Operating Report**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Revenue - Billing .....	2,863,279	2,727,789
Cost of Power .....	1,672,173	1,687,736
Miles of Lines .....	4,999	5,005
Members Connected .....	11,886	11,840
Density per Mile .....	2.4	2.4
Average Member KWH .....	2,374	2,294
Average Bill .....	241	230
KWH Purchased.....	31,618,000	31,399,000
KWH Sold.....	28,216,00	27,162,000
Income per Mile.....	576	548
Expense per Mile .....	575	628

# The power behind your power

**A**pril is just around the corner and it brings with it the showers that produce spring flowers. It also heralds the beginning of a potentially stormy season that can inherently include power outages. While NWECC strives to provide reliable electricity to our members, there are times when Mother Nature has other plans. Most of us can ride out a storm from the comfort and convenience of our homes. However, there is a group of professionals that spring into action when the weather takes a turn for the worst – co-op linemen.

## One of the most dangerous jobs

Braving stormy weather and other challenging conditions, linemen often must climb 40 or more feet in the air, carrying heavy equipment to restore power. Listed as one of the 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S., linemen must perform detailed tasks next to high voltage power lines. To help keep them safe, linemen wear specialized protective clothing and equipment at all times when on the job. This includes special fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated and rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect them from electrical shock. While the gear performs a critical function, it also adds additional weight and bulk, making the job more complex.

In addition to the highly visible tasks linemen perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing to the top of a pole to repair a wire. They are also information experts that

can pinpoint an outage from miles away and restore power remotely. Line crews use their laptops and cell phones to map outages, take pictures of the work they have done and troubleshoot problems. In our community, NWECC linemen are responsible for keeping over 5,000 miles of lines across seven counties working, in order to bring power to your home 24/7, regardless of the weather, holidays or personal considerations.

While some of the tools that linemen use have changed over the years, namely the use of technology, the dedication to the job has not. Being a lineman is not a glamorous profession. At its essence, it is inherently dangerous, requiring them to work near high voltage lines in the worst of conditions, at any time of the day or night. During ice storms, wildfires or severe storms, crews often work around the clock to restore power. While April is known for spring showers, there is also a day set aside to “thank a lineman.”

Lineman Appreciation Day is Apr. 9. So during the month of April, if you see a lineman, please pause to say thank you to the power behind your power. Let them know you appreciate the hard work they do to keep the lights on, regardless of the conditions.



**Tyson Littau, CEO**

**Lights. Heat/AC.  
Clean Clothes. Internet.**

**Brought to  
you by your  
local electric  
linemen.**

**#ThankALineworker**

## Hidden account number contest

Last month's numbers went unclaimed. They belonged to Sandra Jones and Howard Adams.

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.

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!

## Local students attend 2018 Leadership Summit

Allison Knowles and Bailey Robertson, both of Arnett, participated in the 2018 Oklahoma's Electric Cooperatives Leadership Summit held Jan. 27 at the Chesapeake Finish Line Tower in Oklahoma City's Boathouse District. The two students won their spots at the Summit in NWECC's 2017 Youth Tour contest.

A total of 26 students representing their respective cooperatives from across Oklahoma participated in the one-day leadership workshop where they learned team-building and leadership skills. Rhett Laubach, founder of YourNext-Speaker, LLC, conducted the summit.

Allison enjoyed the event and felt it was well worth her time. "I have been to leadership summits before, but this one was different. In other leadership summits, the instructor would tell us to sit in big groups of 10 to 15 and get to know each other based on one starter question. The Leadership Summit focused more on one-on-one interaction between students. The instructor would often put us in groups ranging from six to two based on a variety of characteristics." (16336001)

"Students were also encouraged to continually communicate with each other past the initial question or characteristic that brought them together," she said. "I have never been to an event like this that I have enjoyed so much!"

Bailey expected to have a great time at the Summit and wasn't disappointed. "I walked into the Leadership Summit looking forward to a great time. Fortunately for me, my expectations were more than met. It was encouraging to meet young students who were also eager and ready to learn something new. When open-minded students are mixed with amazing, fun-loving speakers, you are bound to have a wonderful time."

"My favorite part of the Summit (besides maybe the awesome lunch!) was the leadership games because they



**Allison Knowles and Bailey Robertson received a \$250 scholarship for attending the 2018 Leadership Summit held Jan. 27 in Oklahoma City. Rhett Laubach, Your Next Speaker, LLC, conducted the workshop.**

pushed you outside of your comfort zone, yet they were played in a comforting environment with extremely kind people. The most vital piece of information I took from that day was that everyone is a leader. Whether your audience is large or small, and whether your actions are good or bad, you are a role model whether you know it or not. This experience made me excited to attend more like it, and I am confident that the other students found it as valuable and fun as I did," she said.

Both girls received a \$250 scholarship for attending the workshop. Allison is the daughter of Randy and Cathy Knowles. Bailey's parents are Jason and Shelli Robertson.

EXPERIENCE LEADERSHIP AND ENERGY IN A WHOLE NEW LIGHT!



**2018 CAMP:  
MAY 29 - JUNE 1**

Learn about electricity  
Experience being a lineman  
Play interactive games  
Develop leadership skills  
Make new friends

**Deadline to enter the  
2018 Energy Camp Contest  
is March 23, 2018.**

**All eighth grade students in  
NWECC's service territory are  
encouraged to apply.**

Contest details are available at  
[www.nwecok.coop/content/energy-camp](http://www.nwecok.coop/content/energy-camp)  
or call Jonna Hensley @ 580.256.7425.

