



THE WIRE



CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

January 2019

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 28, Number 1

HUNTER FRISCH APPOINTED TO BOARD



George "Hunter" Frisch was appointed to the Elkhorn Rural Public Power Board as the Sub-district I director, and took the oath of office at the December 11, regular board of director meeting. He will be filling the vacancy left by the untimely passing of Greg Weidner.

Hunter is a farmer and electrician. He is owner/operator of Frisch Electric and has had the business for 28 years. He is also a third generation farmer. He farms and lives west of Madison with his wife, Sherri. They have four sons. Two sons are in the electrical business with him.

Hunter stated, "I have a lot to learn, but I am excited to get to apply my knowledge and experiences to the board and for the customers of ERPPD."

CHANCE TO WIN \$100 GIFT CARD

A customer satisfaction survey will be conducted in January and everyone that completes the survey will be entered in a drawing to win one of three \$100 Visa gift cards!

It is the policy of the board to periodically survey the customers within the district to elicit feedback about the electrical services that are provided.

Elkhorn RPPD has partnered with Research Services, Inc. out of Pittsburg, Kansas. Research Services is a company with 25 years of experience and has performed numerous surveys for public power districts in the state of Nebraska.

The survey will include, but is not limited to, questions about your overall satisfaction with Elkhorn Rural Public Power District, your experience when you have contacted us, about how we

communicate with you and what you might like to see as far as "green energy".

The survey will include a randomly selected group of about 100 customers to answer the survey over the phone. The



phone survey should take 15- 20 minutes to complete.

We ask that

you take the time to answer the questions, as your input will be used to assist the directors in strategic planning for the future.

The survey will also be available to be completed on-line. There will be a link on our website and information will be posted via Facebook. All customers are encouraged to complete the online survey.

Please help us to serve you bet-

ter by taking some time to answer the survey, either when you are called or on-line.

Winners of the \$100 gift cards will be drawn at the conclusion of the survey and contacted by phone.

RATES FOR 2019

We are excited to announce that there will be **no overall rate increase** for 2019. This is the sixth consecutive year without an overall rate increase.

As noted last year in the *Wire*, the board has approved rate studies and rate design changes to help collect the true cost of providing electricity, so that we can keep our rates cost-effective for our customers.

We will continue with our overall plan and are adding an additional 50 cent kW demand charge for a total increase of one dollar. There will also be another increase in facility charges to better *continued on page 2*

RATES CONTINUED

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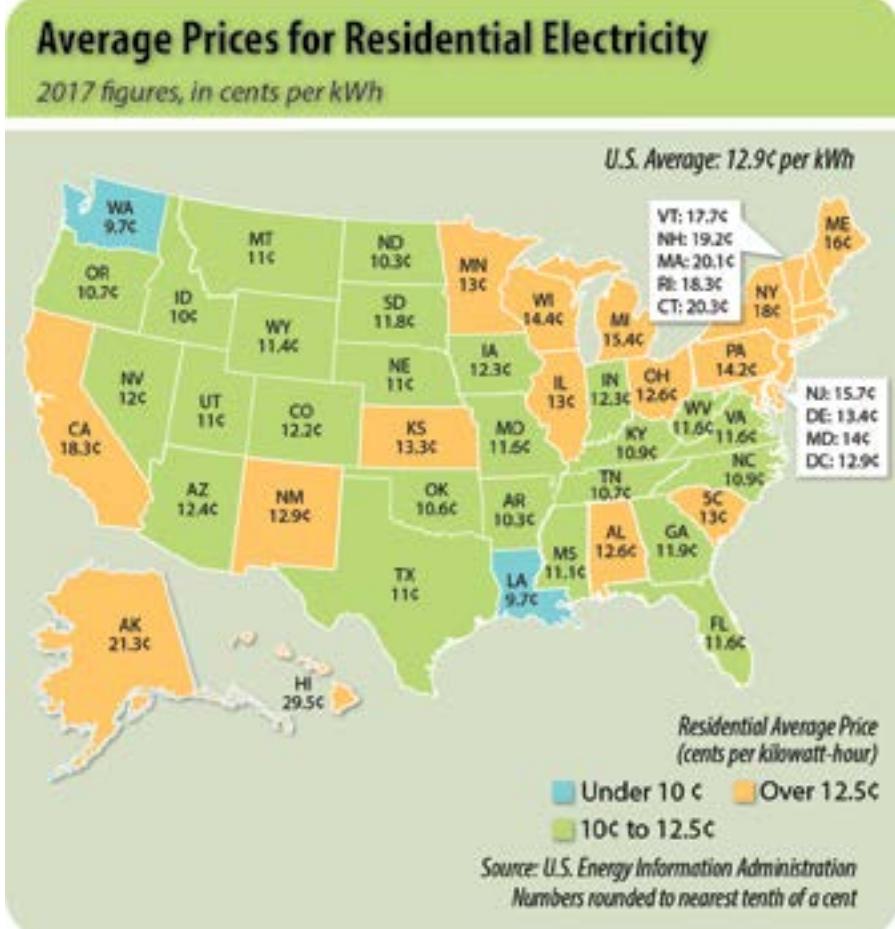
align with the cost of service.

The Energy (kWh) rate will be adjusted so that the overall changes will be revenue neutral for Elkhorn. Individual customers may see a slight increase or decrease in their bills, but most will see no change. In fact, fluctuations in the weather will probably have a greater impact on your bill.

You can read about the rate design change in the March 2018 *Wire* - it is available on our website, erppd.com.

Nebraska and Elkhorn's rates remain competitive, as can be seen to the right; a map of average residential rates from 2017, the latest data available from the Energy Information Administration (EIA). Nebraska continues to have the lowest rates compared to our neighbors. ERPPD average residential rates for 2017 were 9.8 cents/kWh.

We will continue to work hard day in and day out to fulfill our mission to provide Safe, Reliable, and Cost-effective electricity for All customers and to work with you to find innovative and efficient ways to deliver the power that you depend upon.



DIRECTOR EARNS CREDENTIAL

Mark Miller, board president, pictured left with Dennis Kuchar, board treasurer, who recently received the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Director Gold Certificate.

The national certificate program is designed to strengthen board leadership through continuing education. It demonstrates to customers, regulators and elected officials a director's ongoing commitment to advancing their knowledge and performing their fiduciary duty to

the best of their ability. Dennis has also earned Credentialed Cooperative Director and Board Leadership Certificates through the NRECA.

The Director Gold Certificate recognizes the continued effort to keep up to date on training and issues facing the district. Three ERPPD Directors have earned the Director Gold certificate, showing their continued commitment to serve the customers to the best of their abilities.



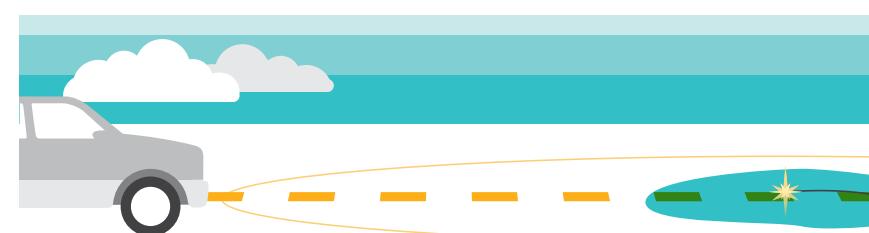
President, Mark Miller (left) and Treasurer Dennis Kuchar (right)

Downed and Dangerous

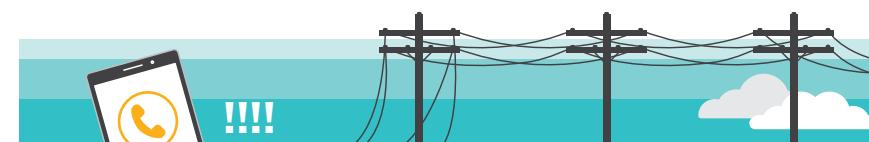
If you see a downed power line, always assume it is energized and dangerous. Avoid going near it or anything in contact with the power line.



Downed power lines can energize the ground up to **35 ft.** away - so keep your distance.



Never drive over a downed line or through water that is touching the line.



If you see a downed line, notify the local authorities immediately.



Never try to move a downed power line, even if you think the line is deenergized or if you're using a non-conductive item - this will not prevent injury or death!

Source: ESFI.org

COMMUNITY FUND



Pictured is Kendra Schader, back row to the left with Clearwater Public Schools and Anne Parks, board trustee. The second grade students show the bullying prevention curriculum that was funded. See the back page for more.

How Well do You Know Your District?

Check out the latest Working for Nebraska video and test your knowledge.

There is a link to the video at www.erppd.com



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Is your hot water tank warm to the touch? Consider insulating it to save 7 to 16 percent annually on water heating costs. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations.

Source: energy.gov



COMMUNITY FUND AWARDS



The ERPPD Community Development Fund (Fund), which is funded by our customers having their bills rounded up, has completed the second round of funding. The following table shows the organizations, projects and funding that was given.

We are very excited to be partnering with these organizations as they help to improve the communities and the lives of our customers.

As of September 30, 2018,

\$25,166.46 has been raised by Operation Round Up for the Fund. \$17,860 has been awarded to 23 different organizations within the district.

Applications for the next round of funding are due **January 19, 2019**, and will be awarded at the next quarterly board of trustee's meeting in February. Applications can be found at erppd.com under the community fund tab.

If you have questions or would like to request an application, you may contact Jennifer Adams at (402) 675-2185 or email jadams@erppd.com.



Left - Battle Creek Elementary Principal, Kyle Finke accepts the Fund check from Kory Lingenfelter, board trustee. Also pictured is Mrs. Mettler and students from her first grade class.



Curtis Borchers, St. Patrick Parish.



Cindy Simeon, director for the Raymond A. Witwer Tilden Public Library and Anne Parks, trustee

Community Development Fund Requests and Awards (December 2018)

Organization	Amount Awarded	Project	Location
Battle Creek Elementary	\$260.00	Character Counts Coupons	Battle Creek
Battle Creek Fire Department	\$300.00	Rehab equipment	Battle Creek
CASA of NE Nebraska	\$500.00	Fees for extracurricular activities, equipment for activities, school supplies, clothes etc.	Norfolk
City of Elgin	\$1,000.00	Shade structure for pool	Elgin
Clearwater Public School	\$500.00	Second Step Bullying Prevention Curriculum	Clearwater
Elkhorn Valley Schools TeamMates Mentoring Program	\$500.00	Banner and signage to promote to mentors, background checks, scholarship, participation fee	Tilden
Ewing Public Schools	\$1,000.00	Booster seats for children under 8	Ewing
Madison Public Library	\$500.00	Osmo and Explorer Kit - turns iPad into interactive learning experience.	Madison
Norfolk Public Schools Foundation	\$1,000.00	\$500 classroom grants	Norfolk
Raymond A. Whitwer Tilden Public Library	\$1,000.00	Library Media Storage Cabinet	Tilden
St. Patrick's Catholic Church	\$500.00	AED	Battle Creek
\$7,060.00			



Left from left to right is Judy Hilkemann, trustee, Sarah Dittmer, NPS Foundation director and Eldon Peters, trustee.



**Elkhorn Valley Schools Teammates
Left to Right: Carrie Hahne, Kirby Tegeler, Anne Parks, trustee, Linda Tegeler, Arlene Hoffmann, Dave Rittscher and Darren Hahne**